

***Local Government & Housing
Committee***

ESSB 5238

Brief Description: *Modifying the board of commissioners of a water-sewer district.*

Sponsors: *By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Patterson, Johnson, McCaslin, Haugen and Fairley).*

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- *Authorizes water-sewer districts with over 25,000 customers to increase the board up to seven members. (Includes a petition process to call for a vote of the customers).*
- *Creates a process to decrease the board to either five or three members.*
- *Repeals the statute authorizing the formation of associations of water-sewer commissioners*

Hearing Date:

Staff: *Scott MacColl (786-7106).*

Background:

Water-sewer districts are governed by three-member boards of commissioners. A three-member commission may put the question to an election to increase to five commissioners by either passing a resolution or receiving a signed petition of ten percent of the registered voters in the district.

However the commissioners of a water-sewer district with over 10,000 customers may determine by resolution to increase its size to five members. This decision is subject to a vote in a special election if a signed petition of ten percent of the registered voters in the district is submitted within ninety days of adoption.

Water-sewer commissioners are authorized to form an association of commissioners of two

or more districts to improve the operation and organization of the districts.

Summary of Bill:

In water-sewer districts of 25,000 customers or more, a three-member or five-member board of commissioners may by resolution choose to increase the number of commissioners from five to seven without an election. This decision is subject to a vote in a special election if a signed petition of ten percent of the registered voters in the district that voted in the last municipal election is submitted within ninety days of adoption.

A seven member or five member board may decrease a board from seven to five members, or from five to three members by resolution of the board, or through an election caused by a petition signed by 10 percent of the registered voters in the district.

Authority to create associations of water-sewer district commissioners is repealed.

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Not Requested.*

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