

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6271

As Reported by House Committee On:
Local Government

Title: An act relating to compensation of special purpose district commissioners.

Brief Description: Concerning the compensation of special purpose district commissioners.

Sponsors: Senators Hatfield, Fairley and Sheldon.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Local Government: 2/21/08 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Specifies that commissioners from water-sewer and public hospital districts must receive \$90 per diem compensation.
- Deletes requirement obligating commissions to adopt compensation resolutions for commissioners.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Simpson, Chair; Takko, Vice Chair; Warnick, Ranking Minority Member; Schindler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Nelson and Schmick.

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

Background:

Special Purpose Districts

In Washington, a special purpose district (SPD) is a limited purpose local government separate from a city, town, or county government. Special purpose districts provide an array of services and facilities that are otherwise not available or provided by city or county governments. Most powers of SPDs are vested in a board of district commissioners, board of district trustees, or board of district directors. Per diem compensation is available for select

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SPD positions for performing services on behalf of the district, such as attending meetings or time spent devoted to the business of the district.

Water-sewer and public hospital districts provide by resolution a \$90 per diem compensation to all commissioners who attend official meetings and perform official services or duties on behalf of the district. The compensation provisions for commissioners must be stipulated by resolution of the commission.

Legislation enacted in 2007 increased the maximum per diem compensation for SPDs. The Office of Financial Management is directed to adjust the "dollar thresholds" for per diem compensations for SPDs every five years, beginning July 1, 2008.

Summary of Bill:

Each water-sewer and public hospital district's commissioners must receive \$90 for each day or portion thereof spent in actual attendance at official meetings of the district commission, or in performance of other official services or duties on behalf of the district. No resolution is required to provide compensation.

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) Legislation enacted in 2007 increased the maximum per diem compensation for special purpose districts. Water-sewer and public hospital districts thought they could legally adopt the per diem compensation increase without adopting a new resolution. The State Auditor and the Attorney General released an opinion stating that water-sewer and public hospital districts would have to adopt a new resolution in order for commissioners to receive the per diem rate increase. This bill removes the provision requiring water-sewer and public hospital districts to adopt a resolution in order for commissioners to receive per diem compensation.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Joe Daniels, Washington Association of Water/Sewer Districts.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.