
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2508

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By House Committee on Government Administration (originally sponsored by Representatives Van Luven, Chopp, D. Schmidt, Radcliff, H. Sommers, Mitchell, Dyer, Dickerson and Kenney)

Read first time 01/27/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to revising administrative provisions of
2 metropolitan park districts; amending RCW 35.61.010, 35.61.020,
3 35.61.030, 35.61.050, 35.61.130, 35.61.150, 35.61.180, 35.61.200,
4 35.61.210, 35.61.250, 35.61.290, and 84.52.010; and adding new sections
5 to chapter 35.61 RCW.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.61.010 and 1994 c 81 s 60 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 ~~((Cities))~~ Metropolitan park districts may be created under this
10 chapter. A metropolitan park district consists of a city with a
11 population of five thousand or more ((population)), and if the board of
12 metropolitan park commissioners is composed of five separately elected
13 commissioners, a metropolitan park district may also consist of such
14 contiguous property ((the residents of which may decide in favor
15 thereof in the manner set forth in this chapter may create)) that is
16 annexed to the metropolitan park district.

17 A metropolitan park district is created for the management,
18 control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, parkways,
19 ((and)) boulevards, zoos, aquariums, and other recreational, civic,

1 cultural, and interpretive facilities, including administrative and
2 support facilities.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.61.020 and 1965 c 7 s 35.61.020 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) A ballot proposition authorizing the creation of a metropolitan
6 park district shall be submitted to the voters of a city with a
7 population of at least five thousand at any general election, or at any
8 special election which may be called for that purpose, (~~or at any city~~
9 election held in the city in all of the various voting precincts
10 thereof, the city council or commission may,)) if the legislative
11 authority of the city adopts a resolution proposing creation of a
12 metropolitan park district or ((~~on~~)) if a petition ((~~of~~)) proposing
13 creation of a metropolitan park district is submitted to the county
14 auditor that has been signed by at least fifteen percent of the
15 ((~~qualified electors of the~~)) registered voters residing in the city
16 ((~~based upon the registration for the last preceding general city~~
17 election, shall by ordinance, submit to the voters of the city the
18 proposition of creating a metropolitan park district, the limits of
19 which shall be)).

20 (2) If city voters approve the ballot proposition by a simple
21 majority vote, a metropolitan park district shall be created that is
22 coextensive with the limits of the city as now or hereafter
23 established, inclusive of territory annexed to and forming a part of
24 the city.

25 (3) Territory by virtue of its annexation to any city having
26 heretofore created a park district shall be deemed to be ((~~within the~~
27 limits of)) annexed to the metropolitan park district.

28 ((~~The city council or commission shall submit the proposition at a~~
29 special election to be called therefor when the petition so requests.))

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.61.030 and 1985 c 469 s 32 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 ((~~In submitting the question to the voters for their approval or~~
33 rejection, the city council or commission shall pass an ordinance
34 declaring its intention to submit the proposition of creating a
35 metropolitan park district to the qualified voters of the city. The
36 ordinance shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in
37 the official newspaper of the city, and the city council or commission

1 ~~shall cause to be placed upon the ballot for the election, at the~~
2 ~~proper place,))~~ The ballot proposition ((which)) authorizing creation
3 of a metropolitan park district shall ((be expressed in)) describe the
4 composition of the metropolitan park commission that is proposed under
5 RCW 35.61.050 and shall include the following terms:

6 1 "For the formation of a metropolitan park district."

7 1 "Against the formation of a metropolitan park district."

8 **Sec. 4.** RCW 35.61.050 and 1994 c 223 s 23 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 The city legislative authority of a city in which a metropolitan
11 park district is proposed to be created shall designate the composition
12 of the board of metropolitan park commissioners prior to the submission
13 of the ballot proposition to voters authorizing the creation of the
14 metropolitan park district. The composition of the board of
15 metropolitan park commissioners that is placed before city voters under
16 RCW 35.61.030 shall be designated as provided in either subsection (1)
17 or (2) of this section. The composition of a board of metropolitan
18 park commissioners may not be altered once the metropolitan park
19 district has been created.

20 (1) The city legislative authority may designate that five
21 separately elected commissioners be elected at the same election at
22 which the proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether a
23 metropolitan park district is to be formed((, five park commissioners
24 shall be elected)). The election of metropolitan park commissioners
25 shall be null and void if the metropolitan park district is not
26 created. Candidates shall run for specific commission positions. No
27 primary shall be held to nominate candidates.

28 (a) The person receiving the greatest number of votes for each
29 position shall be elected as a commissioner. The staggering of the
30 terms of office shall occur as follows:

31 ~~((+1))~~ (i) The two persons who are elected receiving the two
32 greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to six-year terms of office
33 if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or five-year terms of
34 office if the election is held in an even-numbered year;

35 ~~((+2))~~ (ii) The two persons who are elected receiving the next two
36 greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office
37 if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or three-year terms of
38 office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; and

1 (~~(3)~~) (iii) The other person who is elected shall be elected to
2 a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered
3 year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-
4 numbered year.

5 (b) The initial commissioners shall take office immediately when
6 they are elected and qualified, and for purposes of computing their
7 terms of office the terms shall be assumed to commence on the first day
8 of January in the year after they are elected. Thereafter, all
9 commissioners shall be elected to six-year terms of office.

10 (c) All commissioners shall serve until their respective successors
11 are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW
12 29.04.170. Vacancies shall occur and shall be filled as provided in
13 chapter 42.12 RCW.

14 (2) In a city with a population of five hundred thousand or more,
15 the city legislative authority alternatively may designate that the
16 city legislative authority shall act in an ex officio capacity as the
17 board of metropolitan park commissioners.

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 35.61.130 and 1969 c 54 s 1 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) A metropolitan park district has the right of eminent domain,
21 and may purchase, acquire and condemn lands lying within or without the
22 boundaries of (~~said~~) the park district, for public parks, parkways,
23 boulevards, aviation landings (~~and~~), playgrounds, (~~and~~) zoos,
24 aquariums, and other recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive
25 facilities, including administrative and support facilities. A
26 metropolitan park district may condemn such lands for any of the
27 following purposes:

28 (a) To widen, alter, and extend streets, avenues, boulevards,
29 parkways, aviation landings (~~and~~), playgrounds, zoo, aquariums, and
30 other recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive facilities
31 including administrative and support facilities;

32 (b) To enlarge and extend existing parks, boulevards, parkways,
33 aviation landings, playgrounds, zoos, aquariums, and other
34 recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive facilities, including
35 administrative and support facilities; and

36 (c) To acquire lands for the establishment of new parks,
37 boulevards, parkways, aviation landings (~~and~~), playgrounds, zoos,

1 aquariums, and other recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive
2 facilities, including administrative and support facilities.

3 (2) The right of eminent domain shall be exercised and instituted
4 pursuant to resolution of the board of metropolitan park commissioners
5 and conducted in the same manner and under the same procedure as is or
6 may be provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain
7 by incorporated cities and towns of the state of Washington in the
8 acquisition of property rights(~~(:—PROVIDED, HOWEVER,)~~). However,
9 funds to pay for condemnation allowed by this section shall be raised
10 only as specified in this chapter.

11 (3) The board of metropolitan park district commissioners (~~(shall~~
12 ~~have power to)~~) may employ counsel, and to regulate, manage, and
13 control the parks, parkways, boulevards, streets, avenues, aviation
14 landings (~~(and)~~), playgrounds, zoos, aquariums, and other recreational,
15 civic, cultural, and interpretive facilities, including administrative
16 and support facilities, on property owned by itself or others under its
17 control(~~(, and to)~~).

18 (4) The board of metropolitan park district commissioners may
19 provide for park (~~(policemen)~~) police, for a secretary of the board of
20 metropolitan park commissioners, and for all necessary employees, to
21 fix their salaries and duties.

22 (5) The board of metropolitan park commissioners (~~(shall have power~~
23 ~~to)~~) may improve, acquire, extend and maintain, open, and lay out(~~(,)~~)
24 parks, parkways, boulevards, avenues, aviation landings (~~(and)~~),
25 playgrounds, zoos, aquariums, and other recreational, civic, cultural,
26 and interpretive facilities, including administrative and support
27 facilities, on property owned by itself or others, within or without
28 the park district(~~(, and to)~~).

29 (6) The board of metropolitan park district commissioners may
30 authorize, conduct, and manage the letting of boats, or other amusement
31 apparatus, the operation of bath houses, the purchase and sale of
32 foodstuffs or other merchandise, the giving of vocal or instrumental
33 concerts or other entertainments, the establishment and maintenance of
34 aviation landings (~~(and)~~), playgrounds, (~~(and)~~) zoos, aquariums, and
35 other recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive facilities,
36 including administrative and support facilities, on property owned by
37 itself or others.

38 (7) The board of metropolitan park district commissioners may
39 provide generally for the management and conduct of such forms of

1 recreation or business as it shall judge desirable or beneficial for
2 the public, or for the production of revenue for expenditure for park
3 purposes(~~(+and)~~).

4 (8) The board of metropolitan park district commissioners may pay
5 out moneys for:

6 (i) The maintenance and improvement of any such parks, parkways,
7 boulevards, avenues, aviation landings ((and)), playgrounds, zoos,
8 aquariums, and other recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive
9 facilities, including administrative and support facilities, on
10 property owned by itself or others as now exist, or the rights to which
11 may hereafter be acquired, within or without the limits of ((said)) the
12 city ((and for));

13 (ii) The purchase of lands, rights in lands, and other property
14 within or without the limits of ((said)) the city, whenever it deems
15 the purchase to be for the benefit of the public and for the interest
16 of the park district, and for the maintenance and improvement thereof;
17 and ((for))

18 (iii) All expenses incidental to its duties(~~(+ PROVIDED, That)~~).

19 (9) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, all
20 parks, boulevards, parkways, aviation landings ((and)), playgrounds,
21 zoos, aquariums, and other recreational, civic, cultural, and
22 interpretive facilities, including administrative and support
23 facilities, on property owned by itself or others shall be subject to
24 the police regulations of the city within whose limits they lie.

25 (10) The board of metropolitan park commissioners may contract with
26 any entity, public and private, including the city that created the
27 district, for all of its operations and services.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 35.61.150 and 1965 c 7 s 35.61.150 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 Metropolitan park commissioners of a board that is composed of five
31 separately elected commissioners shall perform their duties as such
32 without compensation. Metropolitan park commissioners who serve in an
33 ex officio capacity shall perform their duties as park commissioners
34 without compensation.

35 **Sec. 7.** RCW 35.61.180 and 1987 c 203 s 1 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 The treasurer of a metropolitan park district shall be as follows:

1 (1) The county treasurer of the county within which all, or the
2 major portion, of the district lies shall be the ex officio treasurer
3 of a metropolitan park district(~~(, but)~~) with a separately elected
4 five-member board of metropolitan park commissioners. The county
5 treasurer when acting as the treasurer of a metropolitan park district
6 shall receive no compensation other than his or her regular salary for
7 receiving and disbursing the funds of a metropolitan park district.

8 (2) The treasurer of a metropolitan park district with an ex
9 officio board of park commissioners shall be the city treasurer who
10 possesses all powers relating to the metropolitan park district that
11 are possessed by the county treasurer, other than the authority to
12 collect property taxes.

13 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of
14 this section, a metropolitan park district may designate someone other
15 than the county treasurer, or someone other than the city treasurer,
16 who has experience in financial or fiscal affairs to act as the
17 district treasurer if the board has received the approval of the county
18 treasurer to designate this person. If the board of metropolitan park
19 commissioners designates someone other than the county treasurer to act
20 as the district treasurer, the board shall purchase a bond from a
21 surety company operating in the state that is sufficient to protect the
22 district from loss. A district treasurer so designated possesses all
23 powers relating to the metropolitan park district that are possessed by
24 the city treasurer or the county treasurer, other than the authority to
25 collect property taxes.

26 **Sec. 8.** RCW 35.61.200 and 1983 c 167 s 56 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 Any coupons for the payment of interest on metropolitan park
29 district bonds shall be considered for all purposes as warrants drawn
30 upon the metropolitan park district fund against which the bonds were
31 issued, and when presented after maturity to the treasurer of the
32 (~~county having custody of the fund~~) metropolitan park district. If
33 there are no funds in the treasury to pay the coupons, the (~~county~~)
34 metropolitan park district treasurer shall endorse (~~said~~) the coupons
35 as presented for payment, in the same manner as county warrants are
36 endorsed, and thereafter the coupon shall bear interest at the same
37 rate as the bond to which it was attached. If there are no funds in
38 the treasury to make payment on a bond not having coupons, the interest

1 payment shall continue bearing interest at the bond rate until it is
2 paid, unless otherwise provided in the proceedings authorizing the sale
3 of the bonds.

4 **Sec. 9.** RCW 35.61.210 and 1997 c 3 s 205 (Referendum Bill No. 47)
5 are each amended to read as follows:

6 The board of metropolitan park commissioners may levy or cause to
7 be levied a general tax on all the property located in (~~said~~) the
8 park district each year not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars
9 of assessed value of the property in such park district. In addition,
10 the board of metropolitan park commissioners may levy or cause to be
11 levied a general tax on all property located in (~~said~~) the park
12 district each year not to exceed twenty-five cents per thousand dollars
13 of assessed valuation. Although park districts are authorized to
14 impose two separate regular property tax levies, the levies shall be
15 considered to be a single levy for purposes of the limitation provided
16 for in chapter 84.55 RCW.

17 The board is hereby authorized to levy a general tax in excess of
18 its regular property tax levy or levies when authorized so to do at a
19 special election conducted in accordance with and subject to all the
20 requirements of the Constitution and laws of the state now in force or
21 hereafter enacted governing the limitation of tax levies. The board is
22 hereby authorized to call a special election for the purpose of
23 submitting to the qualified voters of the park district a proposition
24 to levy a tax in excess of the seventy-five cents per thousand dollars
25 of assessed value herein specifically authorized. The manner of
26 submitting any such proposition, of certifying the same, and of giving
27 or publishing notice thereof, shall be as provided by law for the
28 submission of propositions by cities or towns.

29 The board shall include in its general tax levy for each year a
30 sufficient sum to pay the interest on all outstanding bonds and may
31 include a sufficient amount to create a sinking fund for the redemption
32 of all outstanding bonds. The levy shall be certified to the proper
33 county officials for collection the same as other general taxes and
34 when collected, the general tax shall be placed in a separate fund in
35 the office of the county treasurer to be known as the "metropolitan
36 park district fund" and paid out on warrants or shall be forwarded to
37 the metropolitan park district if the district has a treasurer other
38 than the county treasurer.

1 **Sec. 10.** RCW 35.61.250 and 1985 c 416 s 4 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The territory adjoining a metropolitan park district with a
4 separately elected five-member board of metropolitan park commissioners
5 may be annexed to and become a part thereof upon petition and an
6 election held pursuant thereto. The petition shall define the
7 territory proposed to be annexed and must be signed by twenty-five
8 registered voters, resident within the territory proposed to be
9 annexed, unless the territory is within the limits of another city when
10 it must be signed by twenty percent of the registered voters residing
11 within the territory proposed to be annexed. The petition must be
12 addressed to the board of park commissioners requesting that the
13 question be submitted to the legal voters of the territory proposed to
14 be annexed, whether they will be annexed and become a part of the
15 metropolitan park district.

16 **Sec. 11.** RCW 35.61.290 and 1985 c 416 s 5 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) Any city within or comprising any metropolitan park district
19 may turn over to the park district any lands, facilities, equipment, or
20 interests in any lands, facilities, or equipment therein which it may
21 own, or any street, avenue, or public place within the city for
22 playground, park ~~((or))~~, parkway ~~((purposes))~~, zoo, aquarium, or other
23 recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive facilities, including
24 administrative and support purposes, and thereafter its control and
25 management shall vest in the board of metropolitan park
26 commissioners~~((: PROVIDED, That))~~. However, the police regulations of
27 ((such city)) the city or county, should the premises be outside the
28 city limits, shall apply to all such premises.

29 (2) At any time that any such metropolitan park district is unable,
30 through lack of sufficient funds, to provide for the continuous
31 operation, maintenance, and improvement of the parks and playgrounds
32 and other properties or facilities owned by it or under its control,
33 and the legislative body of any city within or comprising such
34 metropolitan park district shall determine that an emergency exists
35 requiring the financial aid of such city to be extended in order to
36 provide for such continuous operation, maintenance, and/or improvement
37 of parks, playgrounds facilities, other properties, and programs of
38 such park district within its limits, such city may grant or loan to

1 such metropolitan park district such of its available funds, or such
2 funds which it may lawfully procure and make available, as it shall
3 find necessary to provide for such continuous operation and maintenance
4 and, pursuant thereto, any such city and the board of metropolitan park
5 commissioners of such district are authorized and empowered to enter
6 into an agreement embodying such terms and conditions of any such grant
7 or loan as may be mutually agreed upon.

8 (3) The board of metropolitan park commissioners may accept public
9 streets of the city and grounds for public purposes when donated for
10 (~~park~~) parkway, playground, boulevard, zoo, aquarium, and other
11 recreational, civic, cultural, and interpretive facilities, including
12 administrative and support facilities and park purposes.

13 (~~(2)~~) (4) Counties may turn over to the park district any park
14 (~~and~~) recreation lands, zoo, aquarium, and other recreational, civic,
15 cultural, and interpretive facilities, including administrative and
16 support facilities and equipment or interests to any lands, facilities,
17 or equipment therein that they own, and the board of metropolitan park
18 commissioners may accept such lands and equipment or interests to any
19 lands, facilities, or equipment therein.

20 **Sec. 12.** RCW 84.52.010 and 1995 2nd sp.s. c 13 s 4 are each
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Except as is permitted under RCW 84.55.050, all taxes shall be
23 levied or voted in specific amounts.

24 The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes, and
25 purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, shall be
26 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
27 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
28 assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the
29 completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes
30 levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county shall be
31 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
32 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
33 assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts
34 respectively.

35 When a county assessor finds that the aggregate rate of tax levy on
36 any property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW
37 84.52.043 or 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in either of

1 these sections, the assessor shall recompute and establish a
2 consolidated levy in the following manner:

3 (1) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county, county
4 road district, and city or town purposes shall be extended on the tax
5 rolls in amounts not exceeding the limitations established by law;
6 however any state levy shall take precedence over all other levies and
7 shall not be reduced for any purpose other than that required by RCW
8 84.55.010. If, as a result of the levies imposed under RCW 84.52.069,
9 84.34.230, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that
10 was protected under RCW 84.52.120, and 84.52.105, the combined rate of
11 regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent
12 limitation exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any
13 property, then these levies shall be reduced as follows: (a) The
14 portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that is protected
15 under RCW 84.52.120 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer
16 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall
17 be eliminated; (b) if the combined rate of regular property tax levies
18 subject to the one percent limitation in a county containing a
19 metropolitan park district governed under RCW 35.61.050(2) still
20 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then
21 the remaining levy for a metropolitan park district shall be reduced
22 until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent; (c) if the
23 combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the
24 one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair
25 value of any property, then the levies imposed under RCW 84.34.230,
26 84.52.105, and any portion of the levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 that
27 is in excess of thirty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value,
28 shall be reduced on a pro rata basis until the combined rate no longer
29 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall
30 be eliminated; and ~~((+e+))~~ (d) if the combined rate of regular property
31 tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds
32 one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then the thirty
33 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of tax levy imposed under
34 RCW 84.52.069 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer
35 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or
36 eliminated.

37 (2) The certified rates of tax levy subject to these limitations by
38 all junior taxing districts imposing taxes on such property shall be

1 reduced or eliminated as follows to bring the consolidated levy of
2 taxes on such property within the provisions of these limitations:

3 (a) First, the certified property tax levy rates of those junior
4 taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525, 36.69.145, and
5 67.38.130 shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

6 (b) Second, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
7 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of flood control
8 zone districts shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

9 (c) Third, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
10 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all other junior
11 taxing districts, other than fire protection districts, library
12 districts, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed
13 valuation levies for metropolitan park districts, and the first fifty
14 cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for public
15 hospital districts, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

16 (d) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
17 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized to fire
18 protection districts under RCW 52.16.140 and 52.16.160 shall be reduced
19 on a pro rata basis or eliminated; and

20 (e) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
21 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized for fire
22 protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, library districts,
23 metropolitan park districts under their first fifty cent per thousand
24 dollars of assessed valuation levy, and public hospital districts under
25 their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy,
26 shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated.

27 In determining whether the aggregate rate of tax levy on any
28 property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW
29 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in that section, the
30 assessor shall use the hypothetical state levy, as apportioned to the
31 county under RCW 84.48.080, that was computed under RCW 84.48.080
32 without regard to the reduction under RCW 84.55.012.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 35.61 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 RCW 35.61.250 through 35.61.280 and 35.61.360 only apply to
36 metropolitan park districts with elected boards of metropolitan park
37 commissioners.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** A new section is added to chapter 35.61 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 Where a metropolitan park district governed under RCW 35.61.050(2)
4 contracts with a nonprofit corporation or other public or private
5 organization to manage its operations, the chief executive officer may
6 be appointed by the managing organization. In such instance, the
7 appointment shall be effective only upon a majority vote confirmation
8 of the commissioners of the metropolitan park district. If provided by
9 such a contract, the director may be removed by the managing
10 organization, after consultation with the commissioners of the
11 metropolitan park district, upon filing a statement of reasons for the
12 removal with the commissioners of the metropolitan park district. The
13 chief executive officer shall not be a member of the civil service that
14 a metropolitan park district may establish under RCW 35.61.140.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** A new section is added to chapter 35.61 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in a city
18 charter, and to the extent provided by the city under an appropriate
19 legislative enactment, employees of a metropolitan park district with
20 an ex officio board of park commissioners may be included in the
21 personnel system or civil service and retirement plans of a city that
22 shares territory with the metropolitan park district. The city and
23 metropolitan park district are each authorized to pay the parts of the
24 expense of operating and maintaining the personnel system or civil
25 service and retirement system and to contribute to the retirement fund
26 on behalf of employees those sums as may be agreed upon between the
27 legislative authorities of the city and the metropolitan park district.

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