

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5337

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Government Operations, February 20, 1997

Title: An act relating to formation of less than county-wide port districts.

Brief Description: Extending less than county-wide port districts.

Sponsors: Senators Stevens, Deccio and Swecker.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 2/14/97, 2/20/97 [DPS, DNP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5337 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McCaslin, Chair; Hale, Vice Chair; Haugen, Horn and Swanson.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Patterson.

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Background: In 1992, for the third time since port districts were authorized, legislation was enacted allowing less than countywide port districts to be created. Presently, a less than countywide port district with an assessed valuation of at least \$75 million may be created in a county that already has a less than countywide port district located within its boundaries. This authorization expires on July 1, 1997.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The expiration date beyond which a less than countywide port district may not be formed is eliminated.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The substitute bill raises the minimum assessed valuation from \$75 million to \$150 million. The emergency clause is eliminated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 1997.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: A number of groups, including the Historic Snohomish Business Community, are discussing the possibility of forming a less than countywide port district, but we need more time. It could be a great economic enhancement for the community.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: John Hager; Ray Cook, Snohomish Chamber; Pat Jones, WA Public Ports Association.