
SENATE BILL 5048

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Chase, Roach, Hatfield, and Miloscia

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1 AN ACT Relating to the referendum of assumptions of water-sewer
2 districts by cities and towns; and adding a new section to chapter
3 35.13A RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.13A
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A resolution or ordinance adopted by the legislative body of
8 a city to assume jurisdiction of all or part of a water-sewer
9 district under this chapter is subject to a referendum. Any
10 referendum petition to repeal the assumption resolution or ordinance
11 must be filed with the county auditor within ten days of passage of
12 the ordinance. Within ten days of the filing of a petition, the
13 county auditor must confer with the petitioner concerning the form
14 and style of the petition, issue an identification number for the
15 petition, and write a ballot title for the measure. The ballot title
16 must be posed as a question so that an affirmative answer to the
17 question and an affirmative vote on the measure results in approval
18 of the proposed assumption and a negative answer to the question and
19 a negative vote on the measure results in the assumption being
20 barred. The petitioner must be notified of the identification number
21 and ballot title within this ten-day period. After this notification,

1 the petitioner has ninety days in which to secure on petition forms
2 the signatures of at least ten percent of the number of voters
3 residing within the boundaries of the water-sewer district who voted
4 in the last general election and file the signed petitions with the
5 county auditor. Each petition form must contain the ballot title and
6 full text of the measure to be referred. The county auditor must
7 verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petitions.

8 (2) If sufficient valid signatures on the petitions are properly
9 submitted, the county auditor must submit the referendum measure to
10 the registered voters residing in the water-sewer district in a
11 general or special election no later than one hundred twenty days
12 after the signed petition has been filed with the county auditor.
13 Elections must be conducted in accordance with general election law,
14 and the cost of the election must be borne by the city seeking
15 approval to assume jurisdiction of the water-sewer district.

16 (3) When a referendum petition is filed with the county auditor,
17 the assumption resolution or ordinance sought to be referred to the
18 voters and any proceedings before a boundary review board under
19 chapter 36.93 RCW are suspended from taking effect. Such suspension
20 terminates when: (a) There is a final determination of insufficiency
21 or untimeliness of the referendum petition; or (b) the assumption
22 resolution or ordinance so referred is approved by the voters at a
23 referendum election.

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