

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5010**

Chapter 178, Laws of 2019

66th Legislature  
2019 Regular Session

ANNEXATION OF PROTECTED LANDS BY LOCAL FIRE DISTRICTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2019

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2019  
Yeas 46 Nays 3

KAREN KEISER

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 9, 2019  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 29, 2019 2:39 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5010** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

BRAD HENDRICKSON

**Secretary**

FILED

April 30, 2019

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5010**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2019 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      66th Legislature                      2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Rolfes, Van De Wege, and Ranker)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/19.

1            AN ACT Relating to protected lands not being assessed local fire  
2 district levies; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) On September 13, 2017, the joint  
5 legislative audit and review committee distributed the 17-06 final  
6 report: Fees assessed for forest fire protection. The report  
7 identified more than twenty thousand parcels of land that do not pay  
8 the forest fire protection assessment or a local fire district levy  
9 but are likely still protected by the department of natural resources  
10 or a local fire district.

11            The legislature finds that fire protection services at the state  
12 and local level are vital to the preservation of public and personal  
13 property throughout the state. The legislature further finds that  
14 fire protection resources are very limited in carrying out the  
15 substantial duties that fire protection services are asked to  
16 perform. Therefore, properties that benefit from fire protection  
17 should be required to contribute to the operation and maintenance of  
18 such essential services.

19            (2)(a) A local fire district may propose to annex any parcel or  
20 parcels having all boundaries of the property wholly within the  
21 external boundary of the requesting local fire district if such

1 parcel or parcels are not presently being assessed a local fire  
2 district levy.

3 (b) Prior to annexing a parcel or parcels under this section the  
4 local fire district must:

5 (i) Verify with the county assessor that the parcel or parcels  
6 have all boundaries of the property wholly within the external  
7 boundary of the requesting local fire district and are not presently  
8 assessed a local fire district levy;

9 (ii) Notify the owner of record of each parcel in writing no less  
10 than sixty days prior to conducting a public hearing that the local  
11 fire district is seeking to annex the parcel; and

12 (iii) Hold at least one public hearing on the proposed  
13 annexation.

14 (3) Following the hearing, the local fire district must determine  
15 by resolution whether any parcel will be annexed. After adoption of  
16 the resolution, the local fire district must send a copy to the  
17 county legislative authority, the county assessor, and the owner of  
18 record of any parcel proposed to be annexed. The resolution must  
19 include a list of all parcels proposed to be annexed.

20 (4) Within thirty days of notification of the resolution, the  
21 owner of record of a parcel proposed to be annexed may appeal the  
22 proposed annexation to the county legislative authority. Issues  
23 raised under appeal may include compliance with the process  
24 established under this section, whether the parcel is presently being  
25 assessed a local fire district levy, whether the levied amount is  
26 consistent with local fire district levy amounts, whether the local  
27 fire district actually has the resources to provide the parcel or  
28 parcels with timely service. The county legislative authority may  
29 address multiple appeals at the same hearing. The decision of the  
30 county legislative authority or its designee is not appealable.

31 (5) If the proposed annexation is upheld or no appeal is made  
32 within thirty days of notification of the resolution, the county  
33 legislative authority must approve the proposed annexation of any  
34 parcel or parcels of land submitted under subsection (3) of this  
35 section into the local fire district. The order must include a  
36 description of the property to be annexed and the effective date of  
37 the annexation. The order is not subject to referendum.

38 (6) A notice of intention must be filed with the boundary review  
39 board created under RCW 36.93.030. However, the jurisdiction of the

1 board may not be invoked as described in RCW 36.93.100 for  
2 annexations under this section.

3 (7) Any local fire district levy to be imposed on a parcel  
4 annexed in accordance with this section may not be assessed until the  
5 next tax assessment cycle following the annexation.

6 (8) Annexations of a parcel or parcels of land under this section  
7 must be initiated by January 1, 2021.

8 (9) For the purposes of this section, "local fire district" means  
9 a fire district, regional fire protection service authority, city, or  
10 town.

11 (10) The annexation process established under this section is not  
12 exclusive and does not limit annexation through other statutory  
13 authorities.

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2019.

Passed by the House April 9, 2019.

Approved by the Governor April 29, 2019.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 30, 2019.

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