

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5238

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
State & Local Government, February 1, 2001

**Title:** An act relating to the board of commissioners of a water-sewer district.

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

**Sponsors:** Senators Patterson, Johnson, McCaslin, Haugen and Fairley.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State & Local Government: 1/25/01, 2/1/01 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5238 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Hale, Haugen, Horn, Kline and McCaslin.

**Staff:** Aaron Jennings (786-7445)

**Background:** A sewer district with a three-member board may expand from three to five members in two ways: by submitting a proposition to the voters; or if the sewer district has more than 10,000 customers, by a resolution passed by the board.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** In a sewer district of more than 25,000 customers, the sewer district board may expand from five members to seven members. The sewer district board may increase its membership either through a simple resolution by the majority of the commissioners or the board may submit the resolution to increase the membership to the county auditor to be voted on at a special election and will pass with a majority vote.

Sewer districts board membership may be decreased from seven to five members or five to three members. If the board passes a resolution to decrease its membership, it must submit the resolution to the county auditor to be voted on at a special election. The decrease in membership requires a majority vote to pass the election.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The original bill allows for a sewer district with 25,000 customers to increase the sewer district board membership from three or five members to seven members. The increase in membership must occur if the board passes a resolution to increase its membership. The substitute bill allows a sewer district with 25,000 customers to increase the size of a five-member sewer district board to seven members. The increase in membership may occur either by a resolution passed by the board, or the board may submit the increase to a vote at a special election, where the membership increase requires a majority vote to pass.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** This bill would help facilitate the merger of two particular sewer districts.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Joe Daniels, WA Assn. of Sewer/Water Districts (pro).