

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1131

Chapter 76, Laws of 2001

57th Legislature
2001 Regular Session

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/22/01

Passed by the House March 9, 2001
Yeas 94 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP
**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

CLYDE BALLARD
**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 5, 2001
Yeas 49 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate

Approved April 19, 2001.

GARY LOCKE
Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

We, Timothy A. Martin and Cynthia Zehnder, Co-Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1131** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

CYNTHIA ZEHNDER
Chief Clerk

TIMOTHY A. MARTIN
Chief Clerk

FILED

April 19, 2001 - 4:37 p.m.

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 1131

Passed Legislature - 2001 Regular Session

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Mulliken, Dunshee, Edwards, G. Chandler, DeBolt, Dunn and Hatfield

Read first time 01/18/2001. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to public hospital districts; and amending RCW
2 70.44.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.44.060 and 1997 c 3 s 206 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 All public hospital districts organized under the provisions of
7 this chapter shall have power:

8 (1) To make a survey of existing hospital and other health care
9 facilities within and without such district.

10 (2) To construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, lease,
11 add to, maintain, operate, develop and regulate, sell and convey all
12 lands, property, property rights, equipment, hospital and other health
13 care facilities and systems for the maintenance of hospitals,
14 buildings, structures, and any and all other facilities, and to
15 exercise the right of eminent domain to effectuate the foregoing
16 purposes or for the acquisition and damaging of the same or property of
17 any kind appurtenant thereto, and such right of eminent domain shall be
18 exercised and instituted pursuant to a resolution of the commission and
19 conducted in the same manner and by the same procedure as in or may be

1 provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by
2 incorporated cities and towns of the state of Washington in the
3 acquisition of property rights: PROVIDED, That no public hospital
4 district shall have the right of eminent domain and the power of
5 condemnation against any health care facility.

6 (3) To lease existing hospital and other health care facilities and
7 equipment and/or other property used in connection therewith, including
8 ambulances, and to pay such rental therefor as the commissioners shall
9 deem proper; to provide hospital and other health care services for
10 residents of said district by facilities located outside the boundaries
11 of said district, by contract or in any other manner said commissioners
12 may deem expedient or necessary under the existing conditions; and said
13 hospital district shall have the power to contract with other
14 communities, corporations, or individuals for the services provided by
15 said hospital district; and they may further receive in said hospitals
16 and other health care facilities and furnish proper and adequate
17 services to all persons not residents of said district at such
18 reasonable and fair compensation as may be considered proper: PROVIDED,
19 That it must at all times make adequate provision for the needs of the
20 district and residents of said district shall have prior rights to the
21 available hospital and other health care facilities of said district,
22 at rates set by the district commissioners.

23 (4) For the purpose aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any district
24 so organized to take, condemn and purchase, lease, or acquire, any and
25 all property, and property rights, including state and county lands,
26 for any of the purposes aforesaid, and any and all other facilities
27 necessary or convenient, and in connection with the construction,
28 maintenance, and operation of any such hospitals and other health care
29 facilities, subject, however, to the applicable limitations provided in
30 subsection (2) of this section.

31 (5) To contract indebtedness or borrow money for corporate purposes
32 on the credit of the corporation or the revenues of the hospitals
33 thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services that the
34 district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, and to
35 issue and sell: (a) Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue
36 obligations therefor payable solely out of a special fund or funds into
37 which the district may pledge such amount of the revenues of the
38 hospitals thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services
39 that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide,

1 to pay the same as the commissioners of the district may determine,
2 such revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations to be issued and
3 sold in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as provided
4 for the issuance of revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations by
5 cities or towns under the Municipal Revenue Bond Act, chapter 35.41
6 RCW, as may hereafter be amended; (b) general obligation bonds therefor
7 in the manner and form as provided in RCW 70.44.110 and 70.44.130, as
8 may hereafter be amended; or (c) interest-bearing warrants to be drawn
9 on a fund pending deposit in such fund of money sufficient to redeem
10 such warrants and to be issued and paid in such manner and upon such
11 terms and conditions as the board of commissioners may deem to be in
12 the best interest of the district; and to assign or sell hospital
13 accounts receivable, and accounts receivable for the use of other
14 facilities or services that the district is or hereafter may be
15 authorized by law to provide, for collection with or without recourse.
16 General obligation bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with
17 chapter 39.46 RCW. Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue
18 obligations may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46
19 RCW.

20 (6) To raise revenue by the levy of an annual tax on all taxable
21 property within such public hospital district not to exceed fifty cents
22 per thousand dollars of assessed value, and an additional annual tax on
23 all taxable property within such public hospital district not to exceed
24 twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, or such
25 further amount as has been or shall be authorized by a vote of the
26 people. Although public hospital districts are authorized to impose
27 two separate regular property tax levies, the levies shall be
28 considered to be a single levy for purposes of the limitation provided
29 for in chapter 84.55 RCW. Public hospital districts are authorized to
30 levy such a general tax in excess of their regular property taxes when
31 authorized so to do at a special election conducted in accordance with
32 and subject to all of the requirements of the Constitution and the laws
33 of the state of Washington now in force or hereafter enacted governing
34 the limitation of tax levies. The said board of district commissioners
35 is authorized and empowered to call a special election for the purpose
36 of submitting to the qualified voters of the hospital district a
37 proposition or propositions to levy taxes in excess of its regular
38 property taxes. The superintendent shall prepare a proposed budget of
39 the contemplated financial transactions for the ensuing year and file

1 the same in the records of the commission on or before the first
2 (~~Monday in September~~) day of November. Notice of the filing of said
3 proposed budget and the date and place of hearing on the same shall be
4 published for at least two consecutive weeks, at least one time each
5 week, in a newspaper printed and of general circulation in said county.
6 On or before the (~~first Monday in October~~) fifteenth day of November
7 the commission shall hold a public hearing on said proposed budget at
8 which any taxpayer may appear and be heard against the whole or any
9 part of the proposed budget. Upon the conclusion of said hearing, the
10 commission shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as finally determined
11 and fix the final amount of expenditures for the ensuing year. Taxes
12 levied by the commission shall be certified to and collected by the
13 proper county officer of the county in which such public hospital
14 district is located in the same manner as is or may be provided by law
15 for the certification and collection of port district taxes. The
16 commission is authorized, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy,
17 to borrow money or issue warrants of the district in anticipation of
18 the revenue to be derived by such district from the levy of taxes for
19 the purpose of such district, and such warrants shall be redeemed from
20 the first money available from such taxes when collected, and such
21 warrants shall not exceed the anticipated revenues of one year, and
22 shall bear interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the commission.

23 (7) To enter into any contract with the United States government or
24 any state, municipality, or other hospital district, or any department
25 of those governing bodies, for carrying out any of the powers
26 authorized by this chapter.

27 (8) To sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction:
28 PROVIDED, That all suits against the public hospital district shall be
29 brought in the county in which the public hospital district is located.

30 (9) To pay actual necessary travel expenses and living expenses
31 incurred while in travel status for (a) qualified physicians who are
32 candidates for medical staff positions, and (b) other qualified persons
33 who are candidates for superintendent or other managerial and technical
34 positions, when the district finds that hospitals or other health care
35 facilities owned and operated by it are not adequately staffed and
36 determines that personal interviews with said candidates to be held in
37 the district are necessary or desirable for the adequate staffing of
38 said facilities.

1 (10) To make contracts, employ superintendents, attorneys, and
2 other technical or professional assistants and all other employees; to
3 make contracts with private or public institutions for employee
4 retirement programs; to print and publish information or literature;
5 and to do all other things necessary to carry out the provisions of
6 this chapter.

Passed the House March 9, 2001.

Passed the Senate April 5, 2001.

Approved by the Governor April 19, 2001.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 19, 2001.