

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 2482

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### As Amended by the Senate

**Title:** An act relating to the signature validation process for petitions that seek annexation.

**Brief Description:** Addressing the signature validation process for petitions that seek annexation.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representative Moeller).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Local Government: 1/15/08, 1/18/08 [DPS].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/13/08, 96-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 3/7/08, 43-0.

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Modifies petition requirements for cities by allowing a corporate officer to sign an annexation petition under oath.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Simpson, Chair; Takko, Vice Chair; Warnick, Ranking Minority Member; Eddy, Nelson and Schmick.

**Staff:** Lyset Cadena (786-7291) and Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

**Background:**

State law contains specified procedural and substantive rules governing the use of the various voter/property owner petitions initiated in accordance with the procedures required of cities and towns. The rules governing this petition process include those pertaining to:

- petition formats;
- textual requirements;
- persons allowed to sign petitions;

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- determination of signature validity; and
- validity of signatures by authorized officers of property-owning corporations.

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**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

The petition requirements for cities are modified. When a petition seeks annexation, any duly authorized corporate officer may sign a petition under oath on behalf of a corporation.

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**EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):**

The Senate amendment requires an officer of a corporation that signs an annexation petition on behalf of the corporation to attach an affidavit stating that he or she is duly authorized to sign the annexation petition.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) Currently, many cities face challenges when the officer of a corporation has to attach a copy of the bylaws to an annexation petition, since the bylaws do not state who has the authority to sign a petition. The process of attaining signatures for an annexation petition may take a city years, and in that time the corporate officer may have changed or the corporation may have dissolved. The current law does not provide a framework to address corporations who do not have bylaws. Allowing the corporate officer to sign an annexation petition under oath will help streamline the annexation process.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Moeller, prime sponsor; Dave Williams, Association of Washington Cities; Suzan Wallace, City of Vancouver; and Steve Stuart, Clark County.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.