CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1131

Chapter 76, Laws of 2001

57th Legislature
2001 Regular Session

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/22/01

Passed by the House March 9, 2001
Yeas 94 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

CLYDE BALLARD
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 5, 2001
Yeas 49 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate

Approved April 19, 2001.

We, Timothy A. Martin and Cynthia Zehnder, Co-Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is HOUSE BILL 1131 as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

CYNTHIA ZEHNDER
Chief Clerk

TIMOTHY A. MARTIN
Chief Clerk

FILED
April 19, 2001 - 4:37 p.m.

GARY LOCKE
Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State
State of Washington
AN ACT Relating to public hospital districts; and amending RCW 70.44.060.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 70.44.060 and 1997 c 3 s 206 are each amended to read as follows:

All public hospital districts organized under the provisions of this chapter shall have power:

1. To make a survey of existing hospital and other health care facilities within and without such district.

2. To construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, lease, add to, maintain, operate, develop and regulate, sell and convey all lands, property, property rights, equipment, hospital and other health care facilities and systems for the maintenance of hospitals, buildings, structures, and any and all other facilities, and to exercise the right of eminent domain to effectuate the foregoing purposes or for the acquisition and damaging of the same or property of any kind appurtenant thereto, and such right of eminent domain shall be exercised and instituted pursuant to a resolution of the commission and conducted in the same manner and by the same procedure as in or may be
provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by
incorporated cities and towns of the state of Washington in the
acquisition of property rights: PROVIDED, That no public hospital
district shall have the right of eminent domain and the power of
condemnation against any health care facility.

(3) To lease existing hospital and other health care facilities and
equipment and/or other property used in connection therewith, including
ambulances, and to pay such rental therefor as the commissioners shall
dean proper; to provide hospital and other health care services for
residents of said district by facilities located outside the boundaries
of said district, by contract or in any other manner said commissioners
may deem expedient or necessary under the existing conditions; and said
hospital district shall have the power to contract with other
communities, corporations, or individuals for the services provided by
said hospital district; and they may further receive in said hospitals
and other health care facilities and furnish proper and adequate
services to all persons not residents of said district at such
reasonable and fair compensation as may be considered proper: PROVIDED,
That it must at all times make adequate provision for the needs of the
district and residents of said district shall have prior rights to the
available hospital and other health care facilities of said district,
at rates set by the district commissioners.

(4) For the purpose aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any district
so organized to take, condemn and purchase, lease, or acquire, any and
all property, and property rights, including state and county lands,
for any of the purposes aforesaid, and any and all other facilities
necessary or convenient, and in connection with the construction,
maintenance, and operation of any such hospitals and other health care
facilities, subject, however, to the applicable limitations provided in
subsection (2) of this section.

(5) To contract indebtedness or borrow money for corporate purposes
on the credit of the corporation or the revenues of the hospitals
thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services that the
district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, and to
issue and sell: (a) Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue
obligations therefor payable solely out of a special fund or funds into
which the district may pledge such amount of the revenues of the
hospitals thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services
that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide,
to pay the same as the commissioners of the district may determine, such revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations to be issued and sold in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as provided for the issuance of revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations by cities or towns under the Municipal Revenue Bond Act, chapter 35.41 RCW, as may hereafter be amended; (b) general obligation bonds therefor in the manner and form as provided in RCW 70.44.110 and 70.44.130, as may hereafter be amended; or (c) interest-bearing warrants to be drawn on a fund pending deposit in such fund of money sufficient to redeem such warrants and to be issued and paid in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as the board of commissioners may deem to be in the best interest of the district; and to assign or sell hospital accounts receivable, and accounts receivable for the use of other facilities or services that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, for collection with or without recourse. General obligation bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue obligations may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

(6) To raise revenue by the levy of an annual tax on all taxable property within such public hospital district not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and an additional annual tax on all taxable property within such public hospital district not to exceed twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, or such further amount as has been or shall be authorized by a vote of the people. Although public hospital districts are authorized to impose two separate regular property tax levies, the levies shall be considered to be a single levy for purposes of the limitation provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW. Public hospital districts are authorized to levy such a general tax in excess of their regular property taxes when authorized so to do at a special election conducted in accordance with and subject to all of the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the state of Washington now in force or hereafter enacted governing the limitation of tax levies. The said board of district commissioners is authorized and empowered to call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the hospital district a proposition or propositions to levy taxes in excess of its regular property taxes. The superintendent shall prepare a proposed budget of the contemplated financial transactions for the ensuing year and file
the same in the records of the commission on or before the first
((Monday in September)) day of November. Notice of the filing of said
proposed budget and the date and place of hearing on the same shall be
published for at least two consecutive weeks, at least one time each
week, in a newspaper printed and of general circulation in said county.
On or before the ((first Monday in October)) fifteenth day of November
the commission shall hold a public hearing on said proposed budget at
which any taxpayer may appear and be heard against the whole or any
part of the proposed budget. Upon the conclusion of said hearing, the
commission shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as finally determined
and fix the final amount of expenditures for the ensuing year. Taxes
levied by the commission shall be certified to and collected by the
proper county officer of the county in which such public hospital
district is located in the same manner as is or may be provided by law
for the certification and collection of port district taxes. The
commission is authorized, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy,
to borrow money or issue warrants of the district in anticipation of
the revenue to be derived by such district from the levy of taxes for
the purpose of such district, and such warrants shall be redeemed from
the first money available from such taxes when collected, and such
warrants shall not exceed the anticipated revenues of one year, and
shall bear interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the commission.

(7) To enter into any contract with the United States government or
any state, municipality, or other hospital district, or any department
of those governing bodies, for carrying out any of the powers
authorized by this chapter.

(8) To sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction:
PROVIDED, That all suits against the public hospital district shall be
brought in the county in which the public hospital district is located.

(9) To pay actual necessary travel expenses and living expenses
incurred while in travel status for (a) qualified physicians who are
candidates for medical staff positions, and (b) other qualified persons
who are candidates for superintendent or other managerial and technical
positions, when the district finds that hospitals or other health care
facilities owned and operated by it are not adequately staffed and
determines that personal interviews with said candidates to be held in
the district are necessary or desirable for the adequate staffing of
said facilities.
(10) To make contracts, employ superintendents, attorneys, and other technical or professional assistants and all other employees; to make contracts with private or public institutions for employee retirement programs; to print and publish information or literature; and to do all other things necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

Passed the House March 9, 2001.
Passed the Senate April 5, 2001.
Approved by the Governor April 19, 2001.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 19, 2001.