
SENATE BILL 5337

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Deccio and Swecker

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to formation of less than county-wide port
2 districts; amending RCW 53.04.023; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.04.023 and 1994 c 223 s 84 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 A less than county-wide port district with an assessed valuation of
7 at least seventy-five million dollars may be created in a county that
8 already has a less than county-wide port district located within its
9 boundaries. Except as provided in this section, such a port district
10 shall be created in accordance with the procedure to create a county-
11 wide port district.

12 The effort to create such a port district is initiated by the
13 filing of a petition with the county auditor calling for the creation
14 of such a port district, describing the boundaries of the proposed port
15 district, designating either three or five commissioner positions,
16 describing commissioner districts if the petitioners propose that the
17 commissioners represent districts, and providing a name for the
18 proposed port district. The petition must be signed by voters residing

1 within the proposed port district equal in number to at least ten
2 percent of such voters who voted at the last county general election.

3 A public hearing on creation of the proposed port district shall be
4 held by the county legislative authority if the county auditor
5 certifies that the petition contained sufficient valid signatures.
6 Notice of the public hearing must be published in the county's official
7 newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing.
8 After taking testimony, the county legislative authority may make
9 changes in the boundaries of the proposed port district if it finds
10 that such changes are in the public interest and shall determine if the
11 creation of the port district is in the public interest. No area may
12 be added to the boundaries unless a subsequent public hearing is held
13 on the proposed port district.

14 The county legislative authority shall submit a ballot proposition
15 authorizing the creation of the proposed port district to the voters of
16 the proposed port district, at any special election date provided in
17 RCW 29.13.020, if it finds the creation of the port district to be in
18 the public interest.

19 The port district shall be created if a majority of the voters
20 voting on the ballot proposition favor the creation of the port
21 district. The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same
22 election, from districts or at large, as provided in the petition
23 initiating the creation of the port district. The election shall be
24 otherwise conducted as provided in RCW 53.12.172, but the election of
25 commissioners shall be null and void if the port district is not
26 created.

27 (~~This section shall expire July 1, 1997.~~)

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
30 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
31 immediately.

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