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SENATE BILL 6315

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Holmquist Newbry and Billig

Read first time 01/20/14. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a less than countywide port  
2 district within a county containing no port districts; amending RCW  
3 53.04.023; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.04.023 and 1997 c 256 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 A less than countywide port district with an assessed valuation of  
8 at least one hundred fifty million dollars may be created: (1) In a  
9 county that already has a less than countywide port district located  
10 within its boundaries; or (2) under the provisions of section 2 of this  
11 act. Except as provided in this section, such a port district shall be  
12 created in accordance with the procedure to create a countywide port  
13 district.

14 The effort to create such a port district is initiated by the  
15 filing of a petition with the county auditor calling for the creation  
16 of such a port district, describing the boundaries of the proposed port  
17 district, designating either three or five commissioner positions,  
18 describing commissioner districts if the petitioners propose that the  
19 commissioners represent districts, and providing a name for the

1 proposed port district. The petition must be signed by voters residing  
2 within the proposed port district equal in number to at least ten  
3 percent of such voters who voted at the last county general election.

4 A public hearing on creation of the proposed port district shall be  
5 held by the county legislative authority if the county auditor  
6 certifies that the petition contained sufficient valid signatures.  
7 Notice of the public hearing must be published in the county's official  
8 newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing.  
9 After taking testimony, the county legislative authority may make  
10 changes in the boundaries of the proposed port district if it finds  
11 that such changes are in the public interest and shall determine if the  
12 creation of the port district is in the public interest. No area may  
13 be added to the boundaries unless a subsequent public hearing is held  
14 on the proposed port district.

15 The county legislative authority shall submit a ballot proposition  
16 authorizing the creation of the proposed port district to the voters of  
17 the proposed port district, at any special election date provided in  
18 RCW ((~~29.13.020~~)) 29A.04.330, if it finds the creation of the port  
19 district to be in the public interest.

20 The port district shall be created if a majority of the voters  
21 voting on the ballot proposition favor the creation of the port  
22 district. The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same  
23 election, from districts or at large, as provided in the petition  
24 initiating the creation of the port district. The election shall be  
25 otherwise conducted as provided in RCW 53.12.172, but the election of  
26 commissioners shall be null and void if the port district is not  
27 created.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Prior to December 31, 2020, a port district  
29 comprising territory less than the entire county may be created in a  
30 county with no port district. In the creation of such a port district,  
31 the initial port commissioners may be elected at the next general  
32 election after approval of the ballot proposition submitted to the  
33 voters authorizing the creation of a port district. In the creation of  
34 a less than countywide port district, all procedures outlined in RCW  
35 53.04.023 must be followed, except the requirement to elect  
36 commissioners at the same election.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   Section 2 of this act expires December 31,  
2   2020.

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