
SENATE BILL 5565

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Rolfes, Lovick, and Mullet

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1 AN ACT Relating to allowing fire districts and regional fire
2 authorities to carry out certain treasurer functions; and amending
3 RCW 52.16.010, 52.16.020, 52.16.050, and 52.26.090.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.16.010 and 1989 c 63 s 24 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) It is the duty of the county treasurer of the county in which
8 all, or the largest portion of, any fire protection district created
9 under this title is located to receive and disburse district
10 revenues, to collect taxes and assessments authorized and levied
11 under this title, and to credit district revenues to the proper fund.
12 However, where a fire protection district is located in more than one
13 county, the county treasurer of each other county in which the
14 district is located shall collect the fire protection district's
15 taxes and assessments that are imposed on property located within the
16 county and transfer these funds to the county treasurer of the county
17 in which the largest portion of the district is located.

18 (2) The board of commissioners of a district with more than
19 \$10,000,000 in annual revenues for the preceding three consecutive
20 years may designate by resolution some other person having experience
21 in financial or fiscal matters as the treasurer of the district. Such

1 a treasurer shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and
2 duties of, and shall be subject to the same restrictions as provided
3 by law for, the county treasurer with regard to a district and the
4 county auditor with regard to district financial matters.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 52.16.020 and 1984 c 230 s 39 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 In each county in which a fire protection district is situated,
8 there shall be in the county treasurer's office of each district the
9 following funds: (1) Expense fund; (2) reserve fund; (3) local
10 improvement district No. . . . fund; (4) general obligation bond
11 fund; and (5) such other funds as the board of commissioners of the
12 district may establish. Taxes levied for administrative, operative,
13 and maintenance purposes and for the purchase of firefighting and
14 emergency medical equipment and apparatus and for the purchase of
15 real property, when collected, and proceeds from the sale of general
16 obligation bonds shall be placed by the ((~~county~~)) treasurer in the
17 proper fund. Taxes levied for the payment of general obligation bonds
18 and interest thereon, when collected, shall be placed by the
19 ((~~county~~)) treasurer in the general obligation bond fund. The board
20 of fire commissioners may include in its annual budget items of
21 possible outlay to be provided for and held in reserve for any
22 district purpose, and taxes shall be levied therefor. Such taxes,
23 when collected, shall be placed by the ((~~county~~)) treasurer in the
24 reserve fund. The reserve fund, or any part of it, may be transferred
25 by the ((~~county~~)) treasurer to other funds of the district at any
26 time by order of the board of fire commissioners. Special assessments
27 levied against the lands in any improvement district within the
28 district, when collected, shall be placed by the ((~~county~~)) treasurer
29 in the local improvement district fund for the local improvement
30 district.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 52.16.050 and 2002 c 165 s 1 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) (~~and~~), (3), and (4)
34 of this section, the county treasurer shall pay out money received
35 for the account of the district on warrants issued by the county
36 auditor against the proper funds of the district. The warrants shall
37 be issued on vouchers approved and signed by a majority of the
38 district board and by the district secretary.

1 (2) The board of fire commissioners of a district that had an
2 annual operating budget of five million or more dollars in each of
3 the preceding three years may by resolution adopt a policy to issue
4 its own warrants for payment of claims or other obligations of the
5 fire district. The board of fire commissioners, after auditing all
6 payrolls and bills, may authorize the issuing of one general
7 certificate to the county treasurer, to be signed by the chair of the
8 board of fire commissioners, authorizing the county treasurer to pay
9 all the warrants specified by date, number, name, and amount, and the
10 accounting funds on which the warrants shall be drawn; thereupon the
11 district secretary may issue the warrants specified in the general
12 certificate.

13 (3) The board of fire commissioners of a district that had an
14 annual operating budget of greater than two hundred fifty thousand
15 dollars and under five million dollars in each of the preceding three
16 years may upon agreement between the county treasurer and the fire
17 district commission, with approval of the fire district commission by
18 resolution, adopt a policy to issue its own warrants for payment of
19 claims or other obligations of the fire district. The board of fire
20 commissioners, after auditing all payrolls and bills, may authorize
21 the issuing of one general certificate to the county treasurer, to be
22 signed by the chair of the board of fire commissioners, authorizing
23 the county treasurer to pay all the warrants specified by date,
24 number, name, and amount, and the accounting funds on which the
25 warrants shall be drawn. The district secretary may then issue the
26 warrants specified in the general certificate.

27 (4) Fire districts that have appointed a treasurer, other than
28 the county treasurer under RCW 52.16.010(2), shall pay out money
29 received for the account of the district on warrants issued by the
30 district against the proper funds of the district. The warrants shall
31 be issued on vouchers approved and signed by a majority of the
32 district board and by the district secretary.

33 (5) The ((county)) treasurer may also pay general obligation
34 bonds and the accrued interest thereon in accordance with their terms
35 from the general obligation bond fund when interest or principal
36 payments become due. The ((county)) treasurer shall report in writing
37 monthly to the secretary of the district the amount of money held by
38 the county in each fund and the amounts of receipts and disbursements
39 for each fund during the preceding month.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 52.26.090 and 2006 c 200 s 6 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The governing board of the authority is responsible for the
4 execution of the voter-approved plan. Participating jurisdictions
5 shall review the plan every ten years. The board may:

6 (a) Levy taxes and impose benefit charges as authorized in the
7 plan and approved by authority voters;

8 (b) Enter into agreements with federal, state, local, and
9 regional entities and departments as necessary to accomplish
10 authority purposes and protect the authority's investments;

11 (c) Accept gifts, grants, or other contributions of funds that
12 will support the purposes and programs of the authority;

13 (d) Monitor and audit the progress and execution of fire
14 protection and emergency service projects to protect the investment
15 of the public and annually make public its findings;

16 (e) Pay for services and enter into leases and contracts,
17 including professional service contracts;

18 (f) Hire, manage, and terminate employees; and

19 (g) Exercise powers and perform duties as the board determines
20 necessary to carry out the purposes, functions, and projects of the
21 authority in accordance with (~~Title 52 RCW~~) this title if one of
22 the fire protection jurisdictions is a fire district, unless provided
23 otherwise in the regional fire protection service authority plan, or
24 in accordance with the statutes identified in the plan if none of the
25 fire protection jurisdictions is a fire district.

26 (2) An authority with more than \$10,000,000 in annual revenues
27 for the preceding three years, or an authority that is being formed
28 by participating jurisdictions that cumulatively had more than
29 \$10,000,000 in annual revenues for three years prior to the formation
30 of the authority, may designate by resolution some other person
31 having experience in financial or fiscal matters as the treasurer of
32 the authority. Such a treasurer shall possess all of the powers,
33 responsibilities, and duties of, and shall be subject to the same
34 restrictions as provided by law for, the county treasurer with regard
35 to a fire district and the county auditor with regard to district
36 financial matters under chapter 52.16 RCW and other applicable
37 statutes.

1 (3) An authority may enforce fire codes as provided under chapter
2 19.27 RCW.

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