
SENATE BILL 6215

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Third Special Session

By Senators Rasmussen and Honeyford

HELD AT THE DESK. 07/18/2001. READ FIRST TIME 07/25/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to conservation district supervisors; amending RCW
2 89.08.020; adding a new section to chapter 89.08 RCW; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 89.08 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Notwithstanding RCW 29.13.020, and consistent with this
8 chapter, the election of all conservation district supervisor positions
9 that expire in calendar years 2001 and 2002 shall be conducted under
10 the procedures in this chapter during the first quarter of calendar
11 year 2002.

12 (2) Until the review under subsection (3) of this section is
13 completed and recommendations, if any, are implemented, any potential
14 changes required by virtue of the section 1, chapter 305, Laws of 1999
15 amendments to RCW 89.08.020 shall not be implemented.

16 (3) Before December 31, 2002, the appropriate legislative
17 committees of the senate and house of representatives shall review the
18 appointment and election processes for conservation district
19 supervisors and assess alternative appointment and election processes.

1 Any recommendation based on the review in this subsection shall specify
2 the method and amount of funding.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 89.08.020 and 1999 c 305 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, as used in this
6 chapter:

7 "Commission" and "state conservation commission" means the agency
8 created hereunder. All former references to "state soil and water
9 conservation committee", "state committee" or "committee" shall be
10 deemed to be references to the "state conservation commission";

11 "District", or "conservation district" means a governmental
12 subdivision of this state and a public body corporate and politic,
13 organized in accordance with the provisions of chapter 184, Laws of
14 1973 1st ex. sess., for the purposes, with the powers, and subject to
15 the restrictions set forth in this chapter. All districts created
16 under chapter 184, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. shall be known as
17 conservation districts and shall have all the powers and duties set out
18 in chapter 184, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. All references in chapter
19 184, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. to "districts", or "soil and water
20 conservation districts" shall be deemed to be reference to
21 "conservation districts";

22 "Board" and "supervisors" mean the board of supervisors of a
23 conservation district;

24 "Land occupier" or "occupier of land" includes any person, firm,
25 political subdivision, government agency, municipality, public or
26 private corporation, copartnership, association, or any other entity
27 whatsoever which holds title to, or is in possession of, any lands
28 lying within a district organized under the provisions of chapter 184,
29 Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess., whether as owner, lessee, renter, tenant,
30 or otherwise;

31 "District elector" or "voter", except as provided in section 1(2)
32 of this act, means a registered voter in the county where the district
33 is located who resides within the district boundary or in the area
34 affected by a petition;

35 "Due notice" means a notice published at least twice, with at least
36 six days between publications, in a publication of general circulation
37 within the affected area, or if there is no such publication, by
38 posting at a reasonable number of public places within the area, where

1 it is customary to post notices concerning county and municipal
2 affairs. Any hearing held pursuant to due notice may be postponed from
3 time to time without a new notice;

4 "Renewable natural resources", "natural resources" or "resources"
5 includes land, air, water, vegetation, fish, wildlife, wild rivers,
6 wilderness, natural beauty, scenery and open space;

7 "Conservation" includes conservation, development, improvement,
8 maintenance, preservation, protection and use, and alleviation of
9 floodwater and sediment damages, and the disposal of excess surface
10 waters.

11 "Farm and agricultural land" means either (a) land in any
12 contiguous ownership of twenty or more acres devoted primarily to
13 agricultural uses; (b) any parcel of land five acres or more but less
14 than twenty acres devoted primarily to agricultural uses, which has
15 produced a gross income from agricultural uses equivalent to one
16 hundred dollars or more per acre per year for three of the five
17 calendar years preceding the date of application for classification
18 under this chapter; or (c) any parcel of land of less than five acres
19 devoted primarily to agricultural uses which has produced a gross
20 income of one thousand dollars or more per year for three of the five
21 calendar years preceding the date of application for classification
22 under this chapter. Agricultural lands shall also include farm
23 woodlots of less than twenty and more than five acres and the land on
24 which appurtenances necessary to production, preparation or sale of the
25 agricultural products exist in conjunction with the lands producing
26 such products. Agricultural lands shall also include any parcel of
27 land of one to five acres, which is not contiguous, but which otherwise
28 constitutes an integral part of farming operations being conducted on
29 land qualifying under this section as "farm and agricultural lands".

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
31 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
32 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
33 immediately.

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