
SENATE BILL 6038

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Roach, and Benton

Read first time 02/19/15. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to the governance structure of a public hospital
2 district; and amending RCW 70.44.053 and 70.44.056.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.44.053 and 1997 c 99 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) At any general or special election which may be called for
7 that purpose the board of public hospital district commissioners may,
8 or on petition of ten percent of the voters based on the total vote
9 cast in the last district general election in the public hospital
10 district shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the district
11 the proposition increasing the number of commissioners to either five
12 or seven members. The petition or resolution shall specify whether it
13 is proposed to increase the number of commissioners to either five or
14 seven members.

15 (2) If the board of public hospital district commissioners decide
16 to enter into a contract with another entity and a new entity will be
17 created in which additional members are added to the board, the
18 public hospital district shall, by resolution, submit to the voters
19 of the district the proposition to change the governance structure of
20 the public hospital district with the addition of new members to the
21 board of the public hospital district. The election must be conducted

1 as provided in the general election laws and the election must be at
2 any general or special election which may be called for that purpose.
3 The new governance structure must be deemed approved by the voters
4 unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in
5 opposition thereto.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.44.056 and 1997 c 99 s 5 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1)(a) In all existing public hospital districts in which an
9 increase in the number of district commissioners is proposed, the
10 additional commissioner positions shall be deemed to be vacant and
11 the board of commissioners of the public hospital district shall
12 appoint qualified persons to fill those vacancies in accordance with
13 RCW 42.12.070.

14 (b) Each person who is appointed shall serve until a qualified
15 person is elected at the next general election of the district
16 occurring one hundred twenty days or more after the date of the
17 election at which the voters of the district approved the ballot
18 proposition authorizing the increase in the number of commissioners.
19 If needed, special filing periods shall be authorized as provided in
20 RCW 29.15.170 and 29.15.180 for qualified persons to file for the
21 vacant office. A primary shall be held to nominate candidates if
22 sufficient time exists to hold a primary and more than two candidates
23 file for the vacant office. Otherwise, no primary shall be held and
24 the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each
25 position shall be elected. Except for the initial terms of office,
26 persons elected to each of these additional commissioner positions
27 shall be elected to a six-year term. The newly elected commissioners
28 shall assume office as provided in RCW (~~(29.04.170)~~) 29A.60.280.

29 (c) The initial terms of the new commissioners shall be staggered
30 as follows: (~~(+1)~~) (i) When the number of commissioners is increased
31 from three to five, the person elected receiving the greatest number
32 of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office, and the other
33 person shall be elected to a four-year term; (~~(+2)~~) (ii) when the
34 number of commissioners is increased from three or five to seven, the
35 terms of the new commissioners shall be staggered over the next three
36 district general elections so that two commissioners will be elected
37 at the first district general election following the election where
38 the additional commissioners are elected, two commissioners will be
39 at the second district general election after the election of the

1 additional commissioners, and three commissioners will be elected at
2 the third district general election following the election of the
3 additional commissioners, with the persons elected receiving the
4 greatest number of votes elected to serve the longest terms.

5 (2)(a) If the board of commissioners increases or changes in size
6 pursuant to RCW 70.44.053(2), each appointment to the board shall be
7 for no more than four years. A person appointed to the board shall
8 not serve more than two four-year terms.

9 (b) Each person who is appointed shall serve until elected at the
10 next general election of the district. If a person appointed to the
11 board does not receive a majority of the votes cast at the general
12 election then a new person must be appointed.

13 (c) A person who has previously lost an election to the public
14 hospital district board may not be appointed to the board.

--- END ---