
SENATE BILL 6502

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senator A. Smith

Read first time 01/25/94. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to water district commissioner elections; and
2 amending RCW 57.12.015 and 57.12.039.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 57.12.015 and 1991 c 190 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 ~~((In the event a three-member board of commissioners of any water
7 district with any number of customers determines by resolution that it
8 would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of
9 commissioners from three to five, or))~~ In the event the board of a
10 district with any number of customers is presented with a petition
11 signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident within the
12 district who voted in the last general municipal election calling for
13 an increase in the number of commissioners of the district, the board
14 shall submit a resolution to the county auditor requesting that an
15 election be held. Upon receipt of the resolution, the county auditor
16 shall call a special election to be held within the water district in
17 accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020, at which election a
18 proposition in substantially the following language shall be submitted
19 to the voters:

1 Shall the Board of Commissioners of ____ (Name and/or No. of
2 water district) be increased from three to five members?

3 Yes

4 No

5 If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election the
6 board of commissioners of the water district shall be increased to five
7 members. (~~In any water district with more than ten thousand
8 customers, if a three-member board of commissioners determines by
9 resolution and approves by unanimous vote of the board that it would be
10 in the best interest of the district to increase the number of
11 commissioners from three to five,~~)

12 When the customers of any water district exceed ten thousand in
13 number, the three-member board of commissioners of that water district
14 shall by resolution increase the number of commissioners from three to
15 five. The number of commissioners shall be so increased((7)) without
16 an election, unless within ninety days of adoption of that resolution
17 a petition requesting an election and signed by at least ten percent of
18 the registered voters who voted in the last general municipal election
19 is filed with the board. If such a petition is received, the board
20 shall submit the resolution and the petition to the county auditor, who
21 shall call a special election in the manner described in this section
22 and in accordance with the provisions of RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020.

23 The two positions created on boards of water commissioners by this
24 section shall be filled initially either as for a vacancy or by
25 nomination under RCW 57.12.039, except that the appointees or newly
26 elected commissioners shall draw lots, one appointee to serve until the
27 next general water district election after the appointment, at which
28 two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms, and the other
29 appointee to serve until the second general water district election
30 after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for
31 six-year terms.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 57.12.039 and 1986 c 41 s 2 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 Notwithstanding RCW 57.12.020 and 57.12.030, the board of
35 commissioners may provide by majority vote that subsequent
36 commissioners be elected from commissioner districts within the
37 district. If the board exercises this option, it shall divide the
38 district into three, or five if the number of commissioners has been

1 increased pursuant to RCW 57.12.015, commissioner districts of
2 approximately equal population following current precinct and district
3 boundaries. Thereafter, candidates shall be nominated and one
4 candidate shall be elected from each commissioner district by the
5 electors of the commissioner district.

6 At the inception of a five-member board of commissioners, the new
7 commissioner districts shall be numbered one through five and the three
8 incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts one
9 through three. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries
10 two or three of the incumbent commissioners reside in one of the new
11 commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same
12 commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the first three
13 numbered commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder
14 of their respective terms. A primary shall be held to nominate
15 candidates from districts four and five where necessary and
16 commissioners shall be elected from commissioner districts four and
17 five at the general election. The persons elected as commissioners
18 from commissioner districts four and five shall take office immediately
19 after qualification as defined under RCW 29.01.135.

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