

**Title 35 RCW  
CITIES AND TOWNS**

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*police relief and pension board of trustees, member of: RCW  
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secondhand dealers reports to: RCW 19.60.040.  
unclaimed property: Chapter 63.32 RCW.  
vehicle wreckers' records, inspection by: RCW 46.80.080, 46.80.150.

#### *Pollution control*

eminent domain by cities for: RCW 8.12.030.  
municipal bonding authority: Chapter 70A.210 RCW.

*Population determination, generally: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

*Port district must submit park or recreational plans to municipal park agency: RCW 53.08.270.*

*Port district regulations, adoption as city ordinance: RCW 53.08.220.*

*Powers of county commissioners to alter boundaries inapplicable where boundary review board created: RCW 36.93.220.*

*Prepayment of taxes and assessments: RCW 35.21.650.*

*Printing: RCW 43.19.748 through 43.19.757.*

*Prisons (see Jails).*

#### *Property*

forestlands, conveying to state for forestry purposes: RCW 79.10.040.  
intergovernmental disposition of: RCW 39.33.010.  
sale, exchange, or lease to state or political subdivision authorized: RCW 39.33.010.  
state highway purposes, acquisition for: RCW 47.12.040.

*Public buildings, provision to be made for use by aged and individuals with disabilities: Chapter 70.92 RCW.*

*Public contracts and indebtedness, generally: Title 39 RCW.*

#### *Public employment*

civil service and retirement rights preserved when elective office assumed: RCW 41.04.120.

wage deduction for charitable contributions: RCW 41.04.035,  
41.04.036.

Public funds, private use prohibited: State Constitution Art. 11 s 14.

Public health pooling fund: Chapter 70.12 RCW.

Public lands, assessment against: Chapter 79.44 RCW.

Public markets, eminent domain by cities for: RCW 8.12.030.

Public utility districts

restrictions on use of power facilities: RCW 54.04.040.

tax on revenue: RCW 54.28.070.

Public works, liens for labor and materials performed: Chapter 60.28  
RCW.

Purchases

authority to acquire and operate certain recreational  
facilities and camps: Chapter 67.20 RCW.

conditional sales contracts for purchase of real or personal  
property: RCW 39.30.010.

preferential, exceptions: RCW 19.06.020, 43.19.748 through  
43.19.757.

Railroad

crossings, signals and devices, allocations of funds to  
defray costs of: RCW 81.53.271 through 81.53.275,  
81.53.281.

industrial crossing, inspection, not applicable within  
limits of first-class cities: RCW 81.54.040.

Railways, street: Chapter 81.64 RCW.

Recall of elective officers: State Constitution Art. 1 ss 33, 34  
(Amendment 8), chapter 29A.56 RCW.

Reclamation districts: Chapter 89.30 RCW.

Records

destruction of, procedure for: RCW 40.14.070.

historical records, transfer to depository agency, procedure  
for: RCW 40.14.070.

Redistricting by local governments and municipal corporations—Census  
information for—Plan, prepared when, criteria for, hearing on,  
request for review of, certification, remand—Sanctions when review  
request frivolous: RCW 29A.76.010.

Referendum, electric utility transmission line construction and  
maintenance franchise: RCW 80.32.040.

Reincorporation, under general laws permitted to cities under special  
charter: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).

River and harbor improvement districts, planning: RCW 88.32.240.

Sanitary regulations may be enforced: State Constitution Art. 11 s 11.

Sanitation, secretary of health, assistance: RCW 70.54.040.

School districts, educational service districts, agreements with other governmental entities for transportation of students or the public, or for other noncommon school purposes—Limitations: RCW 28A.160.120.

Second-class cities  
elections, nonpartisan primaries: Chapter 29A.52 RCW.  
eminent domain by cities, construction of chapter as to second-class cities: RCW 8.12.560.

Senior citizens programs—Authorization to establish and administer: RCW 36.39.060.

Service of summons on, personal service: RCW 4.28.080(2).

Sewer and water revenue bonds, mutual savings banks, investment in: RCW 32.20.070, 32.20.100.

Sewerage improvement districts: Title 85 RCW.

Sewerage systems  
eminent domain by cities for: RCW 8.12.030.  
plans, submission to department of ecology: RCW 90.48.110.  
public nuisances concerning: RCW 7.48.140(2).

Sexually transmitted disease, treatment and control: Chapter 70.24 RCW.

Shorelands  
generally: Title 79 RCW, chapter 90.58 RCW.  
parks or playgrounds, application, grantor exchange: RCW 79.125.710, 79.125.720.

Soil and water conservation districts: Chapter 89.08 RCW.

Solid waste collection company provisions do not apply to: RCW 81.77.020.

Statewide city employees' retirement: Chapter 41.44 RCW.

Streets and alleys  
abandoned state highways as: RCW 36.75.090.  
abandonment, waters backed over: RCW 90.28.020.  
aid in construction or maintenance of by state or county, procedure: RCW 47.24.050.  
as extension of county road, shared maintenance: RCW 36.75.205.  
as state highways, jurisdiction, maintenance and control: RCW 47.24.020.



closure or restrictions on traffic authorized: Chapter 47.48  
RCW.  
collection and removal of glass containers: RCW 47.40.090.  
construction and maintenance aid by state or county,  
procedure: RCW 47.24.050.  
county bridges across: RCW 36.75.200.  
county may aid in construction and maintenance of: RCW  
47.24.050.  
dedication of county land for: RCW 36.34.290, 36.34.300.  
dedication upon replat: RCW 79.125.090.  
defined, motor vehicle law: RCW 46.04.120.  
defined, state highway law: RCW 47.04.010(7).  
eminent domain, for: RCW 8.12.030.  
franchise rights on limited access facility and when joint  
governmental facility: RCW 47.52.090.  
lighting systems, water-sewer district powers in regard to:  
RCW 57.08.060.  
limited access facilities, generally: Chapter 47.52 RCW.  
obstructing is nuisance: RCW 7.48.120.  
obstructing or interfering with, public nuisance, penalty:  
RCW 9.66.010.  
state highways as, franchises across bridges jointly owned  
and operated: RCW 47.44.040.  
state highways as, generally: Chapter 47.24 RCW.  
state land, easement or right-of-way over for city streets:  
RCW 79.36.440.  
street materials, sale of material to cities and towns from  
public lands, disposition of proceeds: RCW 79.15.320.  
telecommunications companies' use of rights-of-way: RCW  
80.36.040.  
tidelands and shorelands platting, dedication to public use:  
RCW 79.120.010.  
traffic control devices for, generally: Chapters 46.61,  
47.36 RCW.  
vacation of by replat: RCW 79.125.420, 79.125.110.

Tax lien, acquisition by governmental unit of property subject to: RCW  
84.60.050, 84.60.070.

Tax liens, priority of: RCW 84.60.010.

#### Taxation

collection by county treasurer: Chapter 36.29 RCW.  
electricity, sale of by public utility districts: RCW  
54.28.070.  
excess levies authorized, when, procedure: RCW 84.52.052.  
firefighters' pension fund, property tax for: RCW 41.16.060.  
insurance companies, state preemption: RCW 48.14.020(5).  
power of: State Constitution Art. 11 s 12.  
preemption, excise taxes: RCW 82.02.020.  
property tax  
authorized to assess and collect general: State  
Constitution Art. 7 s 9.  
limitation on levies: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2  
(Amendments 55, 59), RCW 84.52.050.  
local taxes not to be imposed by legislature: State  
Constitution Art. 11 s 12.

power to assess and collect rests in city: State  
Constitution Art. 11 s 12.  
uniformity in respect to persons and property required:  
State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.  
public utility district's gross revenue: RCW 54.28.070.  
refunding bonds, tax levy to meet payments and interest: RCW  
39.52.035.  
sales and use taxes: Chapter 82.14 RCW.

Taxing district relief act: Chapter 39.64 RCW.

Teletypewriter communications network, connection with, participation  
in: RCW 43.89.030.

#### Tidelands

eminent domain, drainage: RCW 8.12.030.  
extension of streets over: State Constitution Art. 15 s 3.  
ownership of: State Constitution Art. 17 ss 1, 2.  
rentals, receipt by: RCW 79.115.150.  
sale of, authority to sell to cities and towns: RCW  
79.125.700.

Toll facilities, contributions by cities and towns for authorized,  
financing, reimbursement: RCW 47.56.250.

#### Towns

actions against: RCW 4.08.120.  
actions by in corporate name: RCW 4.08.110.  
charter, amendment of by special act, prohibited: State  
Constitution Art. 2 s 28(8).  
corporate stock or bonds not to be owned by: State  
Constitution Art. 8 s 7.  
credit not to be loaned, exception: State Constitution Art.  
8 s 7.  
indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27).  
limitation upon actions by: RCW 4.16.160.  
moneys, deposited with treasurer: State Constitution Art. 11  
s 15.  
moneys, use of, by official, a felony: State Constitution  
Art. 11 s 14.  
officers, salaries of, not to be changed during term: State  
Constitution Art. 11 s 8.  
officers, vacancies, not to be extended: State Constitution  
Art. 11 s 8.  
organization under general laws required: State Constitution  
Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).  
plats, regulation of surveys and plats: RCW 58.10.040.  
plats, resurvey and correction of: RCW 58.10.030.  
police department, control and direction of: State  
Constitution Art. 11 s 11.  
sanitary regulations may be enforced: State Constitution  
Art. 11 s 11.  
service of summons on, personal service: RCW 4.28.080(2).  
taxation, power of: State Constitution Art. 11 s 12.

Trade centers—Annual service fee—Distribution to cities: RCW  
53.29.030.

Traffic schools: Chapter 46.83 RCW.

Transportation centers authorized: Chapter 81.75 RCW.

Transportation systems exempt from motor freight carrier law: RCW  
81.80.040(1)(d).

Trees, plants, shrubs or vegetation, duty to disinfect or destroy: RCW  
15.08.230.

Trusts for employee benefits: Chapter 49.64 RCW.

Unclaimed property in hands of city police: Chapter 63.32 RCW.

Uniform state standard of traffic devices, copy of to be furnished to:  
RCW 47.36.030.

Urban arterials, planning, construction, funds, bond issue, etc.:  
Chapter 47.26 RCW.

Utility poles, attachment of objects to, penalty: RCW 70.54.090.

Vacancies in public office, causes, how filled: Chapter 42.12 RCW.

Vehicle wreckers' regulation by, to conform with chapter 46.80 RCW:  
RCW 46.80.160.

Venue of actions against public officers: RCW 4.12.020(2).

Veterans' organizations, providing of meeting places for: RCW  
73.04.070.

Veterans preference in public employment, reemployment: Chapter 73.16  
RCW.

Warrants  
interest rate: RCW 39.56.020.  
rate fixed by issuing officer: RCW 39.56.030.

Washington clean air act: Chapter 70A.15 RCW.

Water distribution systems, conveyance by water districts: Chapter  
57.08 RCW.

Water-sewer districts  
boundaries identical with, dissolution procedure: RCW  
57.04.110.  
inclusion within boundaries: RCW 57.04.020.  
labor and materials: RCW 57.08.050.

Water pollution  
depositing unwholesome matter in waters, public nuisance,  
penalty: RCW 9.66.050.

public utility districts, powers in regard to: RCW  
54.16.050.  
shellfish sanitation control, pollution laws and rules and  
regulations applied to: RCW 69.30.130.  
water supply, eminent domain by cities to prevent: RCW  
8.12.030.  
water supply, generally: RCW 70.54.010.  
watersheds in adjoining state: RCW 70.54.030.

Water recreation facilities: Chapter 70.90 RCW.

Water revenue bonds, mutual savings banks, investment in: RCW  
32.20.070, 32.20.100.

Water systems, bonds, refunding: Chapter 39.52 RCW.

Watercourses and waterways  
city streets, improvement of slopes: RCW 79.120.030.  
vacation of, grounds for, procedure: RCW 79.120.060.

Watersheds  
eminent domain for: RCW 8.12.030, 8.28.050.  
state land, condemnation or purchase by city or town  
permitted: RCW 79.10.070.

Weeds, duty to destroy, extermination areas: RCW 17.04.160.

Weights and measures, city sealer: RCW 19.94.280.

Wharves and landings  
as part of state highway system: Chapter 47.24 RCW.  
authorization of private construction: RCW 88.24.030.

**Chapter 35.01 RCW**  
**MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS CLASSIFIED**

**Sections**

35.01.010 First-class city.  
35.01.020 Second-class city.  
35.01.040 Town.

*Combined city and county municipal corporations: State Constitution  
Art. 11 s 16 (Amendment 58).*

*Determining population  
generally: Chapter 43.62 RCW.  
of annexed territory: RCW 35.13.260.*

*First-class cities, generally: Chapter 35.22 RCW.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*

*Second-class cities, generally: Chapter 35.23 RCW.*

*Towns, generally: Chapter 35.27 RCW.*

**RCW 35.01.010 First-class city.** A first-class city is a city with a population of ten thousand or more at the time of its organization or reorganization that has a charter adopted under Article XI, section 10, of the state Constitution. [1994 c 81 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.01.010. Prior: 1955 c 319 s 2; prior: (i) 1890 p 140 s 11, part; RRS s 8932, part. (ii) 1907 c 248 s 1, part; 1890 p 140 s 12, part; RRS s 8933, part.]

**RCW 35.01.020 Second-class city.** A second-class city is a city with a population of fifteen hundred or more at the time of its organization or reorganization that does not have a charter adopted under Article XI, section 10, of the state Constitution, and does not operate under Title 35A RCW. [1997 c 361 s 9; 1994 c 81 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.01.020. Prior: 1955 c 319 s 3; prior: (i) 1890 p 140 s 11, part; RRS s 8932, part. (ii) 1907 c 248 s 1, part; 1890 p 140 s 12, part; RRS s 8933, part.]

**RCW 35.01.040 Town.** A town has a population of less than fifteen hundred at the time of its organization and does not operate under Title 35A RCW. [1997 c 361 s 10; 1994 c 81 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.01.040. Prior: 1963 c 119 s 2; 1955 c 319 s 5; prior: (i) 1890 p 140 s 11, part; RRS s 8932, part. (ii) 1890 p 141 s 13; RRS s 8934.]

**Chapter 35.02 RCW  
INCORPORATION PROCEEDINGS**

**Sections**

- 35.02.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 35.02.005 Purpose.
- 35.02.010 Authority for incorporation—Number of inhabitants required.
- 35.02.015 Proposed incorporations—Notice to county—Boundary review board hearing.
- 35.02.017 County auditor shall provide identification number.
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- 35.02.030 Petition for incorporation—Contents.
- 35.02.035 Petition—Auditor's duties.
- 35.02.037 Petition—Notice of certification.
- 35.02.039 Public hearing—Time limitations.
- 35.02.040 Public hearing—Publication of notice.
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- 35.02.078 Elections—Question of incorporation—Nomination and election of officers.
- 35.02.086 Elections—Candidates—Filing—Withdrawal—Ballot position.
- 35.02.090 Elections—Conduct—Voters' qualifications.
- 35.02.100 Election on question of incorporation—Notice—Contents.
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- 35.02.120 Election on question of incorporation—Certification of results.
- 35.02.125 Newly incorporated city or town—Liability for costs of elections.
- 35.02.130 Newly incorporated city or town—Effective date of incorporation—Powers during interim period—Terms of elected officers—First municipal election.
- 35.02.132 Newly incorporated city or town—Budgets.
- 35.02.135 Newly incorporated city or town—May borrow from municipal sales and use tax equalization account.
- 35.02.137 Newly incorporated city or town—Moratoria on development permits and approvals.
- 35.02.139 Newly incorporated city or town—First general election of councilmembers or commissioners—Initial, subsequent terms.
- 35.02.140 Disposition of uncollected road district taxes.
- 35.02.150 Pending final disposition of petition no other petition for incorporation to be acted upon—Withdrawal or substitution—Action on petition for annexation authorized.
- 35.02.155 Effect of proposed annexation on petition.
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- 35.02.180 Ownership of county roads to revert to city or town—  
Territory within city or town to be removed from fire protection, road, and library districts.

- 35.02.190 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—  
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assessed valuation is annexed or incorporated in city  
or town.
- 35.02.200 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—  
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less than sixty percent.
- 35.02.202 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—  
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- 35.02.205 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—  
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percent of district annexed—Distribution agreement—  
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- 35.02.210 Fire protection district and library district—  
Continuation of services at option of city or town.
- 35.02.220 Duty of county and road, library, and fire districts to  
continue services during transition period—Road  
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- 35.02.225 County may contract to provide essential services.
- 35.02.230 Incorporation of city or town located in more than one  
county—Powers and duties of county after incorporation  
—Costs.
- 35.02.240 Incorporation of city or town located in more than one  
county—Taxes—Powers and duties of county after  
incorporation—Costs.
- 35.02.250 Corporate powers in dealings with federal government.
- 35.02.260 Duty of department of commerce to assist newly  
incorporated cities and towns.
- 35.02.270 Other local governments and state agencies—May assist  
newly incorporated cities and towns.

*Combined city and county municipal corporations: State Constitution  
Art. 11 s 16 (Amendment 58).*

*Fire protection districts, effect upon: Chapter 52.22 RCW.*

*Incorporation of municipalities: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10  
(Amendment 40).*

*Incorporation proceedings exempt from State Environmental Policy Act:  
RCW 36.93.170, 43.21C.220.*

**RCW 35.02.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** The incorporation of a city or town is subject to review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW if a boundary review board exists in the county in which all or any portion of the territory proposed to be incorporated is located. [1994 c 216 s 11; 1989 c 84 s 25.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.02.005 Purpose.** The purpose of chapter 35.02 RCW is to provide a clear and uniform process for the incorporation of cities or

towns operating under either Title 35 or 35A RCW. An incorporation may result in the creation of a second-class city or town operating under Title 35 RCW or a noncharter code city operating under Title 35A RCW. [1994 c 81 s 6; 1986 c 234 s 1.]

**RCW 35.02.010 Authority for incorporation—Number of inhabitants required. (Effective until June 30, 2028.)** Any contiguous area containing not less than 1,500 inhabitants lying outside the limits of an incorporated city or town may become incorporated as a city or town operating under Title 35 or 35A RCW as provided in this chapter. [2023 c 82 s 1; 1994 c 216 s 12; 1986 c 234 s 2; 1969 c 48 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.010. Prior: 1963 c 57 s 1; 1890 p 131 s 1; 1888 p 221 s 1; 1877 p 173 s 1; 1871 p 51 s 1; RRS s 8883.]

**Expiration date—2023 c 82 s 1:** "Section 1 of this act expires June 30, 2028." [2023 c 82 s 3.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**Validation of certain incorporations and annexations—Municipal corporations of the fourth class—1961 ex.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 35.21.010.

**Validating—1899 c 61:** "Any municipal corporation which has been incorporated under the existing laws of this state shall be a valid municipal corporation notwithstanding a failure to publish the notice of the election held or to be held for the purpose of determining whether such city should or shall become incorporated, for the length of time required by law governing such incorporation: PROVIDED, A notice fulfilling in other respects the requirements of law shall have been published for one week prior to such election in a newspaper printed and published within the boundaries of the corporation." [1899 c 61 p 103 s 1.]

**Validating—1893 c 80:** "The incorporation of all cities and towns in this state heretofore had or attempted under sections one, two and three of an act entitled 'An act providing for the organization, classification, incorporation and government of municipal corporations, and declaring an emergency,' approved March 24, 1890, and the reincorporation of all cities and towns in this state heretofore had or attempted under sections one, four and five of said act, under which attempted incorporation or reincorporation an organized government has been maintained since the date thereof, is hereby for all purposes declared legal and valid, and such cities and towns are hereby declared duly incorporated. And all contracts and obligations heretofore made, entered into or incurred by any such city or town so incorporated or reincorporated are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect." [1893 c 80 p 183 s 1.]

**Validating—1890 c 7:** "When so incorporated, the debts due from such town, village or city to any person, firm or corporation may be assumed and paid by the municipal authorities of such town, village or city; and all debts due to such town, village or city from any person, firm or corporation shall be deemed ratified, and may be collected in



the same manner and in all respects as though such original incorporation were valid." [1890 c 7 p 136 s 7.]

**RCW 35.02.010 Authority for incorporation—Number of inhabitants required. (Effective June 30, 2028.)** Any contiguous area containing not less than 1,500 inhabitants lying outside the limits of an incorporated city or town may become incorporated as a city or town operating under Title 35 or 35A RCW as provided in this chapter: PROVIDED, That no area which lies within five air miles of the boundary of any city having a population of 15,000 or more shall be incorporated which contains less than 3,000 inhabitants. [2023 c 82 s 2; 1994 c 216 s 12; 1986 c 234 s 2; 1969 c 48 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.010. Prior: 1963 c 57 s 1; 1890 p 131 s 1; 1888 p 221 s 1; 1877 p 173 s 1; 1871 p 51 s 1; RRS s 8883.]

**Effective date—2023 c 82 s 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect June 30, 2028." [2023 c 82 s 4.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**Validation of certain incorporations and annexations—Municipal corporations of the fourth class—1961 ex.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 35.21.010.

**Validating—1899 c 61:** "Any municipal corporation which has been incorporated under the existing laws of this state shall be a valid municipal corporation notwithstanding a failure to publish the notice of the election held or to be held for the purpose of determining whether such city should or shall become incorporated, for the length of time required by law governing such incorporation: PROVIDED, A notice fulfilling in other respects the requirements of law shall have been published for one week prior to such election in a newspaper printed and published within the boundaries of the corporation." [1899 c 61 p 103 s 1.]

**Validating—1893 c 80:** "The incorporation of all cities and towns in this state heretofore had or attempted under sections one, two and three of an act entitled 'An act providing for the organization, classification, incorporation and government of municipal corporations, and declaring an emergency,' approved March 24, 1890, and the reincorporation of all cities and towns in this state heretofore had or attempted under sections one, four and five of said act, under which attempted incorporation or reincorporation an organized government has been maintained since the date thereof, is hereby for all purposes declared legal and valid, and such cities and towns are hereby declared duly incorporated. And all contracts and obligations heretofore made, entered into or incurred by any such city or town so incorporated or reincorporated are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect." [1893 c 80 p 183 s 1.]

**Validating—1890 c 7:** "When so incorporated, the debts due from such town, village or city to any person, firm or corporation may be assumed and paid by the municipal authorities of such town, village or city; and all debts due to such town, village or city from any person, firm or corporation shall be deemed ratified, and may be collected in

the same manner and in all respects as though such original incorporation were valid." [1890 c 7 p 136 s 7.]

**RCW 35.02.015 Proposed incorporations—Notice to county—Boundary review board hearing.** Any person proposing the incorporation of a city or town shall file a notice of the proposed incorporation with the county legislative authority of the county in which all or the major portion of the proposed city or town is located. The notice shall include the matters required to be included in the incorporation petition under RCW 35.02.030 and be accompanied by both a one hundred dollar filing fee and an affidavit from the person stating that he or she is a registered voter residing in the proposed city or town.

The county legislative authority shall promptly notify the boundary review board of the proposed incorporation, which shall hold a public meeting on the proposed incorporation within thirty days of the notice being filed where persons favoring and opposing the proposed incorporation may state their views. If a boundary review board does not exist in the county, the county legislative authority shall provide the public meeting. The public meeting shall be held at a location in or near the proposed city or town. Notice of the public meeting shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area proposed to be incorporated at least once ten days prior to the public meeting. [1994 c 216 s 1.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [April 1, 1994]." [1994 c 216 s 21.]

**RCW 35.02.017 County auditor shall provide identification number.** Within one working day after the public meeting under RCW 35.02.015, the county auditor shall provide an identification number for the incorporation effort to the person who made the notice of proposing the incorporation. The identification number shall be included on the petition proposing the incorporation.

The petition proposing the incorporation may retain the proposed boundaries and other matters as described in the notice, or may alter the proposed boundaries and other matters. [1994 c 216 s 2.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.02.020 Petition for incorporation—Signatures—Filing deadline.** A petition for incorporation must be signed by registered voters resident within the limits of the proposed city or town equal in number to at least ten percent of the number of voters residing within the proposed city or town and filed with the auditor of the county in which all, or the largest portion of, the proposed city or town is located. The petition must be filed with the auditor by no later than one hundred eighty days after the date the public meeting on the proposed incorporation was held under RCW 35.02.015, or the next regular business day following the one hundred eightieth day if the one hundred eightieth day is not a regular business day. [1994 c 216 s 4; 1986 c 234 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.020. Prior: 1957 c 173 s 2;

prior: 1953 c 219 s 1; 1890 p 131 s 2, part; 1888 p 221 ss 1, 2, part; 1877 p 173 ss 1, 2, part; 1871 p 51 s 1, part; RRS s 8884, part.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.02.030 Petition for incorporation—Contents.** The petition for incorporation shall: (1) Indicate whether the proposed city or town shall be a noncharter code city operating under Title 35A RCW, or a city or town operating under Title 35 RCW; (2) indicate the form or plan of government the city or town is to have; (3) set forth and particularly describe the proposed boundaries of the proposed city or town; (4) state the name of the proposed city or town; (5) state the number of inhabitants therein, as nearly as may be; and (6) pray that the city or town be incorporated. The petition shall conform to the requirements for form prescribed in RCW 35A.01.040. The petition shall include the identification number provided under RCW 35.02.017 and state the last date by which the petition may be filed, as determined under RCW 35.02.020.

If the proposed city or town is located in more than one county, the petition shall be prepared in such a manner as to indicate the different counties within which the signators reside.

A city or town operating under Title 35 RCW may have a mayor/council, council/manager, or commission form of government. A city operating under Title 35A RCW may have a mayor/council or council/manager plan of government.

If the petition fails to specify the matters described in subsection (1) of this section, the proposal shall be to incorporate as a noncharter code city. If the petition fails to specify the matter described in subsection (2) of this section, the proposal shall be to incorporate with a mayor/council form or plan of government. [1994 c 216 s 3; 1986 c 234 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.030. Prior: 1957 c 173 s 3; prior: 1953 c 219 s 2; 1890 p 131 s 2, part; 1888 p 221 ss 1, 2, part; 1877 p 173 ss 1, 2, part; 1871 p 51 s 1, part; RRS s 8884, part.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.02.035 Petition—Auditor's duties.** The county auditor shall within thirty days from the time of receiving said petition determine if the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures. If the proposed city or town is located in more than one county, the auditor shall immediately transmit a copy of the petition to the auditor of the other county or counties within which the proposed city or town is located. Each of these other county auditors shall certify the number of valid signatures thereon of voters residing in the county and transmit the certification to the auditor of the county with whom the petition was originally filed. This auditor shall determine if the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures. If the petition is certified as having sufficient valid signatures, the county auditor shall transmit said petition, accompanied by the certificate of sufficiency, to the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties within which the proposed city or town is located. [1986 c 234 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.035. Prior: 1953 c 219 s 8.]

**RCW 35.02.037 Petition—Notice of certification.** The county auditor who certifies the sufficiency of the petition shall notify the person or persons who submitted the petition of its sufficiency within five days of when the determination of sufficiency is made. Notice shall be by certified mail and may additionally be made by telephone. If a boundary review board or boards exists in the county or counties in which the proposed city or town is located, the petitioners shall file notice of the proposed incorporation with the boundary review board or boards. [1986 c 234 s 6.]

**RCW 35.02.039 Public hearing—Time limitations.** (1) The county legislative authority of the county in which the proposed city or town is located shall hold a public hearing on the proposed incorporation if no boundary review board exists in the county. The public hearing shall be held within sixty days of when the county auditor notifies the legislative authority of the sufficiency of the petition if no boundary review board exists in the county, or within ninety days of when notice of the proposal is filed with the boundary review board if the boundary review board fails to take jurisdiction over the proposal. The public hearing may be continued to other days, not extending more than sixty days beyond the initial hearing date. If the boundary review board takes jurisdiction, the county legislative authority shall not hold a public hearing on the proposal.

(2) If the proposed city or town is located in more than one county, a public hearing shall be held in each of the counties by the county legislative authority or boundary review board. Joint public hearings may be held by two or more county legislative authorities, or two or more boundary review boards. [1994 c 216 s 14; 1986 c 234 s 7.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.02.040 Public hearing—Publication of notice.** Notice of the public hearing by the county legislative authority on the proposed incorporation shall be by one publication in not more than ten nor less than three days prior to the date set for said hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area proposed to be incorporated. Said notice shall contain the time and place of said hearing. [1986 c 234 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.040. Prior: 1957 c 173 s 4; prior: 1953 c 219 s 3; 1890 p 131 s 2, part; 1888 p 221 ss 1, 2, part; 1877 p 173 ss 1, 2, part; 1871 p 51 s 1, part; RRS s 8884, part.]

**RCW 35.02.070 Public hearing by county legislative authority—Establishment of boundaries—Limitations.** (1) If a county legislative authority holds a public hearing on a proposed incorporation, it shall establish and define the boundaries of the proposed city or town, being authorized to decrease or increase the area proposed in the petition under the same restrictions that a boundary review board may modify the proposed boundaries. The county legislative authority, or the boundary review board if it takes jurisdiction, shall determine the number of inhabitants within the boundaries it has established.

(2) A county legislative authority shall disapprove the proposed incorporation if, without decreasing the area proposed in the petition, it does not conform with RCW 35.02.010. A county legislative authority may not otherwise disapprove a proposed incorporation.

(3) A county legislative authority or boundary review board has jurisdiction only over that portion of a proposed city or town located within the boundaries of the county. [1994 c 216 s 17; 1986 c 234 s 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.070. Prior: 1963 c 57 s 2; 1957 c 173 s 7; prior: 1890 p 131 s 2, part; 1888 p 221 ss 1, 2, part; 1877 p 173 ss 1, 2, part; 1871 p 51 s 1, part; RRS s 8884, part.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** See note following RCW 35.02.170.

*Incorporation subject to approval by boundary review board: RCW 36.93.090.*

**RCW 35.02.078 Elections—Question of incorporation—Nomination and election of officers.** An election shall be held in the area proposed to be incorporated to determine whether the proposed city or town shall be incorporated when the boundary review board takes action on the proposal other than disapproving the proposal, or if the county legislative authority does not disapprove the proposal as provided in RCW 35.02.070. Voters at this election shall determine if the area is to be incorporated.

The initial election on the question of incorporation shall be held at the next special election date specified in RCW 29A.04.330 that occurs sixty or more days after the final public hearing by the county legislative authority or authorities, or action by the boundary review board or boards. The county legislative authority or authorities shall call for this election and, if the incorporation is approved, shall call for other elections to elect the elected officials as provided in this section. If the vote in favor of the incorporation receives forty percent or less of the total vote on the question of incorporation, no new election on the question of incorporation for the area or any portion of the area proposed to be incorporated may be held for a period of three years from the date of the election in which the incorporation failed.

If the incorporation is authorized as provided by RCW 35.02.120, separate elections shall be held to nominate and elect persons to fill the various elective offices prescribed by law for the population and type of city or town, and to which it will belong. The primary election to nominate candidates for these elective positions shall be held at the next special election date, as specified in RCW 29A.04.330, that occurs sixty or more days after the election on the question of incorporation. The election to fill these elective positions shall be held at the next special election date, as specified in RCW 29A.04.330, that occurs thirty or more days after certification of the results of the primary election. [2015 c 53 s 17; 1994 c 216 s 18; 1986 c 234 s 10.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.02.086 Elections—Candidates—Filing—Withdrawal—Ballot position.** Each candidate for a city or town elective position shall file a declaration of candidacy with the county auditor of the county in which all or the major portion of the city or town is located not more than sixty days nor less than forty-five days prior to the primary election at which the initial elected officials are nominated. The elective positions shall be as provided in law for the type of city or town and form or plan of government specified in the petition to incorporate, and for the population of the city or town as determined by the county legislative authority or boundary review board where applicable. Any candidate may withdraw his or her declaration at any time within five days after the last day allowed for filing a declaration of candidacy. All names of candidates to be voted upon shall be printed upon the ballot alphabetically in groups under the designation of the respective titles of offices for which they are candidates. Names of candidates printed upon the ballot need not be rotated. [2009 c 107 s 5; 2006 c 344 s 20; 1986 c 234 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.086. Prior: 1953 c 219 s 9.]

**Effective date—2009 c 107:** See note following RCW 28A.343.300.

**Effective date—2006 c 344 ss 1-16 and 18-40:** See note following RCW 29A.04.311.

**RCW 35.02.090 Elections—Conduct—Voters' qualifications.** The elections on the proposed incorporation and for the nomination and election of the initial elected officials shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the state, except as provided in this chapter. No person is entitled to vote thereat unless he or she is a qualified elector of the county, or any of the counties in which the proposed city or town is located, and has resided within the limits of the proposed city or town for at least thirty days next preceding the date of election. [1986 c 234 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.090. Prior: 1890 p 133 s 3, part; RRS s 8885, part.]

**RCW 35.02.100 Election on question of incorporation—Notice—Contents.** The notice of election on the question of the incorporation shall be given as provided by RCW 29A.52.355 and shall describe the boundaries of the proposed city or town, its name, and the number of inhabitants ascertained by the county legislative authority or the boundary review board to reside in it. [2015 c 53 s 18; 1986 c 234 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.100. Prior: 1957 c 173 s 9; prior: 1953 c 219 s 5; 1890 p 131 s 2, part; 1888 p 221 ss 1, 2, part; 1877 p 173 ss 1, 2, part; 1871 p 51 s 1, part; RRS s 8884, part.]

**RCW 35.02.110 Election on question of incorporation—Ballots.** The ballots in the initial election on the question of incorporation shall contain the words "for incorporation" and "against incorporation" or words equivalent thereto. [1986 c 234 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.110. Prior: 1957 c 173 s 10; prior: 1890 p 131 s 2, part; 1888 p 221 ss 1, 2, part; 1877 p 173 ss 1, 2, part; 1871 p 51 s 1, part; RRS s 8884, part.]

**RCW 35.02.120 Election on question of incorporation—**

**Certification of results.** If the results reveal that a majority of the votes cast are for incorporation, the city or town shall become incorporated as provided in RCW 35.02.130. If the proposed city or town is located in more than one county, the auditors of the county or counties in which the smaller portion or portions of the proposed city or town is located shall forward a certified copy of the election results to the auditor of the county within which the major portion is located. This auditor shall add these totals to the totals in his or her county and certify the results to each of the county legislative authorities. [1986 c 234 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.120. Prior: 1953 c 219 s 6; 1890 p 133 s 3, part; RRS s 8885, part.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.02.125 Newly incorporated city or town—Liability for costs of elections.** A newly incorporated city or town shall be liable for its proportionate share of the costs of all elections, after the election on whether the area should be incorporated, at which an issue relating to the city or town is placed before the voters, as if the city or town was in existence after the election at which voters authorized the area to incorporate. [1991 c 360 s 2.]

**RCW 35.02.130 Newly incorporated city or town—Effective date of incorporation—Powers during interim period—Terms of elected officers—First municipal election. (Effective until January 1, 2026.)** The city or town officially shall become incorporated at a date from one hundred eighty days to three hundred sixty days after the date of the election on the question of incorporation. An interim period shall exist between the time the newly elected officials have been elected and qualified and this official date of incorporation. During this interim period, the newly elected officials are authorized to adopt ordinances and resolutions which shall become effective on or after the official date of incorporation, and to enter into contracts and agreements to facilitate the transition to becoming a city or town and to ensure a continuation of governmental services after the official date of incorporation. Periods of time that would be required to elapse between the enactment and effective date of such ordinances, including but not limited to times for publication or for filing referendums, shall commence upon the date of such enactment as though the city or town were officially incorporated.

During this interim period, the city or town governing body may adopt rules establishing policies and procedures under the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, and may use these rules and procedures in making determinations under the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW.

During this interim period, the newly formed city or town and its governing body shall be subject to the following as though the city or town were officially incorporated: RCW 4.24.470 relating to immunity; chapter 42.17A RCW relating to open government; chapter 42.56 RCW relating to public records; chapter 40.14 RCW relating to the preservation and disposition of public records; chapters 42.20 and

42.23 RCW relating to ethics and conflicts of interest; chapters 42.30 and \*42.32 RCW relating to open public meetings and minutes; RCW 35.22.288, 35.23.221, 35.27.300, 35A.12.160, as appropriate, and chapter 35A.65 RCW relating to the publication of notices and ordinances; RCW 35.21.875 and 35A.21.230 relating to the designation of an official newspaper; RCW 36.16.138 relating to liability insurance; RCW 35.22.620, 35.23.352, and 35A.40.210, as appropriate, and statutes referenced therein relating to public contracts and bidding; and chapter 39.34 RCW relating to interlocal cooperation. Tax anticipation or revenue anticipation notes or warrants and other short-term obligations may be issued and funds may be borrowed on the security of these instruments during this interim period, as provided in chapter 39.50 RCW. Funds also may be borrowed from federal, state, and other governmental agencies in the same manner as if the city or town were officially incorporated.

RCW 84.52.020 and 84.52.070 shall apply to the extent that they may be applicable, and the governing body of such city or town may take appropriate action by ordinance during the interim period to adopt the property tax levy for its first full calendar year following the interim period.

The governing body of the new city or town may acquire needed facilities, supplies, equipment, insurance, and staff during this interim period as if the city or town were in existence. An interim city manager or administrator, who shall have such administrative powers and duties as are delegated by the governing body, may be appointed to serve only until the official date of incorporation. After the official date of incorporation the governing body of such a new city organized under the council manager form of government may extend the appointment of such an interim manager or administrator with such limited powers as the governing body determines, for up to ninety days. This governing body may submit ballot propositions to the voters of the city or town to authorize taxes to be collected on or after the official date of incorporation, or authorize an annexation of the city or town by a fire protection district or library district to be effective immediately upon the effective date of the incorporation as a city or town.

The boundaries of a newly incorporated city or town shall be deemed to be established for purposes of RCW 84.09.030 on the date that the results of the initial election on the question of incorporation are certified or the first day of January following the date of this election if the newly incorporated city or town does not impose property taxes in the same year that the voters approve the incorporation.

The newly elected officials shall take office immediately upon their election and qualification with limited powers during this interim period as provided in this section. They shall acquire their full powers as of the official date of incorporation and shall continue in office until their successors are elected and qualified at the next general municipal election after the official date of incorporation: PROVIDED, That if the date of the next general municipal election is less than twelve months after the date of the first election of councilmembers, those initially elected councilmembers shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the next following general municipal election as provided in \*\*RCW 29A.20.040. For purposes of this section, the general municipal election shall be the date on which city and town general



elections are held throughout the state of Washington, pursuant to RCW 29A.04.330.

In any newly incorporated city that has adopted the council-manager form of government, the term of office of the mayor, during the interim period only, shall be set by the council, and thereafter shall be as provided by law.

The official date of incorporation shall be on a date from one hundred eighty to three hundred sixty days after the date of the election on the question of incorporation, as specified in a resolution adopted by the governing body during this interim period. A copy of the resolution shall be filed with the county legislative authority of the county in which all or the major portion of the newly incorporated city or town is located. If the governing body fails to adopt such a resolution, the official date of incorporation shall be three hundred sixty days after the date of the election on the question of incorporation. The county legislative authority of the county in which all or the major portion of the newly incorporated city or town is located shall file a notice with the county assessor that the city or town has been authorized to be incorporated immediately after the favorable results of the election on the question of incorporation have been certified. The county legislative authority shall file a notice with the secretary of state that the city or town is incorporated as of the official date of incorporation. [2011 c 60 s 15; 2005 c 274 s 263; 1997 c 361 s 11; 1994 c 154 s 308; 1991 c 360 s 3; 1986 c 234 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.130. Prior: 1953 c 219 s 7; 1890 p 133 s 3, part; RRS s 8885, part.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The only section in chapter 42.32 RCW, RCW 42.32.030, was recodified as RCW 42.30.035 pursuant to 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 s 30.

\*\* (2) RCW 29A.20.040 was recodified as RCW 29A.60.280 pursuant to 2013 c 11 s 93.

**Effective date—2011 c 60:** See RCW 42.17A.919.

**Effective date—1994 c 154:** See RCW 42.52.904.

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.02.130 Newly incorporated city or town—Effective date of incorporation—Powers during interim period—Terms of elected officers—First municipal election. (Effective January 1, 2026.)** The city or town officially shall become incorporated at a date from 180 days to 360 days after the date of the election on the question of incorporation. An interim period shall exist between the time the newly elected officials have been elected and qualified and this official date of incorporation. During this interim period, the newly elected officials are authorized to adopt ordinances and resolutions which shall become effective on or after the official date of incorporation, and to enter into contracts and agreements to facilitate the transition to becoming a city or town and to ensure a continuation of governmental services after the official date of incorporation. Periods of time that would be required to elapse between the enactment and effective date of such ordinances, including but not limited to times for publication or for filing referendums,

shall commence upon the date of such enactment as though the city or town were officially incorporated.

During this interim period, the city or town governing body may adopt rules establishing policies and procedures under the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, and may use these rules and procedures in making determinations under the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW.

During this interim period, the newly formed city or town and its governing body shall be subject to the following as though the city or town were officially incorporated: RCW 4.24.470 relating to immunity; Title 29B RCW relating to open government; chapter 42.56 RCW relating to public records; chapter 40.14 RCW relating to the preservation and disposition of public records; chapters 42.20 and 42.23 RCW relating to ethics and conflicts of interest; chapters 42.30 and \*42.32 RCW relating to open public meetings and minutes; RCW 35.22.288, 35.23.221, 35.27.300, 35A.12.160, as appropriate, and chapter 35A.65 RCW relating to the publication of notices and ordinances; RCW 35.21.875 and 35A.21.230 relating to the designation of an official newspaper; RCW 36.16.138 relating to liability insurance; RCW 35.22.620, 35.23.352, and 35A.40.210, as appropriate, and statutes referenced therein relating to public contracts and bidding; and chapter 39.34 RCW relating to interlocal cooperation. Tax anticipation or revenue anticipation notes or warrants and other short-term obligations may be issued and funds may be borrowed on the security of these instruments during this interim period, as provided in chapter 39.50 RCW. Funds also may be borrowed from federal, state, and other governmental agencies in the same manner as if the city or town were officially incorporated.

RCW 84.52.020 and 84.52.070 shall apply to the extent that they may be applicable, and the governing body of such city or town may take appropriate action by ordinance during the interim period to adopt the property tax levy for its first full calendar year following the interim period.

The governing body of the new city or town may acquire needed facilities, supplies, equipment, insurance, and staff during this interim period as if the city or town were in existence. An interim city manager or administrator, who shall have such administrative powers and duties as are delegated by the governing body, may be appointed to serve only until the official date of incorporation. After the official date of incorporation the governing body of such a new city organized under the council manager form of government may extend the appointment of such an interim manager or administrator with such limited powers as the governing body determines, for up to 90 days. This governing body may submit ballot propositions to the voters of the city or town to authorize taxes to be collected on or after the official date of incorporation, or authorize an annexation of the city or town by a fire protection district or library district to be effective immediately upon the effective date of the incorporation as a city or town.

The boundaries of a newly incorporated city or town shall be deemed to be established for purposes of RCW 84.09.030 on the date that the results of the initial election on the question of incorporation are certified or the first day of January following the date of this election if the newly incorporated city or town does not impose property taxes in the same year that the voters approve the incorporation.

The newly elected officials shall take office immediately upon their election and qualification with limited powers during this interim period as provided in this section. They shall acquire their full powers as of the official date of incorporation and shall continue in office until their successors are elected and qualified at the next general municipal election after the official date of incorporation: PROVIDED, That if the date of the next general municipal election is less than 12 months after the date of the first election of councilmembers, those initially elected councilmembers shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the next following general municipal election as provided in RCW 29A.60.280. For purposes of this section, the general municipal election shall be the date on which city and town general elections are held throughout the state of Washington, pursuant to RCW 29A.04.330.

In any newly incorporated city that has adopted the council-manager form of government, the term of office of the mayor, during the interim period only, shall be set by the council, and thereafter shall be as provided by law.

The official date of incorporation shall be on a date from 180 to 360 days after the date of the election on the question of incorporation, as specified in a resolution adopted by the governing body during this interim period. A copy of the resolution shall be filed with the county legislative authority of the county in which all or the major portion of the newly incorporated city or town is located. If the governing body fails to adopt such a resolution, the official date of incorporation shall be 360 days after the date of the election on the question of incorporation. The county legislative authority of the county in which all or the major portion of the newly incorporated city or town is located shall file a notice with the county assessor that the city or town has been authorized to be incorporated immediately after the favorable results of the election on the question of incorporation have been certified. The county legislative authority shall file a notice with the secretary of state that the city or town is incorporated as of the official date of incorporation. [2024 c 164 s 509; 2011 c 60 s 15; 2005 c 274 s 263; 1997 c 361 s 11; 1994 c 154 s 308; 1991 c 360 s 3; 1986 c 234 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.130. Prior: 1953 c 219 s 7; 1890 p 133 s 3, part; RRS s 8885, part.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The only section in chapter 42.32 RCW, RCW 42.32.030, was recodified as RCW 42.30.035 pursuant to 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 s 30.

**Intent—Construction—Rules remain valid—Effective date—2024 c 164:** See notes following RCW 29B.10.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 60:** See note following RCW 29B.20.030.

**Effective date—1994 c 154:** See RCW 42.52.904.

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.02.132 Newly incorporated city or town—Budgets.** The newly elected officials shall adopt an interim budget for the interim period or until January 1 of the following year, whichever occurs

first. A second interim budget shall be adopted for any period between January 1 and the official date of incorporation. These interim budgets shall be adopted in consultation with the state auditor.

The governing body shall adopt a budget for the newly incorporated city or town for the period between the official date of incorporation and January 1 of the following year. The mayor or governing body, whichever is appropriate shall prepare or the governing body may direct the interim city manager to prepare a preliminary budget in detail to be made public at least sixty days before the official date of incorporation as a recommendation for the final budget. The mayor, governing body, or the interim city manager shall submit as a part of the preliminary budget a budget message that contains an explanation of the budget document, an outline of the recommended financial policies and programs of the city or town for the ensuing fiscal year, and a statement of the relation of the recommended appropriation to such policies and programs. Immediately following the release of the preliminary budget, the governing body shall cause to be published a notice once each week for two consecutive weeks of a public hearing to be held at least twenty days before the official date of incorporation on the fixing of the final budget. Any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against any part of the budget. The governing body may make such adjustments and changes as it deems necessary and may adopt the final budget at the conclusion of the public hearing or at any time before the official date of incorporation. [1995 c 301 s 33; 1991 c 360 s 4.]

**RCW 35.02.135 Newly incorporated city or town—May borrow from municipal sales and use tax equalization account.** Upon the certification of election of officers, the governing body may by resolution borrow money from the municipal sales and use tax equalization account, up to one hundred thousand dollars or five dollars per capita based on the population estimate required by RCW 35.02.030, whichever is less.

The loan authorized by this section shall be repaid over a three-year period. The state treasurer shall withhold moneys from the funds otherwise payable to the city or town that has obtained such a loan, either from the municipal sales and use tax equalization account or from sales and use tax entitlements otherwise distributable to such city or town, so that the account is fully reimbursed over the three-year period. The state treasurer shall adopt by rule procedures to accomplish the purpose of this section on a reasonable and equitable basis over the three-year period. [1991 c 360 s 5.]

**RCW 35.02.137 Newly incorporated city or town—Moratoria on development permits and approvals.** During the interim period, the governing body of the newly formed city or town may adopt resolutions establishing moratoria during the interim transition period on the filing of applications with the county for development permits or approvals, including, but not limited [to], subdivision approvals, short subdivision approvals, and building permits. [1991 c 360 s 11.]

**RCW 35.02.139 Newly incorporated city or town—First general election of councilmembers or commissioners—Initial, subsequent**

**terms.** An election shall be held to elect city or town elected officials at the next municipal general election occurring more than twelve months after the date of the first election of councilmembers or commissioners. Candidates shall run for specific council or commission positions. The staggering of terms of members of the city or town council shall be established at this election, where the simple majority of the persons elected as councilmembers receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office and the remainder of the persons elected as councilmembers shall be elected to two-year terms of office. Newly elected councilmembers or newly elected commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. The terms of office of newly elected commissioners shall not be staggered, as provided in chapter 35.17 RCW. All councilmembers and commissioners who are elected subsequently shall be elected to four-year terms of office and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. [2015 c 53 s 19; 1994 c 223 s 9.]

**RCW 35.02.140 Disposition of uncollected road district taxes.**

Whenever in any territory forming a part of an incorporated city or town which is part of a road district, and road district regular property taxes are collectable on any property within such territory, the same shall, when collected by the county treasurer, be paid to such city or town and placed in the city or town street fund by the city or town; except that road district taxes that are delinquent before the date of incorporation shall be paid to the county and placed in the county road fund. This section shall not apply to excess property tax levies securing general indebtedness or any special assessments due in behalf of such property. [2001 c 299 s 1; 1986 c 234 s 20; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.140. Prior: 1957 c 180 s 1.]

*County road districts: RCW 36.75.060.*

**RCW 35.02.150 Pending final disposition of petition no other petition for incorporation to be acted upon—Withdrawal or substitution—Action on petition for annexation authorized.** After the filing of any petition for incorporation with the county auditor, and pending its final disposition as provided for in this chapter, no other petition for incorporation which embraces any of the territory included therein shall be acted upon by the county auditor, the county legislative authority, or the boundary review board, or by any other public official or body that might otherwise be empowered to receive or act upon such a petition: PROVIDED, That any petition for incorporation may be withdrawn by a majority of the signers thereof at any time before such petition has been certified by the county auditor to the county legislative authority: PROVIDED FURTHER, That a new petition may be substituted therefor that embraces other or different boundaries, incorporation as a city or town operating under a different title of law, or for incorporation as a city or town operating under a different plan or form of government, by a majority of the signers of the original incorporation petition, at any time before the original petition has been certified by the county auditor to the county legislative authority, in which case the same

proceedings shall be taken as in the case of an original petition. A boundary review board, county auditor, county legislative authority, or any other public official or body may act upon a petition for annexation before considering or acting upon a petition for incorporation which embraces some or all of the same territory, without regard to priority of filing. [1986 c 234 s 23; 1982 c 220 s 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.02.150. Prior: 1961 c 200 s 1.]

**Severability—1982 c 220:** See note following RCW 36.93.100.

**RCW 35.02.155 Effect of proposed annexation on petition.** For a period of ninety days after a petition proposing the incorporation of a city or town is filed with the county auditor, a petition or resolution proposing the annexation of any portion of the territory included in the incorporation proposal may be filed or adopted and the proposed annexation may continue following the applicable statutory procedures. Territory that ultimately is annexed, as a result of the filing of such an annexation petition or adoption of such an annexation resolution during this ninety-day period, shall be withdrawn from the incorporation proposal.

A proposed annexation of a portion of the territory included within the proposed incorporation, that is initiated by the filing of an annexation petition or adoption of an annexation resolution after this ninety-day period, shall be held in abeyance and may not occur unless: (1) The boundary review board modifies the boundaries of the proposed incorporation to remove the territory from the proposed incorporation; (2) the boundary review board rejects the proposed incorporation and the proposed city or town has a population of less than seven thousand five hundred; or (3) voters defeat the ballot proposition authorizing the proposed incorporation. [1994 c 216 s 5.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.02.160 Cancellation, acquisition of franchise or permit for operation of public service business in territory incorporated—Regulation of solid waste collection.** The incorporation of any territory as a city or town shall cancel, as of the effective date of such incorporation, any franchise or permit theretofore granted to any person, firm or corporation by the state of Washington, or by the governing body of such incorporated territory, authorizing or otherwise permitting the operation of any public transportation, garbage disposal or other similar public service business or facility within the limits of the incorporated territory, but the holder of any such franchise or permit canceled pursuant to this section shall be forthwith granted by the incorporating city or town a franchise to continue such business within the incorporated territory for a term of not less than the remaining term of the original franchise or permit, or not less than seven years, whichever is the shorter period, and the incorporating city or town, by franchise, permit or public operation, shall not extend similar or competing services to the incorporated territory except upon a proper showing of the inability or refusal of such person, firm or corporation to adequately service said incorporated territory at a reasonable price: PROVIDED, That the

provisions of this section shall not preclude the purchase by the incorporating city or town of said franchise, business, or facilities at an agreed or negotiated price, or from acquiring the same by condemnation upon payment of damages, including a reasonable amount for the loss of the franchise or permit. In the event that any person, firm or corporation whose franchise or permit has been canceled by the terms of this section shall suffer any measurable damages as a result of any incorporation pursuant to the provisions of chapter 35.02 RCW, such person, firm or corporation shall have a right of action against any city or town causing such damages.

After the incorporation of any city or town, the utilities and transportation commission shall continue to regulate solid waste collection within the limits of the incorporated city or town until such time as the city or town notifies the commission, in writing, of its decision to contract for solid waste collection or provide solid waste collection itself pursuant to RCW 81.77.020. In the event the incorporated city or town at any time decides to contract for solid waste collection or decides to undertake solid waste collection itself, the holder of any such franchise or permit that is so canceled in whole or in part shall be forthwith granted by the incorporated city or town a franchise to continue such business within the incorporated territory for a term of not less than the remaining term of the original franchise or permit, or not less than seven years, whichever is the shorter period, and the incorporated city or town, by franchise, permit, or public operation, shall not extend similar or competing services to the incorporated territory except upon a proper showing of the inability or refusal of such person, firm, or corporation to adequately service the incorporated territory at a reasonable price. Upon the effective date specified by the city or town council's ordinance or resolution to have the city or town contract for solid waste collection or undertake solid waste collection itself, the transition period specified in this section begins to run. This section does not preclude the purchase by the incorporated city or town of the franchise, business, or facilities at an agreed or negotiated price, or from acquiring the same by condemnation upon payment of damages, including a reasonable amount for the loss of the franchise or permit. In the event that any person, firm, or corporation whose franchise or permit has been canceled in whole or in part by the terms of this section suffers any measurable damages as a result of any incorporation pursuant to this chapter, such person, firm, or corporation has a right of action against any city or town causing such damages. [1997 c 171 s 1; 1986 c 234 s 24; 1965 ex.s. c 42 s 1.]

**Severability—1997 c 171:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1997 c 171 s 5.]

**RCW 35.02.170 Use of right-of-way line as corporate boundary—**  
**When right-of-way may be included.** The right-of-way line of any public street, road or highway, or any segment thereof, may be used to define a part of a corporate boundary in an incorporation proceeding. The boundaries of a newly incorporated city or town shall not include a portion of the right-of-way of any public street, road or highway

except where the boundary runs from one edge of the right-of-way to the other edge of the right-of-way. [1989 c 84 s 7; 1986 c 234 s 25; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 2.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** "The legislature finds that the use of centerlines of public streets, roads and highways as boundaries of incorporated cities and towns has resulted in divided jurisdiction over such public ways causing inefficiencies and waste in their construction, improvement and maintenance and impairing effective traffic law enforcement. It is the intent of this act to preclude the use of highway centerlines as corporate boundaries in the future and to encourage counties and cities and towns by agreement to revise existing highway centerline boundaries to coincide with highway right-of-way lines." [1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 1.]

*Revision of corporate boundary by substituting right-of-way lines: RCW 35.21.790.*

**RCW 35.02.180 Ownership of county roads to revert to city or town—Territory within city or town to be removed from fire protection, road, and library districts.** The ownership of all county roads located within the boundaries of a newly incorporated city or town shall revert to the city or town and become streets as of the official date of incorporation. However, any special assessments attributable to these county roads shall continue to exist and be collected as if the incorporation had not occurred. Property within the newly incorporated city or town shall continue to be subject to any indebtedness attributable to these roads and any related property tax levies.

The territory included within the newly incorporated city or town shall be removed from the road district as of the official date of incorporation. The territory included within the newly incorporated city or town shall be removed from a fire protection district or districts or library district or districts in which it was located, as of the official date of incorporation, unless the fire protection district or districts have annexed the city or town during the interim period as provided in \*RCW 52.04.160 through 52.04.200, or the library district or districts have annexed the city or town during the interim period as provided in \*\*RCW 27.12.260 through 27.12.290. [1986 c 234 s 17.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 52.04.160 has been decodified and RCW 52.04.170 through 52.04.200 have been recodified as RCW 52.04.061 through 52.04.101, pursuant to 1984 c 230 s 89.

\*\* (2) The reference to "RCW 27.12.260 through 27.12.290" appears to be erroneous. RCW 27.12.360 through 27.12.395 relates to annexation of a city or town by a library district.

**RCW 35.02.190 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—Transfer of assets when at least sixty percent of assessed valuation is annexed or incorporated in city or town.** If a portion of a fire protection district including at least sixty percent of the assessed valuation of the real property of the district is annexed to or incorporated into a city or town, ownership of all of the assets of



the district shall be vested in the city or town, or, if the city or town has been annexed by another fire protection district, in the other fire protection district, upon payment in cash, properties or contracts for fire protection services to the district within one year of the date on which the city or town withdraws from the fire protection district pursuant to RCW 52.04.161, of a percentage of the value of said assets equal to the percentage of the value of the real property in entire district remaining outside the incorporated or annexed area. The fire protection district may elect, by a vote of a majority of the persons residing outside the annexed or incorporated area who vote on the proposition, to require the annexing or incorporating city or town or fire protection district to assume responsibility for the provision of fire protection, and for the operation and maintenance of the district's property, facilities, and equipment throughout the district and to pay the city or town or fire protection district a reasonable fee for such fire protection, operation, and maintenance. When at least sixty percent, but less than one hundred percent, valuation of the real estate of a district is annexed to or incorporated into a city or town, a proportionate share of the liabilities of the district at the time of such annexation or incorporation, equal to the percentage of the total assessed valuation of the real estate of the district that has been annexed or incorporated, shall be transferred to the annexing or incorporating city or town.

If all of a fire protection district is included in an area that incorporates as a city or town or is annexed to a city or town or fire protection district, all of the assets and liabilities of the fire protection district shall be transferred to the newly incorporated city or town on the date on which the fire protection district ceases to provide fire protection services pursuant to RCW 52.04.161 or to the city or town or fire protection district upon the annexation. [1993 c 262 s 3; 1989 c 76 s 2; 1986 c 234 s 18; 1981 c 332 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.247. Prior: 1963 c 231 s 3. Formerly RCW 35.13.247.]

**RCW 35.02.200 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—Ownership of assets of fire protection district—When less than sixty percent.**

(1) If a portion of a fire protection district including less than sixty percent of the assessed value of the real property of the district is annexed to or incorporated into a city or town, the ownership of all assets of the district shall remain in the district and the district shall pay to the city or town, or, if the city or town has been annexed by another fire protection district, to the other fire protection district within one year or within such period of time as the district continues to collect taxes in such incorporated or annexed areas, in cash, properties or contracts for fire protection services, a percentage of the value of said assets equal to the percentage of the value of the real property in the entire district lying within the area so incorporated or annexed: PROVIDED, That if the area annexed or incorporated includes less than five percent of the area of the district, no payment shall be made to the city or town or fire protection district except as provided in RCW 35.02.205.

(2) As provided in RCW 35.02.210, the fire protection district from which territory is removed as a result of an incorporation or annexation shall provide fire protection to the incorporated or

annexed area for such period as the district continues to collect taxes levied in such annexed or incorporated area.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the word "assets" shall mean the total assets of the fire district, reduced by its liabilities, including bonded indebtedness, the same to be determined by usual and accepted accounting methods. The amount of said liability shall be determined by reference to the fire district's balance sheet, produced in the regular course of business, which is nearest in time to the certification of the annexation of fire district territory by the city or town. [1997 c 245 s 2. Prior: 1989 c 267 s 1; 1989 c 76 s 3; 1986 c 234 s 19; 1967 c 146 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.248; prior: 1963 c 231 s 4. Formerly RCW 35.13.248.]

**RCW 35.02.202 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—Delay of transfer.** During the interim period, the governing body of the newly formed city or town and the board of fire commissioners may by written agreement delay the transfer of the district's assets and liabilities, and the city's or town's responsibility for the provision of fire protection, that would otherwise occur under RCW 35.02.190 or 35.02.200 for up to one year after the official date of incorporation. During the one-year period, the fire protection district may annex the city or town pursuant to chapter 52.04 RCW and retain the responsibility for fire protection. [1991 c 360 s 7.]

**RCW 35.02.205 Annexation/incorporation of fire protection district—Distribution of assets of district when less than five percent of district annexed—Distribution agreement—Arbitration.** (1) A distribution of assets from the fire protection district to the city or town shall occur as provided in this section upon the annexation or, in the case of an incorporation, on the date on which the city or town withdraws from the fire protection district pursuant to RCW 52.04.161, of an area by the city or town that constitutes less than five percent of the area of the fire protection district upon the adoption of a resolution by the city or town finding that the annexation or incorporation will impose a significant increase in the fire suppression responsibilities of the city or town with a corresponding reduction in fire suppression responsibilities by the fire protection district. Such a resolution must be adopted within sixty days of the effective date of the annexation, or within sixty days of the official date of incorporation of the city. If the fire protection district does not concur in the finding within sixty days of when a copy of the resolution is submitted to the board of commissioners, arbitration shall proceed under subsection (3) of this section over this issue.

(2) An agreement on the distribution of assets from the fire protection district to the city or town shall be entered into by the city or town and the fire protection district within ninety days of the concurrence by the fire protection district under subsection (1) of this section, or within ninety days of a decision by the arbitrators under subsection (3) of this section that a significant increase in the fire protection responsibilities will be imposed upon the city or town as a result of the incorporation or annexation. A distribution shall be based upon the extent of the increased fire

suppression responsibilities with a corresponding reduction in fire suppression responsibilities by the fire protection district, and shall consider the impact of any debt obligation that may exist on the property that is so annexed or incorporated. If an agreement is not entered into after this ninety-day period, arbitration shall proceed under subsection (3) of this section concerning this issue unless both parties have agreed to an extension of this period.

(3) Arbitration shall proceed under this subsection over the issue of whether a significant increase in the fire protection responsibilities will be imposed upon the city or town as a result of the annexation or incorporation with a corresponding reduction in fire suppression responsibilities by the fire protection district, or over the distribution of assets from the fire protection district to the city or town if such a significant increase in fire protection responsibilities will be imposed. A board of arbitrators shall be established for an arbitration that is required under this section. The board of arbitrators shall consist of three persons, one of whom is appointed by the city or town within sixty days of the date when arbitration is required, one of whom is appointed by the fire protection district within sixty days of the date when arbitration is required, and one of whom is appointed by agreement of the other two arbitrators within thirty days of the appointment of the last of these other two arbitrators who is so appointed. If the two are unable to agree on the appointment of the third arbitrator within this thirty-day period, then the third arbitrator shall be appointed by a judge in the superior court of the county within which all or the greatest portion of the area that was so annexed or incorporated lies. The determination by the board of arbitrators shall be binding on both the city or town and the fire protection district. [1993 c 262 s 4; 1989 c 267 s 3.]

**RCW 35.02.210 Fire protection district and library district—Continuation of services at option of city or town.** At the option of the governing body of a newly incorporated city or town, any fire protection district or library district serving any part of the area so incorporated shall continue to provide services to such area until the city or town receives its own property tax receipts. [1991 c 360 s 8; 1986 c 234 s 21; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.03.160. Formerly RCW 35A.03.160.]

**RCW 35.02.220 Duty of county and road, library, and fire districts to continue services during transition period—Road maintenance and law enforcement services.** The approval of an incorporation by the voters of a proposed city or town, and the existence of a transition period to become a city or town, shall not remove the responsibility of any county, road district, library district, or fire district, within which the area is located, to continue providing services to the area until the official date of the incorporation.

A county shall continue to provide the following services to a newly incorporated city or town, or that portion of the county within which the newly incorporated city or town is located, at the preincorporation level as follows:

(1) Law enforcement services shall be provided for a period not to exceed sixty days from the official date of the incorporation or until the city or town is receiving or could have begun receiving sales tax distributions under RCW 82.14.030(1), whichever is the shortest time period.

(2) Road maintenance shall be for a period not to exceed sixty days from the official date of the incorporation or until forty percent of the anticipated annual tax distribution from the road district tax levy is made to the newly incorporated city or town pursuant to RCW 35.02.140, whichever is the shorter time period. [1991 c 360 s 9; 1986 c 234 s 22; 1985 c 143 s 1. Formerly RCW 35.21.763.]

**RCW 35.02.225 County may contract to provide essential services.**

It is the desire of the legislature that the citizens of newly incorporated cities or towns receive uninterrupted and adequate services in the period prior to the city or town government attaining the ability to provide such service levels. In addition to the services provided under RCW 35.02.220, it is the purpose of this section to permit the county or counties in which a newly incorporated city or town is located to contract with the newly incorporated city or town for the continuation of essential services until the newly incorporated city or town has attained the ability to provide such services at least at the levels provided by the county before the incorporation. These essential services may include but are not limited to, law enforcement, road and street maintenance, drainage, and other utility services previously provided by the county before incorporation. The contract should be negotiated on the basis of the county's cost to provide services without consideration of capital assets which do not continue to be amortized for principal and interest or depreciated by the county. The exception for not considering capital assets which are no longer amortized for principal and interest or depreciated is recognition of the preexisting financial investment of citizens of the newly incorporated city or town have made in county capital assets.

Nothing in this section limits the ability of the county and the newly incorporated city or town to contract for higher service levels or for other time periods than those imposed by this section. [1985 c 332 s 7. Formerly RCW 35.21.764.]

**RCW 35.02.230 Incorporation of city or town located in more than one county—Powers and duties of county after incorporation—Costs.**

After incorporation of a city or town located in more than one county, all purposes essential to the maintenance, operation, and administration of the city or town whenever any action is required or may be performed by the county, county legislative authority, or any county officer or board, such action shall be performed by the respective county, county legislative authority, officer, or board of the county of that part of the city or town in which the largest number of inhabitants reside as of the date of the incorporation of the proposed city or town except as provided in RCW 35.02.240, and all costs incurred shall be borne proportionately by each county in that ratio which the number of inhabitants residing in that part of each county forming a part of the proposed city or town bears to the total

number of inhabitants residing within the whole of the city or town. [1986 c 234 s 26; 1965 c 7 s 35.04.150. Prior: 1955 c 345 s 15. Formerly RCW 35.04.150.]

**RCW 35.02.240 Incorporation of city or town located in more than one county—Taxes—Powers and duties of county after incorporation—Costs.** In the case of evaluation, assessment, collection, apportionment, and any other allied power or duty relating to taxes in connection with the city or town, the action shall be performed by the county, county legislative authority, or county officer or board of the county for that area of the city or town which is located within the respective county, and all materials, information, and other data and all moneys collected shall be submitted to the proper officer of the county of that part of the city or town in which the largest number of inhabitants reside. Any power which may be or duty which shall be performed in connection therewith shall be performed by the county, county legislative authority, officer, or board receiving such as though only a city or town in a single county were concerned. All moneys collected from such area constituting a part of such city or town that should be paid to such city or town shall be delivered to the treasurer thereof, and all other materials, information, or data relating to the city or town shall be submitted to the appropriate city or town officials.

Any costs or expenses incurred under this section shall be borne proportionately by each county involved. [1986 c 234 s 27; 1965 c 7 s 35.04.160. Prior: 1955 c 345 s 16. Formerly RCW 35.04.160.]

**RCW 35.02.250 Corporate powers in dealings with federal government.** Any city or town incorporated as provided in this chapter shall, in addition to all other powers, duties and benefits of a city or town of the same type or class, be authorized to purchase, acquire, lease, or administer any property, real or personal, or property rights and improvements thereon owned by the federal government on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon, when authorized to do so by the United States government, and thereafter to sell, transfer, exchange, lease, or otherwise dispose of any such property, and to execute contracts with the federal government with respect to supplying water and for other utility services. [1986 c 234 s 28; 1965 c 7 s 35.04.170. Prior: 1955 c 345 s 17. Formerly RCW 35.04.170.]

**RCW 35.02.260 Duty of department of commerce to assist newly incorporated cities and towns.** The department of commerce shall identify federal, state, and local agencies that should receive notification that a new city or town is about to incorporate and shall assist newly formed cities and towns during the interim period before the official date of incorporation in providing such notification to the identified agencies. [2023 c 470 s 2014; 1995 c 399 s 34; 1991 c 360 s 6.]

**Explanatory statement—2023 c 470:** See note following RCW 10.99.030.

**RCW 35.02.270 Other local governments and state agencies—May assist newly incorporated cities and towns.** Cities, towns, counties, and other local government agencies and state agencies may make loans of staff and equipment, and technical and financial assistance to the newly formed city or town during the interim period to facilitate the transition to an incorporated city or town. Such loans and assistance may be without compensation. [1991 c 360 s 12.]

**Chapter 35.06 RCW**  
**ADVANCEMENT OF CLASSIFICATION**

**Sections**

- 35.06.010 Population requirements for advance in classification.  
35.06.070 Procedure for advancement—Ballot proposition—  
Notification of secretary of state.  
35.06.080 Election of new officers.

*Municipal corporations classified: Chapter 35.01 RCW.*

*Population determinations: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**RCW 35.06.010 Population requirements for advance in classification.** A city or town which has at least ten thousand inhabitants may become a first-class city by adopting a charter under Article XI, section 10, of the state Constitution in chapter 35.22 RCW.

A town which has at least fifteen hundred inhabitants may reorganize and advance its classification to become a second-class city as provided in this chapter. [1994 c 81 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.06.010. Prior: 1955 c 319 s 6; prior: (i) 1907 c 248 s 1, part; 1890 p 140 s 12, part; RRS s 8933, part. (ii) 1890 p 141 s 14; RRS s 8936.]

**RCW 35.06.070 Procedure for advancement—Ballot proposition—Notification of secretary of state.** A ballot proposition authorizing an advancement in classification of a town to a second-class city shall be submitted to the voters of the town if either: (1) Petitions proposing the advancement are submitted to the town clerk that have been signed by voters of the town equal in number to at least ten percent of the voters of the town voting at the last municipal general election; or (2) the town council adopts a resolution proposing the advancement. The clerk shall immediately forward the petitions to the county auditor who shall review the signatures and certify the sufficiency of the petitions.

A ballot proposition authorizing an advancement shall be submitted to the town voters at the next special election date according to RCW 29A.04.330 if the county auditor certifies the petitions as having sufficient valid signatures. The town shall be advanced to a second-class city if the ballot proposition is approved by a simple majority vote, effective when the corporation is actually reorganized and the new officers are elected and qualified. The county auditor shall notify the secretary of state if the advancement of a town to a second-class city is approved. [2006 c 344 s 21; 1994 c 81 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.06.070. Prior: 1890 p 142 s 21; RRS s 8942.]

**Effective date—2006 c 344 ss 1-16 and 18-40:** See note following RCW 29A.04.311.

**RCW 35.06.080 Election of new officers.** The first election of officers of the new corporation after the advancement of classification is approved shall be at the next general municipal

election and the officers of the old corporation, as altered by the election when the advancement was approved, shall remain in office until the officers of the new corporation are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. A primary shall be held where necessary to nominate candidates for the elected offices of the corporation as a second-class city. Candidates for city council positions shall run for specific council positions. The council of the old corporation may adopt a resolution providing that the offices of city attorney, clerk, and treasurer are appointive.

The three persons who are elected to council positions one through six receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office and the other three persons who are elected to council positions one through six, and the person elected to council position seven, shall be elected to two-year terms of office. The person elected as mayor and the persons elected to any other elected office shall be elected to four-year terms of office. All successors to all elected positions, other than council position number seven, shall be elected to four-year terms of office and successors to council position number seven shall be elected to two-year terms of office.

There shall be no election of town offices at this election when the first officers of the new corporation are elected and the offices of the town shall expire when the officers of the new corporation assume office.

The ordinances, bylaws, and resolutions adopted by the old corporation shall, as far as consistent with the provisions of this title, continue in force until repealed by the council of the new corporation.

The council and officers of the town shall, upon demand, deliver to the proper officers of the new corporation all books of record, documents, and papers in their possession belonging to the old corporation. [2015 c 53 s 20; 1994 c 81 s 9; 1965 c 106 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.06.080. Prior: 1890 p 143 s 22; RRS s 8942.]



**Chapter 35.07 RCW  
DISINCORPORATION**

**Sections**

35.07.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.  
35.07.010 Authority for disincorporation.  
35.07.020 Petition—Requisites.  
35.07.040 Calling election—Receiver.  
35.07.050 Notice of election.  
35.07.060 Ballots.  
35.07.070 Conduct of election.  
35.07.080 Canvass of returns.  
35.07.090 Effect of disincorporation—Powers—Officers.  
35.07.100 Effect of disincorporation—Existing contracts.  
35.07.110 Effect of disincorporation—Streets.  
35.07.120 Receiver—Qualification—Bond.  
35.07.130 Elected receiver—Failure to qualify—Court to appoint.  
35.07.140 No receiver elected though indebtedness exists—Procedure.  
35.07.150 Duties of receiver—Claims—Priority.  
35.07.160 Receiver may sue and be sued.  
35.07.170 Receiver—Power to sell property.  
35.07.180 Receiver—Power to levy taxes.  
35.07.190 Receiver's compensation.  
35.07.200 Receiver—Removal for cause.  
35.07.210 Receiver—Successive appointments.  
35.07.220 Receiver—Final account and discharge.  
35.07.225 Applicability of general receivership law.  
35.07.230 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Authorized.  
35.07.240 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Notice of hearing.  
35.07.250 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Hearing.  
35.07.260 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Alternative forms of order.

*Census to be made in decennial periods: State Constitution Art. 2 s 3.*

*Obligations of contract: State Constitution Art. 1 s 23.*

*Population determinations: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**RCW 35.07.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 35.07 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 26.]

**RCW 35.07.010 Authority for disincorporation.** Cities and towns may disincorporate. [1994 c 81 s 10; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.010. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 1; RRS s 8914.]

**RCW 35.07.020 Petition—Requisites.** The petition for disincorporation must be signed by a majority of the registered voters thereof and filed with the city or town council. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.020. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 2, part; RRS s 8915, part.]

**RCW 35.07.040 Calling election—Receiver.** The council shall cause an election to be called upon the proposition of disincorporation. If the city or town has any indebtedness or outstanding liabilities, it shall order the election of a receiver at the same time. [1997 c 361 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.040. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 2, part; RRS s 8915, part.]

**RCW 35.07.050 Notice of election.** Notice of such election shall be given. [2015 c 53 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.050. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 3; RRS s 8916.]

**RCW 35.07.060 Ballots.** The ballots for the election shall be printed at the expense of the municipality and there shall be printed thereon the words "for dissolution" in one line and the words "against dissolution" in another line and in other and separate lines, the names of each of the lawfully nominated candidates for receiver. In all other respects the ballots shall be in conformity with the law regulating elections in such cities and towns. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.060. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 4; RRS s 8917.]

**RCW 35.07.070 Conduct of election.** The election shall be conducted as other elections are required by law to be conducted in the city or town except as in this chapter otherwise provided. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.070. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 5; RRS s 8918.]

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.07.080 Canvass of returns.** The result of the election, together with the ballots cast, shall be certified by the canvassing authority to the council which shall meet within one week thereafter and shall declare the result which shall be made a matter of record in the journal of the council proceedings. If the vote "For dissolution" be a majority of the registered voters of such city or town voting at such election, such corporation shall be deemed dissolved. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.080. Prior: 1933 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 69 s 6, part; Rem. Supp. s8919, part.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

**RCW 35.07.090 Effect of disincorporation—Powers—Officers.** Upon disincorporation of a city or town, its powers and privileges as such, are surrendered to the state and it is absolved from any further duty to the state or its own inhabitants and all the offices appertaining thereto shall cease to exist immediately upon the entry of the result: PROVIDED, That if a receiver is required, the officers shall continue in the exercise of all their powers until a receiver has qualified as such, and thereupon shall surrender to him or her all property, money, vouchers, records and books of the city or town including those in any manner pertaining to its business. [2009 c 549 s 2001; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.090. Prior: 1933 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 69 s 6, part; RRS s 8919, part.]

**RCW 35.07.100 Effect of disincorporation—Existing contracts.**

Disincorporation shall not impair the obligation of any contract. If any franchise lawfully granted has not expired at the time of disincorporation, the disincorporation does not impair any right thereunder and does not imply any authority to interfere therewith to any greater extent than the city or town might have, if it had remained incorporated. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.100. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 18; RRS s 8931.]

*Obligations of contract shall not be impaired: State Constitution Art. 1 s 23.*

**RCW 35.07.110 Effect of disincorporation—Streets.**

Upon disincorporation of a city or town, its streets and highways pass to the control of the state and shall remain public highways until closed in pursuance of law; and the territory embraced therein shall be made into a new road district or annexed to adjoining districts as may be ordered by the board of county commissioners of the county embracing such city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.110. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 17; RRS s 8930.]

**RCW 35.07.120 Receiver—Qualification—Bond.**

The receiver must qualify within ten days after he or she has been declared elected, by filing with the county auditor a bond equal in penalty to the audited indebtedness and the established liabilities of the city or town with sureties approved by the board of county commissioners, or if the board is not in session, by the judge of the superior court of the county. The bond shall run to the state and shall be conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties as receiver and the prompt payment in the order of their priority of all lawful claims finally established as the funds come into his or her hands to discharge them. The bond shall be filed with the county auditor and shall be a public record and shall be for the benefit of every person who may be injured by the receiver's failure to discharge his or her duty. [2009 c 549 s 2002; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.120. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 7; RRS s 8920.]

**RCW 35.07.130 Elected receiver—Failure to qualify—Court to appoint.** If the person elected receiver fails to qualify as such within the prescribed time, the council shall file in the superior court of the county a petition setting forth the fact of the election, its result and the failure of the person elected receiver to qualify within the prescribed time and praying for the appointment of another person as receiver. Notice of the filing of the petition and of the time fixed for hearing thereon must be served upon the person elected receiver at least three days before the time fixed for the hearing. If he or she cannot be found within the county, no notice need be served, and the court may proceed with full jurisdiction to determine the matter upon the hearing. Unless good cause to the contrary is shown, the court shall appoint some suitable person to act as receiver, who shall qualify as required by RCW 35.07.120 within ten days from the date of his or her appointment.

If the council fails to procure the appointment of a receiver, any person qualified to vote in the city or town may file such a petition and make such application. [2009 c 549 s 2003; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.130. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 8; RRS s 8921.]

**RCW 35.07.140 No receiver elected though indebtedness exists—Procedure.** If no receiver is elected upon the supposition that no indebtedness existed and it transpires that the municipality does have indebtedness or an outstanding liability, any interested person may file a petition in the superior court asking for the appointment of a receiver, and unless the indebtedness or liability is discharged, the court shall appoint some suitable person to act as receiver who shall qualify as required of any other receiver hereunder, within ten days from the date of his or her appointment. [2009 c 549 s 2004; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.140. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 15; RRS s 8928.]

**RCW 35.07.150 Duties of receiver—Claims—Priority.** The receiver, upon qualifying, shall take possession of all the property, money, vouchers, records and books of the former municipality including those in any manner pertaining to its business and proceed to wind up its affairs. He or she shall have authority to pay:

- (1) All outstanding warrants and bonds in the order of their maturity with due regard to the fund on which they are properly a charge;
- (2) All lawful claims against the corporation which have been audited and allowed by the council;
- (3) All lawful claims which may be presented to him or her within the time limited by law for the presentation of such claims, but no claim shall be allowed or paid which is not presented within six months from the date of the disincorporation election;
- (4) All claims that by final adjudication may come to be established as lawful claims against the corporation.

As between warrants, bonds and other claims, their priority shall be determined with regard to the fund on which they are properly a charge. [2009 c 549 s 2005; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.150. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 9; RRS s 8922.]

*Accident claims, audits: Chapter 35.31 RCW, RCW 35.23.261.*

**RCW 35.07.160 Receiver may sue and be sued.** The receiver shall have the right to sue and be sued in all cases necessary or proper for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the former city or town and shall be subject to suit in all cases wherein the city or town might have been sued, subject to the limitations provided in this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.160. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 12; RRS s 8925.]

**RCW 35.07.170 Receiver—Power to sell property.** The receiver shall be authorized to sell at public auction after such public notice as the sheriff is required to give of like property sold on execution, all the property of the former municipality except such as is necessary for his or her use in winding up its affairs, and excepting also such as has been dedicated to public use.

Personal property shall be sold for cash.

Real property may be sold for all cash, or for one-half cash and the remainder in deferred payments, the last payment not to be later than one year from date of sale. Title shall not pass until all deferred payments have been fully paid. [2009 c 549 s 2006; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.170. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 10, part; RRS s 8923.]

**RCW 35.07.180 Receiver—Power to levy taxes.** In the same manner and to the same extent as the proper authorities of the former city or town could have done had it not been disincorporated, the receiver shall be authorized to levy taxes on all taxable property, to receive the taxes when collected and to apply them together with the proceeds arising from sales to the extinguishment of the obligations of the former city or town.

After all the lawful claims against the former city or town have been paid excepting bonds not yet due, no levy greater than fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value shall be made; nor shall the levy be greater than sufficient to meet the accruing interest until the bonds mature. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.180. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 10, part; RRS s 8923, part.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:**  
See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.07.190 Receiver's compensation.** The receiver shall be entitled to deduct from any funds coming into his or her hands a commission of six percent on the first thousand dollars, five percent on the second thousand and four percent on any amount over two thousand dollars as his or her full compensation exclusive of necessary traveling expenses and necessary disbursements, but not exclusive of attorney's fees. [2009 c 549 s 2007; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.190. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 11; RRS s 8924.]

**RCW 35.07.200 Receiver—Removal for cause.** The receiver shall proceed to wind up the affairs of the corporation with diligence and for negligence or misconduct in the discharge of his or her duties may be removed by the superior court upon a proper showing made by a taxpayer of the former city or town or by an unsatisfied creditor thereof. [2009 c 549 s 2008; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.200. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 13, part; RRS s 8926, part.]

**RCW 35.07.210 Receiver—Successive appointments.** In the case of removal, death, or resignation of a receiver, the court may appoint a new receiver to take charge of the affairs of the former city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.210. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 13, part; RRS s 8926, part.]

**RCW 35.07.220 Receiver—Final account and discharge.** Upon the final payment of all lawful demands against the former city or town, the receiver shall file a final account, together with all vouchers, with the clerk of the superior court. Any funds remaining in his or her hands shall be paid to the county treasurer for the use of the

school district in which the former city or town was situated; and thereupon the receivership shall be at an end. [2009 c 549 s 2009; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.220. Prior: 1897 c 69 s 14; RRS s 8927.]

**RCW 35.07.225 Applicability of general receivership law.** The provisions of Title 7 RCW generally applicable to receivers and receiverships do not apply to receivers elected or appointed under this chapter. [2004 c 165 s 43.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165:** See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

**RCW 35.07.230 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Authorized.** If any town fails for two successive years to hold its regular municipal election, or if the officers elected at the regular election of any town fail for two successive years to qualify and the government of the town ceases to function by reason thereof, the state auditor may petition the superior court of the county for an order, dissolving the town. In addition to stating the facts which would justify the entry of such an order, the petition shall set forth a detailed statement of the assets and liabilities of the town insofar as they can be ascertained. [1995 c 301 s 34; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.230. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 76 s 1; RRS s 8931-1.]

**RCW 35.07.240 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Notice of hearing.** Upon the filing of a petition for the involuntary dissolution of a town, the superior court shall enter an order fixing the time for hearing thereon at a date not less than thirty days from date of filing. The state auditor shall give notice of the hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, once a week for three successive weeks, and by posting in three public places in the town, stating therein the purpose of the petition and the date and place of hearing thereon. [1985 c 469 s 18; 1965 c 7 s 35.07.240. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 76 s 2; RRS s 8931-2.]

**RCW 35.07.250 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Hearing.** Any person owning property in or qualified to vote in the town may appear at the hearing and file written objections to the granting of the petition. If the court finds that the town has failed for two successive years to hold its regular municipal election or that its officers elected at a regular election have failed to qualify for two successive years thereby causing the government of the town to cease to function, it shall enter an order for disincorporation of the town. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.250. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 76 s 3, part; RRS s 8931-3, part.]

**RCW 35.07.260 Involuntary dissolution of towns—Alternative forms of order.** (1) If the court finds that the town has no indebtedness and no assets, the order of dissolution shall be effective forthwith.

(2) If the court finds that the town has assets, but no indebtedness or liabilities, it shall order a sale of the assets other than cash by the sheriff in the manner provided by law for the sale of property on execution. The proceeds of the sale together with any money on hand in the treasury of the town, after deducting the costs of the proceeding and sale, shall be paid into the county treasury and placed to the credit of the school district in which the town is located.

(3) If the court finds that the town has indebtedness or liabilities and assets other than cash, it shall order the sale of the assets as provided in subsection (2) hereof and that the proceeds thereof and the cash on hand shall be applied to the payment of the indebtedness and liabilities.

(4) If the court finds that the town has indebtedness or liabilities, but no assets or that the assets are insufficient to pay the indebtedness and liabilities, it shall order the board of county commissioners to levy from year to year a tax on the taxable property within the boundaries of the former town until the indebtedness and liabilities are paid. All taxes delinquent at the date of dissolution when collected shall be applied to the payment of the indebtedness and liabilities. Any balance remaining from the collection of delinquent taxes and taxes levied under order of the court, after payment of the indebtedness and liabilities shall be placed to the credit of the school district in which the town is located. [1965 c 7 s 35.07.260. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 76 s 3, part; RRS s 8931-3, part.]

**Chapter 35.10 RCW**  
**CONSOLIDATION AND ANNEXATION OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

**Sections**

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*Census to be conducted in decennial periods: State Constitution Art. 2 s 3.*

*Consolidation and annexation exempt from state environmental policy act: RCW 43.21C.225.*



*Population determinations: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

*Procedure to attack consolidation or annexation affecting a city of the second class: RCW 35.23.545.*

**RCW 35.10.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 35.10 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 27.]

**RCW 35.10.203 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish clear and uniform provisions of law governing the consolidation of all types and classes of cities. [1985 c 281 s 1.]

**RCW 35.10.207 "City" defined.** As used in this chapter, the term "city" means any city or town. [1985 c 281 s 2.]

**RCW 35.10.217 Methods for annexation.** The following methods are available for the annexation of all or a part of a city or town to another city or town:

(1) A petition for an election to vote upon the annexation, which proposed annexation is approved by the legislative body of the city or town from which the territory will be taken, may be submitted to the legislative body of the city or town to which annexation is proposed. An annexation under this subsection shall otherwise conform with the requirements for and procedures of a petition and election method of annexing unincorporated territory under chapter 35.13 RCW, except for the requirement for the approval of the annexation by the city or town from which the territory would be taken.

(2) The legislative body of a city or town may on its own initiative by resolution indicate its desire to be annexed to a city or town either in whole or in part, or the legislative body of a city or town proposing to annex all or part of another city or town may initiate the annexation by adopting a resolution indicating that desire. In case such resolution is passed, such resolution shall be transmitted to the other affected city or town. The annexation is effective if the other city or town adopts a resolution concurring in the annexation, unless the owners of property in the area proposed to be annexed, equal in value to sixty percent or more of the assessed valuation of the property in the area, protest the proposed annexation in writing to the legislative body of the city or town proposing to annex the area, within thirty days of the adoption of the second resolution accepting the annexation. Notices of the public hearing at which the second resolution is adopted shall be mailed to the owners of the property within the area proposed to be annexed in the same manner that notices of a hearing on a proposed local improvement district are required to be mailed by a city or town as provided in chapter 35.43 RCW. An annexation under this subsection shall be potentially subject to review by a boundary review board or other annexation review board after the adoption of the initial resolution, and the second resolution may not be adopted until the proposed annexation has been approved by the board.

(3) The owners of property located in a city or town may petition for annexation to another city or town. An annexation under this subsection shall conform with the requirements for and procedures of a direct petition method of annexing unincorporated territory, except that the legislative body of the city or town from which the territory would be taken must approve the annexation before it may proceed.

(4) All annexations under this section are subject to potential review by the local boundary review board or annexation review board. [1986 c 253 s 1; 1985 c 281 s 15; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 4.]

**RCW 35.10.240 Annexation—Canvass of votes.** In all cases of annexation, the county canvassing board or boards shall canvass the votes cast thereat.

In an election on the question of the annexation of all or a part of a city to another city, the votes cast in the city or portion thereof to be annexed shall be canvassed, and if a majority of the votes cast be in favor of annexation, the results shall be included in a statement indicating the total number of votes cast.

A proposition for the assumption of indebtedness outside the constitutional and/or statutory limits by the other city or cities in which the indebtedness did not originate shall be deemed approved if a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of each city in which the indebtedness did not originate votes in favor thereof, and the number of persons voting on such proposition constitutes not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in such cities in which indebtedness did not originate at the last preceding general election: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if general obligation bond indebtedness was incurred by action by the city legislative body, a proposition for the assumption of such indebtedness by the other city or cities in which such indebtedness did not originate shall be deemed approved if a majority of the voters of each city in which such indebtedness did not originate votes in favor thereof.

A duly certified copy of such statement of an annexation election shall be filed with the legislative body of each of the cities affected and recorded upon its minutes, and it shall be the duty of the clerk, or other officer performing the duties of clerk, of each of such legislative bodies, to transmit to the secretary of state and the office of financial management a duly certified copy of the record of such statement. [1985 c 281 s 16; 1981 c 157 s 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 12; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 7; 1967 c 73 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.10.240. Prior: 1929 c 64 s 5; RRS s 8909-5. Formerly RCW 35.10.070.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Validating—1929 c 64:** "That the attempted consolidation of two or more contiguous municipal corporations pursuant to the provisions of either chapter 167 of the Laws of 1927 or chapter 293 of the Laws of 1927 be, and any such consolidation of any such cities or towns, is hereby in all respects validated." [1929 c 64 s 16.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.10.265 Annexation—When effective—Ordinance.** Immediately after the filing of the statement of an annexation election, the legislative body of the annexing city may, if it deems it wise or expedient, adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation. Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, the area annexed shall become a part of the annexing city. The clerk of the annexing city shall transmit a certified copy of this ordinance to the secretary of state and the office of financial management. [1985 c 281 s 17; 1981 c 157 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 10.]

**RCW 35.10.300 Disposition of property and assets following consolidation or annexation.** Upon the consolidation of two or more cities, or the annexation of any city to another city, as provided in this chapter, the title to all property and assets owned by, or held in trust for, such former city shall vest in such consolidated city, or annexing city, as the case may be: PROVIDED, That if any such former city, shall be indebted, the proceeds of the sale of any such property and assets not required for the use of such consolidated city, or annexing city, shall be applied to the payment of such indebtedness, if any exist at the time of such sale. [1985 c 281 s 18; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.10.300. Prior: 1929 c 64 s 11; RRS s 8909-11. Formerly RCW 35.10.100 and 35.11.080, part.]

**RCW 35.10.310 Assets and liabilities of component cities—Taxation to pay claims.** Such consolidation, or annexation, shall in no wise affect or impair the validity of claim or chose in action existing in favor of or against, any such former city so consolidated or annexed, or any proceeding pending in relation thereto, but such consolidated or annexing city shall collect such claims in favor of such former cities, and shall apply the proceeds to the payment of any just claims against them respectively, and shall when necessary levy and collect taxes against the taxable property within any such former city sufficient to pay all just claims against it. [1985 c 281 s 19; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.10.310. Prior: 1929 c 64 s 12; RRS s 8909-12. Formerly RCW 35.10.110, 35.10.130, part, and 35.11.080, part.]

**RCW 35.10.315 Adoption of final budget and levy of property taxes.** Upon the consolidation of two or more cities, or the annexation of any city after March 1st and prior to the date of adopting the final budget and levying the property tax dollar rate in that year for the next calendar year, the legislative body of the consolidated city or the annexing city is authorized to adopt the final budget and to levy the property tax dollar rate for the consolidated cities and any city annexed. [1985 c 281 s 20; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 13; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 14.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.10.317 Receipt of state funds.** Upon the consolidation of two or more cities, or the annexation of any city, the consolidated or

annexing city shall receive all state funds to which the component cities would have been entitled to receive during the year when such consolidation or annexation became effective. [1985 c 281 s 21; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 15.]

**RCW 35.10.320 Continuation of ordinances.** All ordinances in force within any such former city or cities, at the time of consolidation or annexation, not in conflict with the laws governing the consolidated city, or with the ordinances of the former city having the largest population, as shown by the last determination of the office of financial management shall remain in full force and effect until superseded or repealed by the legislative body of the consolidated or annexing city, and shall be enforced by such city, but all ordinances of such former cities, in conflict with such ordinances shall be deemed repealed by, and from and after, such consolidation or annexation, but nothing in this section shall be construed to discharge any person from any liability, civil or criminal, for any violation of any ordinance of such former city or cities incurred prior to such consolidation or annexation. [1985 c 281 s 22; 1981 c 157 s 4; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.10.320. Prior: 1929 c 64 s 13; RRS s 8909-13. Formerly RCW 35.10.120 and 35.11.080, part.]

**RCW 35.10.331 Unassumed indebtedness.** Unless indebtedness approved by the voters, contracted, or incurred prior to the date of consolidation or annexation as provided herein has been assumed by the voters in the other city or cities in which such indebtedness did not originate, such indebtedness continues to be the obligation of the city in which it originated, and the legislative body of the consolidated or annexing city shall continue to levy the necessary taxes within the former city that incurred this indebtedness to amortize such indebtedness. [1985 c 281 s 23; 1969 ex.s. c 89 s 17.]

**RCW 35.10.350 Cancellation, acquisition of franchise or permit for operation of public service business in territory annexed.** See RCW 35.13.280.

**RCW 35.10.360 Annexation—Transfer of fire department employees.**

(1) If any portion of a fire protection district is proposed for annexation to or incorporation into a city, code city, or town, both the fire protection district and the city, code city, or town shall jointly inform the employees of the fire protection district about hires, separations, terminations, and any other changes in employment that are a direct consequence of annexation or incorporations at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

(2) Upon the annexation of two or more cities or code cities, any employee of the fire department of the former city or cities who (a) was at the time of annexation employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions which are to be performed by the fire department of the annexed city or code city, as the case may be, (b) will, as a direct consequence of annexation, be separated from the employ of the former city, code city or town, and (c) can perform the duties and meet the minimum requirements of the position

to be filled, then such employee may transfer employment to the fire department of the annexing city, as provided in this section and RCW 35.10.365 and 35.10.370.

(3) For purposes of this section and RCW 35.10.365 and 35.10.370, employee means an individual whose employment has been terminated because of annexation by a city, code city or town. [2009 c 60 s 1; 1986 c 254 s 4.]

**RCW 35.10.365 Annexation—Transfer of fire department employees—Rights and benefits.**

(1) An eligible employee may transfer into the civil service system of the annexing city, code city, or town by filing a written request with the city, code city, or town civil service commission. Upon receipt of the request by the civil service commission, the transfer of employment must be made. The needed employees shall be taken in order of seniority and the remaining employees who transfer as provided in this section and RCW 35.10.360 and 35.10.370 shall head the list for employment in the civil service system in order of their seniority, to the end that they shall be the first to be reemployed in the city, code city, or town fire department when appropriate positions become available: PROVIDED, That employees who are not immediately hired by the city, code city, or town shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period not to exceed thirty-six months unless a longer period is authorized by an agreement reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the annexing and annexed fire agencies and the annexing and annexed fire agencies.

(2) (a) Upon transfer, an employee is entitled to the employee rights, benefits, and privileges to which he or she would have been entitled as an employee of the fire protection district, including rights to:

(i) Compensation at least equal to the level of compensation at the time of transfer, unless the employee's rank and duties have been reduced as a result of the transfer. If the transferring employee is placed in a position with reduced rank and duties, the employee's compensation may be adjusted, but the adjustment may not result in a decrease of greater than fifty percent of the difference between the employee's compensation before the transfer and the compensation level for the position that the employee is transferred to;

(ii) Retirement, vacation, sick leave, and any other accrued benefit;

(iii) Promotion and service time accrual; and

(iv) The length or terms of probationary periods, including no requirement for an additional probationary period if one had been completed before the transfer date.

(b) (a) of this subsection does not apply if upon transfer an agreement for different terms of transfer is reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the transferring employees and the participating fire protection jurisdictions.

(3) If upon transfer, the transferring employee receives the rights, benefits, and privileges established under subsection (2) (a) (i) through (iv) of this section, those rights, benefits, and privileges are subject to collective bargaining at the end of the current bargaining period for the jurisdiction to which the employee has transferred.

(4) Such bargaining must take into account the years of service the transferring employee accumulated before the transfer and must be treated as if those years of service occurred in the jurisdiction to which the employee has transferred. [2009 c 60 s 2; 1994 c 73 s 1; 1986 c 254 s 5.]

**Effective date—1994 c 73:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 23, 1994]." [1994 c 73 s 6.]

**RCW 35.10.370 Annexation—Transfer of fire department employees—Notice—Time limitation.** If, as a result of annexation of two or more cities, or code cities any employee is laid off who is eligible to transfer to the city, code city or town fire department under this section and RCW 35.10.360 and 35.10.365 the fire department shall notify the employee of the right to transfer and the employee shall have ninety days to transfer employment to the annexing city or code city fire department. [1986 c 254 s 6.]

**RCW 35.10.400 Consolidation.** Two or more contiguous cities located in the same or different counties may consolidate into one city by proceedings in conformity with the provisions of this chapter. When cities are separated by water and/or tide or shore lands they shall be deemed contiguous for all the purposes of this chapter and, upon a consolidation of such cities under the provisions of this chapter, any such intervening water and/or tide or shore lands shall become a part of the consolidated city. The consolidated city shall become a noncharter code city operating under Title 35A RCW. [1985 c 281 s 3.]

**RCW 35.10.410 Consolidation—Submission of ballot proposal—Initiation by resolution of legislative body.** The submission of a ballot proposal to the voters of two or more contiguous cities for the consolidation of these contiguous cities may be caused by the adoption of a joint resolution, by a majority vote of each city legislative body, seeking consolidation of such contiguous cities. The joint resolution shall provide for submission of the question to the voters at the next general municipal election, if one is to be held more than ninety days but not more than one hundred eighty days after the passage of the joint resolution, or shall call for a special election to be held for that purpose at the next special election date, as specified in RCW 29A.04.330, that occurs ninety or more days after the passage of the joint resolution. The legislative bodies of the cities also shall notify the county legislative authority of each county in which the cities are located of the proposed consolidation. [2015 c 53 s 22; 1985 c 281 s 4.]

**RCW 35.10.420 Consolidation—Submission of ballot proposal—Initiation by petition.** The submission of a ballot proposal to the voters of two or more contiguous cities for the consolidation of these contiguous cities may also be caused by the filing of a petition with

the legislative body of each such city, signed by the voters of each city in number equal to not less than ten percent of voters who voted in the city at the last general municipal election therein, seeking consolidation of such contiguous cities. A copy of the petition shall be forwarded immediately by each city to the auditor of the county or counties within which that city is located.

The county auditor or auditors shall determine the sufficiency of the signatures in each petition within ten days of receipt of the copies and immediately notify the cities proposed to be consolidated of the sufficiency. If each of the petitions is found to have sufficient valid signatures, the auditor or auditors shall call a special election at which the question of whether such cities shall consolidate shall be submitted to the voters of each of such cities. If a general election is to be held more than ninety days but not more than one hundred eighty days after the filing of the last petition, the question shall be submitted at that election. Otherwise the question shall be submitted at a special election to be called for that purpose at the next special election date, as specified in RCW 29A.04.330, that occurs ninety or more days after the date when the last petition was filed.

If each of the petitions is found to have sufficient valid signatures, the auditor or auditors also shall notify the county legislative authority of each county in which the cities are located of the proposed consolidation.

Petitions shall conform with the requirements for form prescribed in RCW 35A.01.040, except different colored paper may be used on petitions circulated in the different cities. A legal description of the cities need not be included in the petitions. [2015 c 53 s 23; 1995 c 196 s 7; 1985 c 281 s 5.]

**RCW 35.10.430 Consolidation—Form of government.** A joint resolution or petition shall prescribe the form or plan of government of the proposed consolidated city, or shall provide that a ballot proposition to determine the form or plan of government shall be submitted to the voters of the cities proposed to be consolidated. The plans or forms of government include: Mayor/council, council/manager, and commission. If a commission form or plan of government is prescribed or chosen by the voters, the commission shall be subject to chapter 35.17 RCW and the noncharter code city shall be assumed to have had a commission plan or form of government prior to its becoming a noncharter code city, as provided in RCW 35A.02.130. However, three commissioners would be elected at the election provided in RCW 35.10.480. [1985 c 281 s 6.]

**RCW 35.10.440 Consolidation—Assumption of general obligation indebtedness.** A joint resolution or a petition may contain a proposal that a general obligation indebtedness of one or more of the cities proposed to be consolidated shall be assumed by the proposed consolidated city, in which event, the joint resolution or petition shall specify the improvement or service for which such general obligation indebtedness was incurred and state the amount of any such indebtedness then outstanding and the rate of interest payable thereon. [1985 c 281 s 7.]

**RCW 35.10.450 Consolidation—Public meetings on proposal—Role of boundary review board.** The county legislative authority, or the county legislative authorities jointly, shall set the date, time, and place for one or more public meetings on the proposed consolidation, and name a person or persons to chair the meetings. There shall be at least one public meeting in each county in which one or more of the cities proposed to be consolidated is located. A county legislative authority may name the members of the boundary review board, if one exists in the county, to chair one or more of the public meetings held in that county. In addition to any meeting held by the county, a boundary review board, if requested by a majority of the county legislative authority, may hold a public meeting on proposed consolidation of cities. The meeting shall be limited to receiving comments and written materials from citizens and city officials on the proposed consolidation of that portion of cities located in the county which the boundary review board serves. The record and proceedings of the boundary review board are supplemental and advisory to the consolidation of cities. If a boundary review board meets pursuant to this section, the boundary review board may include, as part of its record, comments pertaining to the probable environmental impact of the proposed consolidation. The record of the meeting and advisory comments of the board, if any, must be filed with the county legislative authority no later than twenty days before the date of the election at which the question of consolidating the cities is presented to the voters. The boundary review board shall not have any authority or jurisdiction on city consolidations under chapter 36.93 RCW. A public meeting shall be held at each specified date, time, and place. The public meetings of the county or the boundary review board shall be held at least twenty but not more than forty-five days before the date of the election at which the question of consolidating the cities is presented to the voters.

At each public meeting, each city proposed to be consolidated shall present testimony and written materials concerning the following topics: (1) The rate or rates of property taxes imposed by the city, and the purposes of these levies; (2) the excise taxes imposed by the city, including the tax bases and rates; and (3) the indebtedness of the city, including general indebtedness, both voter-approved and nonvoter-approved, as well as the city's special indebtedness, such as revenue bond indebtedness. Any interested person, including the officials of the cities proposed to be consolidated, may present information concerning the proposed consolidation and testify for or against the proposed consolidations.

Notice of each public meeting shall be published by the county within whose boundaries the public meeting is held in the normal manner notices of county hearings are published. [1985 c 281 s 8.]

**RCW 35.10.460 Consolidation—Ballot questions.** If a proposal for assumption of indebtedness is to be submitted to the voters of a city in which the indebtedness did not originate, the proposal shall be separately stated and the ballots shall contain, as a separate proposition to be voted on, the words "For Assumption of Indebtedness to be paid by the levy of annual property taxes in excess of regular property taxes" and "Against Assumption of Indebtedness to be paid by the levy of annual property taxes in excess of regular property taxes" or words equivalent thereto. If the question of the form or plan of



government is to be submitted to the voters, the question shall be separately stated and the ballots shall contain, as a separate proposition to be voted on, the option of a voter to select one of the three forms or plans of government. If the question of the name of the proposed consolidated city is to be submitted to the voters, the question shall be separately stated and the ballots shall contain, as a separate proposition to be voted on, the option of a voter to select one of the names of the proposed consolidated city. [1995 c 196 s 1; 1985 c 281 s 9.]

**RCW 35.10.470 Consolidation—Canvass of votes.** The county canvassing board in each county involved shall canvass the returns in each election. The votes cast in each of such cities shall be canvassed separately, and the statement shall show the whole number of votes cast, the number of votes cast in each city for consolidation, and the number of votes cast in each city against such consolidation. If a proposal for assumption or indebtedness was voted upon in a city in which the indebtedness did not originate, the statement shall show the number of votes cast in such a city for assumption of indebtedness and the number of votes cast against assumption of indebtedness. If a question of the form or plan of government was voted upon, the statement shall show the number of votes cast in each city for each of the optional forms or plans of government. If a name for the proposed consolidated city was voted upon, the statement shall show the number of votes cast in each city for each optional name. A certified copy of such statement shall be filed with the legislative body of each of the cities proposed to be consolidated.

If it appears from such statement of canvass that a majority of the votes cast in each of the cities were in favor of consolidation, the consolidation shall be authorized and shall be effective when the newly elected legislative body members assume office, as provided in RCW 35.10.480.

If a question of the form or plan of government was voted upon, that form or plan receiving the greatest combined number of votes shall become the form or plan of government for the consolidated city. If two or three of the forms or plans of government received the same highest number of votes, the form or plan of government shall be chosen by lot between those receiving the same highest number, where the mayor of the largest of the cities proposed to be consolidated draws the lot at a public meeting.

If a proposition to assume indebtedness was submitted to voters of a city in which the indebtedness did not originate, the proposition shall be deemed approved if approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the city, and the number of persons voting on the proposition constitutes not less than forty percent of the number of votes cast in the city at the last preceding general election. Approval of the proposition authorizes annual property taxes to be levied on the property within the city in which the indebtedness did not originate that are in excess of regular property taxes. However, if the general indebtedness in question was incurred by action of a city legislative body, a proposition for assuming the indebtedness need only be approved by a simple majority vote of the voters of the city in which such indebtedness did not originate.

If a question of the name of the proposed consolidated city was voted upon, that name receiving the greatest combined number of votes

shall become the name of the consolidated city. If two proposed names receive the same number of votes, the name shall be chosen by lot, where the mayor of the largest of the cities proposed to be consolidated draws the lot at a public meeting. [1995 c 196 s 2; 1985 c 281 s 10.]

**RCW 35.10.480 Consolidation—Elections of officials—Effective date of consolidation.** If the voters of each of the cities proposed to consolidate approve the consolidation, elections to nominate and elect the elected officials of the consolidated city shall be held at times specified in RCW 35A.02.050. If the joint resolution or the petitions prescribe that councilmembers of the consolidated city shall be elected from wards, then the councilmembers shall be elected from wards under RCW 35A.12.180. Terms shall be established as if the city is initially incorporating.

The newly elected officials shall take office immediately upon their qualification. The effective date of the consolidation shall be when a majority of the newly elected members of the legislative body assume office. The clerk of the newly consolidated city shall transmit a duly certified copy of an abstract of the votes to authorize the consolidation and of the election of the newly elected city officials to the secretary of state and the office of financial management. [1995 c 196 s 3; 1985 c 281 s 11.]

**RCW 35.10.490 Consolidation—Name of city.** A joint resolution or the petitions may prescribe the name of the proposed consolidated city or may provide that a ballot proposition to determine the name of the proposed consolidated city be submitted to the voters of the cities proposed to be consolidated. If two alternative names are submitted, the name receiving the simple majority vote of the voters voting on the question shall become the name of the consolidated city. If the name for the proposed consolidated city is not prescribed by the joint resolution or petition, or a proposition on the name is not submitted to the voters of the cities proposed to be consolidated, then the newly consolidated city shall be known as the city of . . . . (listing the names of the cities that were consolidated in alphabetical order). The legislative body of the newly consolidated city may present another name or two names for the newly consolidated city to the city voters for their approval or rejection at the next municipal general election held after the effective date of the consolidation. If only one alternative name is submitted, this alternative name shall become the name of the consolidated city if approved by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the question. If two alternative names are submitted, the name receiving the simple majority vote of the voters voting on the question shall become the name of the consolidated city. [1995 c 196 s 4; 1985 c 281 s 12.]

**RCW 35.10.500 Consolidation—Costs of election and public meetings.** If consolidation is authorized, the costs of such election and the public meetings shall be borne by the city formed by such consolidation. If the consolidation is not authorized, the costs of election and the public meetings shall be borne proportionately by

each city affected, in that ratio in which the number of inhabitants residing in the total area in which the election was held, as shown by the figures released at the most recent state or federal census or by a determination of the office of financial management. [1985 c 281 s 13.]

**RCW 35.10.510 Consolidation—Transfer of fire department employees.** Upon the consolidation of two or more cities or code cities, any employee of the fire department of the former city or cities who (1) was at the time of consolidation employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions which are to be performed by the fire department of the consolidated city or code city, as the case may be, (2) will, as a direct consequence of consolidation, be separated from the employ of the former city, code city or town, and (3) can perform the duties and meet the minimum requirements of the position to be filled, then such employee may transfer employment to the fire department of the consolidated city, as provided in this section and RCW 35.10.520 and 35.10.530.

For purposes of this section and RCW 35.10.520 and 35.10.530, employee means an individual whose employment has been terminated because of a consolidation of two or more cities, code cities or towns. [1986 c 254 s 1.]

**Effective date—Legislative study—1986 c 254 ss 1-3:** "Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1987. The appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives shall conduct a study of the transfer rights of employees during the consolidation of cities and code cities and make recommendations to the legislature at the start of the 1987 legislative session." [1986 c 254 s 16.]

**RCW 35.10.520 Consolidation—Transfer of fire department employees—Rights and benefits.** (1) An eligible employee may transfer into the civil service system of the consolidated city or code city by filing a written request with the civil service commission of the consolidated city. Upon receipt of such request by the civil service commission the transfer of employment shall be made. The employee so transferring will (a) be on probation for the same period as are new employees in the position filled, but if the transferring employee has already completed a probationary period as a firefighter prior to the transfer, then the employee may only be terminated during the probationary period for failure to adequately perform assigned duties, not meeting the minimum qualifications of the position, or behavior that would otherwise be subject to disciplinary action, (b) be eligible for promotion no later than after completion of the probationary period, (c) receive a salary at least equal to that of other new employees in the position filled, and (d) in all other matters, such as retirement, sick leave, and vacation, have, within the city or code city civil service system, all the rights, benefits, and privileges to which he or she would have been entitled as a member of the consolidated city fire department from the beginning of his or her employment with the former city or code city fire department: PROVIDED, That for purposes of layoffs by the consolidated city or code city, only the time of service accrued with the consolidated city or code city shall apply unless an agreement is reached between the

collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the consolidating fire agencies and consolidated agencies and the consolidating and consolidated fire agencies. A record of the employee's service with the former city or code city fire department shall be transmitted to the applicable civil service commission and shall be credited to such employee as a part of the period of employment in the consolidated city fire department. All accrued benefits are transferable provided that the recipient agency provides comparable benefits. All benefits shall then accrue based on the combined seniority of each employee in the recipient agency.

(2) As many of the transferring employees shall be placed upon the payroll of the consolidated city or code city fire department as the department determines are needed to provide services. These needed employees shall be taken in order of greatest seniority from any of the seniority lists of the consolidating city or code city and the remaining employees who transfer as provided in this section and RCW 35.10.510 and 35.10.530 shall head the list for employment in the civil service system in order of their seniority, to the end that they shall be the first to be reemployed in the fire department when appropriate positions become available: PROVIDED, That employees who are not immediately hired by the city, code city, or town shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period not to exceed thirty-six months unless a longer period is authorized by an agreement reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the consolidating fire agencies and consolidated fire agency and the consolidating and consolidated fire agencies.

(3) The consolidated city or code city shall retain the right to select the fire chief and assistant fire chiefs regardless of seniority. [1994 c 73 s 2; 1986 c 254 s 2.]

**Effective date—1994 c 73:** See note following RCW 35.10.365.

**Effective date—Legislative study—1986 c 254 ss 1-3:** See note following RCW 35.10.510.

**RCW 35.10.530 Consolidation—Transfer of fire department employees—Notice—Time limitation.** If, as a result of consolidation of two or more cities, or code cities, any employee is laid off who is eligible to transfer to the city fire department pursuant to this section and RCW 35.10.510 and 35.10.520, the city fire department shall notify the employee of the right to so transfer and the employee shall have ninety days to transfer employment to the consolidating city, or code city fire department. [1986 c 254 s 3.]

**Effective date—Legislative study—1986 c 254 ss 1-3:** See note following RCW 35.10.510.

**RCW 35.10.550 Consolidation—Wards.** Unless a commission form of government is prescribed or submitted to the voters under RCW 35.10.430, a joint resolution or petition may prescribe that wards be used to elect the councilmembers of the consolidated city. The joint resolution or petition must contain a map of the proposed consolidated city that clearly delineates the boundaries of each ward. Each ward in the proposed consolidated city shall contain approximately the same

population. To the greatest extent possible, the integrity of the boundaries of the cities that are proposed to be consolidated shall be respected when the wards are drawn so that the territory within each city is: (1) Included within the fewest number of wards, to the extent the city has a population that is greater than the maximum population established for each ward; or (2) included wholly within one ward, to the extent the city has a population that is equal to or less than the maximum population established for each ward. After the election specified in RCW 35.10.480, election wards may be modified in the manner specified in RCW 35A.12.180. [1995 c 196 s 6.]

**Chapter 35.13 RCW**  
**ANNEXATION OF UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

**Sections**

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- 35.13.005 Annexations beyond urban growth areas prohibited.
- 35.13.010 Authority for annexation.
- 35.13.015 Election method—Resolution for election—Contents of resolution.
- 35.13.020 Election method—Petition for election—Signers—Rate of assessment in annexed area—Comprehensive plan—Filing and approval—Costs.
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*Annexation of fire protection district territory: RCW 35.02.190 through 35.02.205.*

*Consolidation and annexation of cities and towns: Chapter 35.10 RCW.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Population determinations: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

*Procedure to attack consolidation or annexation affecting a city of the second class: RCW 35.23.545.*

*Provisions relating to city annexation review boards not applicable where boundary review board created: RCW 36.93.220.*

**RCW 35.13.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 35.13 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 28.]

**RCW 35.13.005 Annexations beyond urban growth areas prohibited.** No city or town located in a county in which urban growth areas have



been designated under RCW 36.70A.110 may annex territory beyond an urban growth area. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 30.]

**Severability—Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17:**  
See RCW 36.70A.900 and 36.70A.901.

**RCW 35.13.010 Authority for annexation.** Any portion of a county not incorporated as part of a city or town but lying contiguous thereto may become a part of the city or town by annexation. An area proposed to be annexed to a city or town shall be deemed contiguous thereto even though separated by water or tide or shore lands on which no bona fide residence is maintained by any person. [2009 c 402 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.010. Prior: 1959 c 311 s 1; prior: (i) 1937 c 110 s 1; 1907 c 245 s 1; RRS s 8896. (ii) 1945 c 128 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8909-10.]

**Intent—2009 c 402:** See note following RCW 35.13.490.

**Validation of certain incorporations and annexations—Municipal corporations of the fourth class—1961 ex.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 35.21.010.

**RCW 35.13.015 Election method—Resolution for election—Contents of resolution.** In addition to the method prescribed by RCW 35.13.020 for the commencement of annexation proceedings, the legislative body of any city or town may, whenever it shall determine by resolution that the best interests and general welfare of such city or town would be served by the annexation of unincorporated territory contiguous to such city or town, file a certified copy of the resolution with the board of county commissioners of the county in which said territory is located. The resolution of the city or town initiating such election shall, subject to RCW 35.02.170, describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed, as nearly as may be state the number of voters residing therein, pray for the calling of an election to be held among the qualified voters therein upon the question of annexation, and provide that said city or town will pay the cost of the annexation election. The resolution may require that there also be submitted to the electorate of the territory sought to be annexed a proposition that all property within the area annexed shall, upon annexation, be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing city or town is assessed and taxed to pay for all or any portion of the then outstanding indebtedness of the city or town to which said area is annexed, approved by the voters, contracted, or incurred prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation. Whenever a city or town has prepared and filed a comprehensive plan for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35.13.177 and 35.13.178, the resolution initiating the election may also provide for the simultaneous adoption of the comprehensive plan upon approval of annexation by the electorate of the area to be annexed. [2022 c 26 s 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 2; 1970 ex.s. c 52 s 6; 1967 c 73 s 7; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.015. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 1.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** See note following RCW 35.02.170.

**RCW 35.13.020 Election method—Petition for election—Signers—Rate of assessment in annexed area—Comprehensive plan—Filing and approval—Costs.** A petition for an election to vote upon the annexation of a portion of a county to a contiguous city or town signed by qualified voters resident in the area equal in number to twenty percent of the votes cast at the last election may be filed in the office of the board of county commissioners. The petition shall be filed with the legislative body of the city or town to which the annexation is proposed, and such legislative body shall, by resolution entered within sixty days from the date of presentation, notify the petitioners, either by mail or by publication in the same manner notice of hearing is required by RCW 35.13.040 to be published, of its approval or rejection of the proposed action. In approving the proposed action, the legislative body may require that there also be submitted to the electorate of the territory to be annexed, a proposition that all property within the area to be annexed shall, upon annexation be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing city or town is assessed and taxed to pay for all or any portion of the then outstanding indebtedness of the city or town to which said area is annexed, approved by the voters, contracted, or incurred prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation. Only after the legislative body has completed preparation and filing of a comprehensive plan for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35.13.177 and 35.13.178, the legislative body in approving the proposed action, may require that the comprehensive plan be simultaneously adopted upon approval of annexation by the electorate of the area to be annexed. The approval of the legislative body shall be a condition precedent to the filing of such petition with the board of county commissioners as hereinafter provided. The costs of conducting such election shall be a charge against the city or town concerned. The proposition or questions provided for in this section may be submitted to the voters either separately or as a single proposition. [2022 c 26 s 3; 1981 c 332 s 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 3; 1967 c 73 s 8; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.020. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 7; prior: 1951 c 248 s 6; 1907 c 245 s 2, part; RRS s 8897, part.]

**RCW 35.13.030 Election method—Petition for election—Content.** A petition filed with the county commissioners to call an annexation election shall, subject to RCW 35.02.170, particularly describe the boundaries of the area proposed to be annexed, state the number of voters residing therein as nearly as may be, state the provisions, if any there be, relating to assumption of debt by the owners of property of the area proposed to be annexed, and/or the simultaneous adoption of a comprehensive plan for the area proposed to be annexed, and shall pray for the calling of an election to be held among the qualified voters therein upon the question of annexation. [2022 c 26 s 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 7; 1967 c 73 s 9; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.030. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 8; prior: 1907 c 245 s 2, part; RRS s 8897, part.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** See note following RCW 35.02.170.

**RCW 35.13.040 Election method—Hearing—Notice.** Upon the filing of approval by the review board of a twenty percent annexation petition under the election method to call an annexation election, the board of county commissioners at its next meeting shall fix a date for hearing thereon to be held not less than two weeks nor more than four weeks thereafter, of which hearing the petitioners must give notice by publication once each week at least two weeks prior thereto in some newspaper of general circulation in the area proposed to be annexed. Upon the day fixed, the board shall hear the petition, and if it complies with the requirements of law and has been approved by the review board, shall grant it. The hearing may be continued from time to time for an aggregate period not exceeding two weeks. [1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.040. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 9; prior: 1907 c 245 s 2, part; RRS s 8897, part.]

**RCW 35.13.050 Election method—Petition or resolution for election—Others covering same area barred from consideration, withdrawal.** After the filing with the board of county commissioners of a petition or resolution pursuant to RCW 35.13.015 to call an annexation election, pending the hearing under the twenty percent annexation petition under the election method and pending the election to be called thereunder, the board of county commissioners shall not consider any other petition or resolution involving any portion of the territory embraced therein: PROVIDED, That the petition or resolution may be withdrawn or a new petition or resolution embracing other or different boundaries substituted therefor by a majority of the signers thereof, or in the case of a resolution, by the legislative body of the city or town, and the same proceeding shall be taken as in the case of an original petition or resolution. [1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.050. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 10; prior: 1907 c 245 s 2, part; RRS s 8897, part.]

**RCW 35.13.060 Election method—Fixing date of election.** Upon granting the petition under the twenty percent annexation petition under the election method, and after the auditor has certified the petition as being sufficient, the legislative body of the city or town shall indicate to the county auditor its preference for the date of the election on the annexation to be held, which shall be one of the dates for special elections provided under RCW 29A.04.330 that is sixty or more days after the date the preference is indicated. The county auditor shall call the special election at the special election date indicated by the city or town. [2015 c 53 s 24; 1989 c 351 s 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.060. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 12; prior: 1907 c 245 s 3, part; RRS s 8898, part.]

*Election method, date for annexation election if review board's determination favorable: RCW 35.13.174.*

**RCW 35.13.070 Election method—Conduct of election.** An annexation election shall be held in accordance with the general election laws of the state, and only registered voters who have resided in the area proposed to be annexed for ninety days immediately preceding the election shall be allowed to vote therein. [1965 c 7 s 35.13.070. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 15; prior: 1907 c 245 s 4, part; RRS s 8899, part.]

*Conduct of elections: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.13.080 Election method—Notice of election.** Notice of an annexation election shall particularly describe the boundaries of the area proposed to be annexed, state the objects of the election as prayed in the petition or as stated in the resolution and require the voters to cast ballots which shall contain the words "For annexation" and "Against annexation" or words equivalent thereto, or contain the words "For annexation and adoption of comprehensive plan" and "Against annexation and adoption of comprehensive plan" or words equivalent thereto in case the simultaneous adoption of a comprehensive plan is proposed, and which in case the assumption of indebtedness is proposed, shall contain as a separate proposition, the words "For assumption of indebtedness" and "Against assumption of indebtedness" or words equivalent thereto and if only a portion of the indebtedness of the annexing city or town is to be assumed, an appropriate separate proposition for and against the assumption of such portion of the indebtedness shall be submitted to the voters. The notice shall be posted for at least two weeks prior to the date of election in four public places within the area proposed to be annexed and published in accordance with the notice required by RCW 29A.52.355 prior to the date of election in a newspaper of general circulation in the area proposed to be annexed. [2022 c 26 s 5; 2015 c 53 s 25; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 7; 1967 c 73 s 10; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.080. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 13; prior: 1907 c 245 s 3, part; RRS s 8898, part.]

**RCW 35.13.090 Election method—Vote required—Proposition for assumption of indebtedness—Certification.** (1) The proposition for or against annexation or for or against annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan shall be deemed approved if a majority of the votes cast on that proposition are cast in favor of annexation or in favor of annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan.

(2) If a proposition for or against assumption of all or any portion of indebtedness was submitted to the registered voters, it shall be deemed approved if a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters of the territory proposed to be annexed voting on such proposition vote in favor thereof, and the number of registered voters voting on such proposition constitutes not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in such territory at the last preceding general election.

(3) If either or both propositions were approved by the registered voters, the county auditor shall on completion of the canvassing of the returns transmit to the county legislative authority and to the clerk of the city or town to which annexation is proposed a certificate of the election results, together with a certified

abstract of the vote showing the whole number who voted at the election, and the number of votes cast for annexation and the number cast against annexation or for annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan and the number cast against annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan.

(4) If a proposition for assumption of all or of any portion of indebtedness was submitted to the registered voters, the abstract shall include the number of votes cast for assumption of indebtedness and the number of votes cast against assumption of indebtedness, together with a statement of the total number of votes cast in such territory at the last preceding general election. [2022 c 26 s 6; 2015 c 53 s 26; 1996 c 286 s 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 8; 1967 c 73 s 11; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.090. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 16; prior: 1907 c 245 s 4, part; RRS s 8899, part.]

**RCW 35.13.095 Election method—Vote required for annexation with assumption of indebtedness—Without assumption of indebtedness.** A city or town may cause a proposition authorizing an area to be annexed to the city or town to be submitted to the qualified voters of the area proposed to be annexed in the same ballot proposition as the question to authorize an assumption of indebtedness. If the measures are combined, the annexation and the assumption of indebtedness shall be authorized only if the proposition is approved by at least three-fifths of the voters of the area proposed to be annexed voting on the proposition, and the number of persons voting on the proposition constitutes not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the area at the last preceding general election.

However, the city or town council may adopt a resolution accepting the annexation, without the assumption of indebtedness, where the combined ballot proposition is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the proposition. [1989 c 84 s 22.]

**RCW 35.13.100 Election method—Ordinances required upon voter approval—Assumption of indebtedness.** If a proposition relating to annexation or annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan was submitted to the voters and such proposition was approved, the legislative body shall adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation or adopt ordinances providing for the annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan. If a proposition for annexation or annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan and a proposition for assumption of all or of any portion of indebtedness were both submitted, and were approved, the legislative body shall adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation or annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan including the assumption of all or of any portion of indebtedness. If the propositions were submitted and only the annexation or annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan proposition was approved, the legislative body may, if it deems it wise or expedient, adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation or adopt ordinances providing for the annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan. [2022 c 26 s 7; 1996 c 286 s 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 9; 1967 c 73 s 12; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.100. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 17; 1957 c 239 s 2; prior: 1907 c 245 s 5, part; RRS s 8900, part.]

**RCW 35.13.110 Election method—Effective date of annexation or annexation and comprehensive plan—Taxation of area annexed.** Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, the area annexed shall become a part of the city or town. Upon the date fixed in the ordinances of annexation and adoption of the comprehensive plan, the area annexed shall become a part of the city or town and property in the annexed area shall be subject to and a part of the comprehensive plan, as prepared and filed as provided for in RCW 35.13.177 and 35.13.178. All property within the territory hereafter annexed shall, if the proposition approved by the people so provides after June 12, 1957, be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing city is assessed and taxed to pay for all or any portion of the then outstanding indebtedness of the city or town to which said area is annexed, approved by the voters, contracted, or incurred prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation. [2022 c 26 s 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 10; 1967 c 73 s 13; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.110. Prior: 1957 c 239 s 3; prior: 1907 c 245 s 5, part; RRS s 8900, part.]

**RCW 35.13.120 Election method is alternative.** The method of annexation provided for in RCW 35.13.020 to 35.13.110 shall be an alternative method, not superseding any other. [1965 c 7 s 35.13.120. Prior: 1937 c 110 s 2; 1907 c 245 s 6; RRS s 8901.]

**RCW 35.13.125 Direct petition method—Commencement of proceedings—Notice to legislative body—Meeting—Assumption of indebtedness—Comprehensive plan.** Proceedings for the annexation of territory pursuant to RCW 35.13.130, 35.13.140, 35.13.150, 35.13.160 and 35.13.170 shall be commenced as provided in this section. Prior to the circulation of a petition for annexation, the initiating party or parties who, except as provided in RCW 28A.335.110, shall be either not less than ten percent of the residents of the area to be annexed or the owners of not less than ten percent in value, according to the assessed valuation for general taxation of the property for which annexation is petitioned, shall notify the legislative body of the city or town in writing of their intention to commence annexation proceedings. The legislative body shall set a date, not later than sixty days after the filing of the request, for a meeting with the initiating parties to determine whether the city or town will accept, reject, or geographically modify the proposed annexation, whether it shall require the simultaneous adoption of the comprehensive plan if such plan has been prepared and filed for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35.13.177 and 35.13.178, and whether it shall require the assumption of all or of any portion of existing city or town indebtedness by the area to be annexed. If the legislative body requires the assumption of all or of any portion of indebtedness and/or the adoption of a comprehensive plan, it shall record this action in its minutes and the petition for annexation shall be so drawn as to clearly indicate this fact. There shall be no appeal from the decision of the legislative body. [1990 c 33 s 565; 1989 c 351 s 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 11; 1971 c 69 s 1; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 10; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.125. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 18.]

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

**Severability—1971 c 69:** "If any provision of this 1971 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1971 c 69 s 5.]

**RCW 35.13.130 Direct petition method—Petition—Signers—Content.**  
A petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a city or town may be made in writing addressed to and filed with the legislative body of the municipality to which annexation is desired. Except where all the property sought to be annexed is property of a school district, and the school directors thereof file the petition for annexation as in RCW 28A.335.110 authorized, the petition must be signed by the owners of not less than sixty percent in value according to the assessed valuation for general taxation of the property for which annexation is petitioned: PROVIDED, That in cities and towns with populations greater than one hundred sixty thousand located east of the Cascade mountains, the owner of tax exempt property may sign an annexation petition and have the tax exempt property annexed into the city or town, but the value of the tax exempt property shall not be used in calculating the sufficiency of the required property owner signatures unless only tax exempt property is proposed to be annexed into the city or town. The petition shall set forth a description of the property according to government legal subdivisions or legal plats which is in compliance with RCW 35.02.170, and shall be accompanied by a plat which outlines the boundaries of the property sought to be annexed. If the legislative body has required the assumption of all or of any portion of city or town indebtedness by the area annexed, and/or the adoption of a comprehensive plan for the area to be annexed, these facts, together with a quotation of the minute entry of such requirement or requirements shall be set forth in the petition. [2009 c 60 s 3; 1990 c 33 s 566; 1981 c 66 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 12; 1971 c 69 s 2; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.130. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 19; 1945 c 128 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8908-12.]

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

**Severability—1981 c 66:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1981 c 66 s 2.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** See note following RCW 35.02.170.

**Severability—1971 c 69:** See note following RCW 35.13.125.

**RCW 35.13.140 Direct petition method—Notice of hearing.**  
Whenever a petition for annexation is filed with the city or town

council, or commission in those cities having a commission form of government, which meets the requirements herein specified, of which fact satisfactory proof may be required by the council or commission, the council or commission may entertain the same, fix a date for a public hearing thereon and cause notice of the hearing to be published in one issue of a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town. The notice shall also be posted in three public places within the territory proposed for annexation, and shall specify the time and place of hearing and invite interested persons to appear and voice approval or disapproval of the annexation. The expense of publication and posting of the notice shall be borne by the signers of the petition. [1965 c 7 s 35.13.140. Prior: 1945 c 128 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8908-11.] [SLC-RO-8.]

**RCW 35.13.150 Direct petition method—Ordinance providing for annexation.** Following the hearing, the council or commission shall determine by ordinance whether annexation shall be made. Subject to RCW 35.02.170, they may annex all or any portion of the proposed area but may not include in the annexation any property not described in the petition. Upon passage of the ordinance a certified copy shall be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located. [1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.150. Prior: 1957 c 239 s 5; prior: 1945 c 128 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8908-13, part.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** See note following RCW 35.02.170.

**RCW 35.13.160 Direct petition method—Effective date of annexation or annexation and comprehensive plan—Assessment, taxation of territory annexed.** Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation the area annexed shall become part of the city or town. All property within the territory hereafter annexed shall, if the annexation petition so provided, be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing city or town is assessed and taxed to pay for all or of any portion of the then outstanding indebtedness of the city or town to which said area is annexed, approved by the voters, contracted, or incurred prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation. If the annexation petition so provided, all property in the annexed area shall be subject to and a part of the comprehensive plan as prepared and filed as provided for in RCW 35.13.177 and 35.13.178. [1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 13; 1965 ex.s. c 88 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.160. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 20; 1957 c 239 s 6; prior: (i) 1945 c 128 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8908-13, part. (ii) 1945 c 128 s 5; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8908-14.]

**RCW 35.13.170 Direct petition method is alternative.** The method of annexation provided for in RCW 35.13.130 to 35.13.160 shall be an alternative method, not superseding any other. [1965 c 7 s 35.13.170. Prior: 1945 c 128 s 6; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8908-15.]



**RCW 35.13.171 Review board—Convening—Composition.** Within thirty days after the filing of a city's or town's annexation resolution pursuant to RCW 35.13.015 with the board of county commissioners or within thirty days after filing with the county commissioners a petition calling for an election on annexation, as provided in RCW 35.13.020, or within thirty days after approval by the legislative body of a city or town of a petition of property owners calling for annexation, as provided in RCW 35.13.130, the mayor of the city or town concerned that is not subject to the jurisdiction of a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW, shall convene a review board composed of the following persons:

(1) The mayor of the city or town initiating the annexation by resolution, or the mayor in the event of a twenty percent annexation petition pursuant to RCW 35.13.020, or an alternate designated by the mayor;

(2) The chair of the board of county commissioners of the county wherein the property to be annexed is situated, or an alternate designated by him or her;

(3) The director of commerce, or an alternate designated by the director;

Two additional members to be designated, one by the mayor of the annexing city, which member shall be a resident property owner of the city, and one by the chair of the county legislative authority, which member shall be a resident of and a property owner or a resident or a property owner if there be no resident property owner in the area proposed to be annexed, shall be added to the original membership and the full board thereafter convened upon call of the mayor: PROVIDED FURTHER, That three members of the board shall constitute a quorum. [2023 c 470 s 2015; 2009 c 549 s 2010; 1995 c 399 s 35; 1985 c 6 s 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.171. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 2.]

**Explanatory statement—2023 c 470:** See note following RCW 10.99.030.

**RCW 35.13.172 When review procedure may be dispensed with.** Whenever a petition is filed as provided in RCW 35.13.020 or a resolution is adopted by the city or town council, as provided in RCW 35.13.015, and the area proposed for annexation is less than ten acres and less than eight hundred thousand dollars in assessed valuation, such review procedures shall be dispensed with. [1981 c 260 s 6. Prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 14; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.172; prior: 1961 c 282 s 3.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.13.173 Determination by review board—Factors considered—Filing of findings.** The review board shall by majority action, within three months, determine whether the property proposed to be annexed is of such character that such annexation would be in the public interest and for the public welfare, and in the best interest of the city, county, and other political subdivisions affected. The governing officials of the city, county, and other political subdivisions of the

state shall assist the review board insofar as their offices can, and all relevant information and records shall be furnished by such offices to the review board. In making their determination the review board shall be guided, but not limited, by their findings with respect to the following factors:

- (1) The immediate and prospective populations of the area to be annexed;
- (2) The assessed valuation of the area to be annexed, and its relationship to population;
- (3) The history of and prospects for construction of improvements in the area to be annexed;
- (4) The needs and possibilities for geographical expansion of the city;
- (5) The present and anticipated need for governmental services in the area proposed to be annexed, including but not limited to water supply, sewage and garbage disposal, zoning, streets and alleys, curbs, sidewalks, police and fire protection, playgrounds, parks, and other municipal services, and transportation and drainage;
- (6) The relative capabilities of the city, county, and other political subdivisions to provide governmental services when the need arises;
- (7) The existence of special districts except school districts within the area proposed to be annexed, and the impact of annexation upon such districts;
- (8) The elimination of isolated unincorporated areas existing without adequate economical governmental services;
- (9) The immediate and potential revenues that would be derived by the city as a result of annexation, and their relation to the cost of providing service to the area.

Whether the review board determines for or against annexation, its reasons therefor, along with its findings on the specified factors and other material considerations shall:

- (1) In the case of a petition signed by registered voters calling for an election on annexation, be filed with the board of county commissioners;
- (2) In the case of a resolution of a city or town initiating annexation proceedings pursuant to RCW 35.13.015, be filed with the board of county commissioners.

Such findings need not include specific data on every point listed, but shall indicate that all factors were considered.

A favorable determination by the review board is an essential condition precedent to the annexation of territory to a city or town under either the resolution method pursuant to RCW 35.13.015, or under the twenty percent annexation petition under the election method. [1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.173. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 4.]

**RCW 35.13.174 Date for annexation election if review board's determination favorable.** Upon receipt by the board of county commissioners of a determination by a majority of the review board favoring annexation of the proposed area that has been initiated by resolution pursuant to RCW 35.13.015 by the city or town legislative body, the board of county commissioners, or the city or town legislative body for any city or town within an urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110, shall fix a date on which an annexation election shall be held, which date will be not less than

thirty days nor more than sixty days thereafter. [1997 c 429 s 38; 1973 1st ex.s. c 164 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.174. Prior: 1961 c 282 s 5.]

**Severability—1997 c 429:** See note following RCW 36.70A.3201.

*Petition method—Fixing date of annexation election: RCW 35.13.060.*

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.13.176 Territory subject to annexation proposal—When annexation by another city or incorporation allowed.** After a petition proposing an annexation by a city or town is filed with the city or town or the governing body of the city or town, or after a resolution proposing an annexation by a city or town has been adopted by the city or town governing body, no territory included in the proposed annexation may be annexed by another city or town or incorporated into a city or town unless: (1) The boundary review board modifies the boundaries of the proposed annexation and removes the territory; (2) the boundary review board or review board created under RCW 35.13.171 rejects the proposed annexation; or (3) the city or town governing body rejects the proposed annexation or voters defeat the ballot proposition authorizing the annexation. [1994 c 216 s 7.]

**Effective date—1994 c 216:** See note following RCW 35.02.015.

**RCW 35.13.177 Comprehensive land use plan for area to be annexed—Contents—Purpose.** The legislative body of any city or town acting through a planning commission created pursuant to chapter 35.63 RCW, or pursuant to its granted powers, may prepare a comprehensive land use plan to become effective upon the annexation of any area which might reasonably be expected to be annexed by the city or town at any future time. Such comprehensive plan, to the extent deemed reasonably necessary by the legislative body to be in the interest of health, safety, morals and the general welfare may provide, among other things, for:

(1) The regulation and restriction within the area to be annexed of the location and the use of buildings, structures and land for residence, trade, industrial and other purposes; the height, number of stories, size, construction and design of buildings and other structures; the size of yards, courts and other open spaces on the lot or tract; the density of population; the setback of buildings along highways, parks or public water frontages; and the subdivision and development of land;

(2) The division of the area to be annexed into districts or zones of any size or shape, and within such districts or zones regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or use of buildings, structures or land;

(3) The appointment of a board of adjustment, to make, in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards established by ordinance, special exceptions in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the comprehensive plan; and

(4) The time interval following an annexation during which the ordinance or resolution adopting any such plan or regulations, or any

part thereof must remain in effect before it may be amended, supplemented or modified by subsequent ordinance or resolution adopted by the annexing city or town.

All such regulations and restrictions shall be designed, among other things, to encourage the most appropriate use of land throughout the area to be annexed; to lessen traffic congestion and accidents; to secure safety from fire; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to promote a coordinated development of the unbuilt areas; to encourage the formation of neighborhood or community units; to secure an appropriate allotment of land area in new developments for all the requirements of community life; to conserve and restore natural beauty and other natural resources; to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage and other public uses and requirements. [1965 ex.s. c 88 s 1.]

**RCW 35.13.178 Comprehensive land use plan for area to be annexed—Hearings on proposed plan—Notice—Filing.** The legislative body of the city or town shall hold two or more public hearings, to be held at least thirty days apart, upon the proposed comprehensive plan, giving notice of the time and place thereof by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the annexing city or town and the area to be annexed. A copy of the ordinance or resolution adopting or embodying such proposed plan or any part thereof or any amendment thereto, duly certified as a true copy by the clerk of the annexing city or town, shall be filed with the county auditor. A like certified copy of any map or plat referred to or adopted by the ordinance or resolution shall likewise be filed with the county auditor. The auditor shall record the ordinance or resolution and keep on file the map or plat. [1965 ex.s. c 88 s 2.]

**RCW 35.13.180 Annexation for municipal purposes.** City and town councils of second-class cities and towns may by a majority vote annex new unincorporated territory outside the city or town limits, whether contiguous or noncontiguous for park, cemetery, or other municipal purposes when such territory is owned by the city or town or all of the owners of the real property in the territory give their written consent to the annexation. [1994 c 81 s 11; 1983 1st ex.s. c 68 s 1; 1981 c 332 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.180. Prior: 1907 c 228 s 4; RRS s 9202.]

**RCW 35.13.182 Annexation of unincorporated island of territory—Resolution—Notice of hearing.** (1) The legislative body of a city or town planning under chapter 36.70A RCW as of June 30, 1994, may resolve to annex territory to the city or town if there is, within the city or town, unincorporated territory containing residential property owners within the same county and within the same urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110 as the city or town:

(a) Containing less than one hundred acres and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to the city or town; or

(b) Of any size and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of the area contiguous to the city if the area existed before June 30, 1994.

(2) The resolution shall describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed, state the number of voters residing in the area as nearly as may be, and set a date for a public hearing on the resolution for annexation. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication of the resolution at least once a week for two weeks before the date of the hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the city or town and one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed.

(3) For purposes of subsection (1)(b) of this section, territory bounded by a river, lake, or other body of water is considered contiguous to a city that is also bounded by the same river, lake, or other body of water. [1998 c 286 s 1; 1997 c 429 s 37.]

**Severability—1997 c 429:** See note following RCW 36.70A.3201.

**RCW 35.13.1821 Annexation of unincorporated island of territory—Referendum—Election.** The annexation ordinance provided for in \*RCW 35.13.182 is subject to referendum for forty-five days after its passage. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the legislative body, signed by qualified electors in number equal to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the last general state election in the area to be annexed, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose according to RCW 29A.04.330. Notice of the election shall be given as provided in RCW 35.13.080 and the election shall be conducted as provided in the general election law. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation ordinance, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation. [2006 c 344 s 22; 1998 c 286 s 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 35.13.182 appears to be erroneous. RCW 35.13.1822 was apparently intended.

**Effective date—2006 c 344 ss 1-16 and 18-40:** See note following RCW 29A.04.311.

**RCW 35.13.1822 Annexation of unincorporated island of territory—Notice, hearing.** On the date set for hearing as provided in RCW 35.13.182(2), residents or property owners of the area included in the resolution for annexation shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard. The legislative body may provide by ordinance for annexation of the territory described in the resolution, but the effective date of the ordinance shall be not less than forty-five days after the passage thereof. The legislative body shall cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for

two weeks subsequent to passage of the ordinance, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the city and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed. If the annexation ordinance provides for assumption of indebtedness or adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, the notice shall include a statement of such requirements. [1998 c 286 s 3.]

**RCW 35.13.185 Annexation of federal areas by first-class city.**

Any unincorporated area contiguous to a first-class city may be annexed thereto by an ordinance accepting a gift, grant, lease or cession of jurisdiction from the government of the United States of the right to occupy or control it. [1965 c 7 s 35.13.185. Prior: 1957 c 239 s 7.]

**RCW 35.13.190 Annexation of federal areas by second-class cities and towns.**

Any unincorporated area contiguous to a second-class city or town may be annexed thereto by an ordinance accepting a gift, grant, or lease from the government of the United States of the right to occupy, control, improve it or sublet it for commercial, manufacturing, or industrial purposes: PROVIDED, That this shall not apply to any territory more than four miles from the corporate limits existing before such annexation. [1994 c 81 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.190. Prior: 1915 c 13 s 1, part; RRS s 8906, part.]

**Validating—1915 c 13:** "All ordinances heretofore passed by the legislative authority of any such incorporated city for the purpose of accepting any gift, grant or lease of or annexing any territory as hereinabove provided are hereby validated." [1915 c 13 s 3.]

**RCW 35.13.200 Annexation of federal areas by second-class cities and towns—Annexation ordinance—Provisions.**

In the ordinance annexing territory pursuant to a gift, grant, or lease from the government of the United States, a second-class city or town may include such tide and shore lands as may be necessary or convenient for the use thereof, may include in the ordinance an acceptance of the terms and conditions attached to the gift, grant, or lease and may provide in the ordinance for the annexed territory to become a separate ward of the city or town or part or parts of adjacent wards. [1994 c 81 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.200. Prior: (i) 1915 c 13 s 1, part; RRS s 8906, part. (ii) 1915 c 13 s 2, part; RRS s 8907, part.]

**RCW 35.13.210 Annexation of federal areas by second-class cities and towns—Authority over annexed territory.**

A second-class city or town may cause territory annexed pursuant to a gift, grant, or lease of the government of the United States to be surveyed, subdivided and platted into lots, blocks, or tracts and lay out, reserve for public use, and improve streets, roads, alleys, slips, and other public places. It may grant or sublet any lot, block, or tract therein for commercial, manufacturing, or industrial purposes and reserve, receive and collect rents therefrom. It may expend the rents received therefrom in making and maintaining public improvements therein, and if any surplus remains at the end of any fiscal year, may transfer it

to the city's or town's current expense fund. [1994 c 81 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.210. Prior: 1915 c 13 s 2, part; RRS s 8907, part.]

**RCW 35.13.215 Annexation of fire districts—Transfer of employees.** (1) If any portion of a fire protection district is proposed for annexation to or incorporation into a city, code city, or town, both the fire protection district and the city, code city, or town shall jointly inform the employees of the fire protection district about hires, separations, terminations, and any other changes in employment that are a direct consequence of annexation or incorporations at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

(2) If any portion of a fire protection district is annexed to or incorporated into a city, code city or town, any employee of the fire protection district who (a) was at the time of such annexation or incorporation employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions which are to be performed by the city, code city or town fire department (b) will, as a direct consequence of annexation or incorporation, be separated from the employ of the fire protection district, and (c) can perform the duties and meet the minimum requirements of the position to be filled, then such employee may transfer employment to the civil service system of the city, code city or town fire department as provided for in this section and RCW 35.13.225 and 35.13.235.

(3) For purposes of this section and RCW 35.13.225 and 35.13.235, employee means an individual whose employment with a fire protection district has been terminated because the fire protection district was annexed by a city, code city or town for purposes of fire protection. [2009 c 60 s 4; 1986 c 254 s 7.]

**RCW 35.13.225 Annexation of fire districts—Transfer of employees—Rights and benefits.** (1) An eligible employee may transfer into the civil service system of the city, code city, or town fire department by filing a written request with the city, code city, or town civil service commission and by giving written notice of the request to the board of commissioners of the fire protection district. Upon receipt of the request by the civil service commission, the transfer of employment must be made. The needed employees shall be taken in order of seniority and the remaining employees who transfer as provided in this section and RCW 35.13.215 and 35.13.235 shall head the list for employment in the civil service system in order of their seniority, to the end that they shall be the first to be reemployed in the city, code city, or town fire department when appropriate positions become available: PROVIDED, That employees who are not immediately hired by the city, code city, or town shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period not to exceed thirty-six months unless a longer period is authorized by an agreement reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the annexing and annexed fire agencies and the annexing and annexed fire agencies.

(2) (a) Upon transfer, an employee is entitled to the employee rights, benefits, and privileges to which he or she would have been entitled as an employee of the fire protection district, including rights to:

(i) Compensation at least equal to the level of compensation at the time of transfer, unless the employee's rank and duties have been

reduced as a result of the transfer. If the transferring employee is placed in a position with reduced rank and duties, the employee's compensation may be adjusted, but the adjustment may not result in a decrease of greater than fifty percent of the difference between the employee's compensation before the transfer and the compensation level for the position that the employee is transferred to;

(ii) Retirement, vacation, sick leave, and any other accrued benefit;

(iii) Promotion and service time accrual; and

(iv) The length or terms of probationary periods, including no requirement for an additional probationary period if one had been completed before the transfer date.

(b) (a) of this subsection does not apply if upon transfer an agreement for different terms of transfer is reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the transferring employees and the participating fire protection jurisdictions.

(3) If upon transfer, the transferring employee receives the rights, benefits, and privileges established under subsection (2) (a) (i) through (iv) of this section, those rights, benefits, and privileges are subject to collective bargaining at the end of the current bargaining period for the jurisdiction to which the employee has transferred.

(4) Such bargaining must take into account the years of service the transferring employee accumulated before the transfer and must be treated as if those years of service occurred in the jurisdiction to which the employee has transferred. [2009 c 60 s 5; 1994 c 73 s 3; 1986 c 254 s 8.]

**Effective date—1994 c 73:** See note following RCW 35.10.365.

**RCW 35.13.235 Annexation of fire districts—Transfer of employees—Notice—Time limitation.** If any portion of a fire protection district is annexed to or incorporated into a city, code city or town, and as a result any employee is laid off who is eligible to transfer to the city, code city or town fire department under this section and RCW 35.13.215 and 35.13.225 the fire protection district shall notify the employee of the right to transfer and the employee shall have ninety days to transfer employment to the city, code city or town fire department. [1986 c 254 s 9.]

**RCW 35.13.238 Annexation of territory served by fire districts, interlocal agreement process—Annexation of fire districts, transfer of employees.** (1) (a) An annexation by a city or town that is proposing to annex territory served by one or more fire protection districts may be accomplished by ordinance after entering into an interlocal agreement as provided in chapter 39.34 RCW with the county and the fire protection district or districts that have jurisdiction over the territory proposed for annexation.

(b) A city or town proposing to annex territory shall initiate the interlocal agreement process by sending notice to the fire protection district representative and county representative stating the city's or town's interest to enter into an interlocal agreement negotiation process. The parties have forty-five days to respond in the affirmative or negative. A negative response must state the



reasons the parties do not wish to participate in an interlocal agreement negotiation. A failure to respond within the forty-five day period is deemed an affirmative response and the interlocal agreement negotiation process may proceed. The interlocal agreement process may not proceed if any negative responses are received within the forty-five day period.

(c) The interlocal agreement must describe the boundaries of the territory proposed for annexation and must be consistent with the boundaries identified in an ordinance describing the boundaries of the territory proposed for annexation and setting a date for a public hearing on the ordinance. If the boundaries of the territory proposed for annexation are agreed to by all parties, a notice of intention must be filed with the boundary review board created under RCW 36.93.030. However, the jurisdiction of the board may not be invoked as described in RCW 36.93.100 for annexations that are the subject of such agreement.

(2) An interlocal annexation agreement under this section must include the following:

(a) A statement of the goals of the agreement. Goals must include, but are not limited to:

(i) The transfer of revenues and assets between the fire protection districts and the city or town;

(ii) A consideration and discussion of the impact to the level of service of annexation on the unincorporated area, and an agreement that the impact on the ability of fire protection and emergency medical services within the incorporated area must not be negatively impacted at least through the budget cycle in which the annexation occurs;

(iii) A discussion with fire protection districts regarding the division of assets and its impact to citizens inside and outside the newly annexed area;

(iv) Community involvement, including an agreed upon schedule of public meetings in the area or areas proposed for annexation;

(v) Revenue sharing, if any;

(vi) Debt distribution;

(vii) Capital facilities obligations of the city, county, and fire protection districts;

(viii) An overall schedule or plan on the timing of any annexations covered under this agreement; and

(ix) A description of which of the annexing cities' development regulations will apply and be enforced in the area.

(b) The subject areas and policies and procedures the parties agree to undertake in annexations. Subject areas may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Roads and traffic impact mitigation;

(ii) Surface and stormwater management;

(iii) Coordination and timing of comprehensive plan and development regulation updates;

(iv) Outstanding bonds and special or improvement district assessments;

(v) Annexation procedures;

(vi) Distribution of debt and revenue sharing for annexation proposals, code enforcement, and inspection services;

(vii) Financial and administrative services; and

(viii) Consultation with other service providers, including water-sewer districts, if applicable.

(c) A term of at least five years, which may be extended by mutual agreement of the city or town, the county, and the fire protection district.

(3) If the fire protection district, annexing city or town, and county reach an agreement on the enumerated goals, or if only the annexing city or town and county reach an agreement on the enumerated goals, the city or town may adopt an annexation ordinance, but the annexation ordinance provided for in this section is subject to referendum for forty-five days after its passage, provided that no referendum shall be allowed for an annexation under this section if the fire protection district, annexing city or town, and the county reach agreement on an annexation for which a city or town has initiated the interlocal agreement process by sending notice to the fire protection district representative and county representative prior to July 28, 2013. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the legislative body of the city or town, signed by qualified electors in a number not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the last general state election in the area to be annexed, the question of annexation must be submitted to the voters of the area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose according to RCW 29A.04.330. Notice of the election must be given as provided in RCW 35.13.080, and the election must be conducted as provided in the general election laws under Title 29A RCW. The annexation must be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition to the annexation.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from, but excluding, the date of passage of the annexation ordinance, if a timely and sufficient referendum petition has not been filed, the area annexed becomes a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation.

(4) If any portion of a fire protection district is proposed for annexation to or incorporation into a city or town, both the fire protection district and the city or town shall jointly inform the employees of the fire protection district about hires, separations, terminations, and any other changes in employment that are a direct consequence of annexation or incorporation at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

(5) The needed employees shall be taken in order of seniority and the remaining employees who transfer as provided in this section and RCW 35.10.360 and 35.10.370 shall head the list for employment in the civil service system in order of their seniority, to the end that they shall be the first to be reemployed in the city or town fire department when appropriate positions become available. Employees who are not immediately hired by the city or town shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period not to exceed thirty-six months unless a longer period is authorized by an agreement reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the annexing and annexed fire agencies and the annexing and annexed fire agencies.

(6) (a) Upon transfer, an employee is entitled to the employee rights, benefits, and privileges to which he or she would have been entitled as an employee of the fire protection district, including rights to:

(i) Compensation at least equal to the level of compensation at the time of transfer, unless the employee's rank and duties have been reduced as a result of the transfer. If the transferring employee is placed in a position with reduced rank and duties, the employee's

compensation may be adjusted, but the adjustment may not result in a decrease of greater than fifty percent of the difference between the employee's compensation before the transfer and the compensation level for the position that the employee is transferred to;

(ii) Retirement, vacation, sick leave, and any other accrued benefit;

(iii) Promotion and service time accrual; and

(iv) The length or terms of probationary periods, including no requirement for an additional probationary period if one had been completed before the transfer date.

(b) (a) of this subsection does not apply if upon transfer an agreement for different terms of transfer is reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the transferring employees and the participating fire protection jurisdictions.

(7) If upon transfer, the transferring employee receives the rights, benefits, and privileges established under subsection (6) (a) (i) through (iv) of this section, those rights, benefits, and privileges are subject to collective bargaining at the end of the current bargaining period for the jurisdiction to which the employee has transferred.

(8) Such bargaining must take into account the years of service the transferring employee accumulated before the transfer and must be treated as if those years of service occurred in the jurisdiction to which the employee has transferred. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 27 s 3; 2009 c 60 s 7.]

**Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 27:** See note following RCW 35A.14.295.

**RCW 35.13.249 Annexation of fire districts—Ownership of assets of fire protection district—Outstanding indebtedness not affected.** When any portion of a fire protection district is annexed by or incorporated into a city or town, any outstanding indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, shall remain an obligation of the taxable property annexed or incorporated as if the annexation or incorporation had not occurred. [1965 c 7 s 35.13.249. Prior: 1963 c 231 s 5.]

**RCW 35.13.252 Fire protection and safety in proposed annexed territory—Report request.** Upon the written request of a fire protection district, cities and towns annexing territory under this chapter shall, prior to completing the annexation, issue a report regarding the likely effects that the annexation and any associated asset transfers may have upon the safety of residents within and outside the proposed annexation area. The report must address, but is not limited to, the provisions of fire protection and emergency medical services within and outside of the proposed annexation area. A fire protection district may only request a report under this section when at least five percent of the assessed valuation of the fire protection district will be annexed. [2009 c 60 s 6.]

**RCW 35.13.256 Fire protection services—Benefit charge—Resolution—Exemptions—Definitions.** (1) A city or town that has annexed since 2006 or is conducting annexations of all or a part of a

fire protection district or fire protection districts may by resolution, for the enhancement of fire protection services, fix and impose a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property that are located in the city or town, to be paid by the owners of the properties: PROVIDED, That a benefit charge shall not apply to personal property and improvements to real property owned or used by: (a) Any recognized religious denomination or religious organization as, or including, a sanctuary or for purposes related to the bona fide religious ministries of the denomination or religious organization, including schools and educational facilities used for kindergarten, primary, or secondary educational purposes or for institutions of higher education and all grounds and buildings related thereto, but not including personal property and improvements to real property owned or used by any recognized religious denomination or religious organization for business operations, profit-making enterprises, or activities not including use of a sanctuary or related to kindergarten, primary, or secondary educational purposes or for institutions of higher education; or (b) any entity exempt from taxation under RCW 35.82.210, 84.36.030(3), or 84.36.560.

(2) A benefit charge imposed shall be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits to property resulting from the enhancement of services afforded by the city or town fire department. It is acceptable to apportion the benefit charge to the values of the properties as found by the county assessor or assessors modified generally in the proportion that fire insurance rates are reduced or entitled to be reduced as the result of providing the services. Any other method that reasonably apportions the benefit charges to the actual benefits resulting from the degree of protection, which may include but is not limited to the distance from regularly maintained fire protection equipment, the level of fire prevention services provided to the properties, or the need of the properties for specialized services, may be specified in the resolution and shall be subject to contest on the ground of unreasonable or capricious action or action in excess of the measurable benefits to the property resulting from services afforded by the city or town fire department. The city or town may determine that certain properties or types or classes of properties are not receiving measurable benefits based on criteria they establish by resolution. A benefit charge authorized by this section shall not be applicable to the personal property or improvements to real property of any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, organization, or association maintaining a fire department and whose fire protection and training system has been accepted by a fire insurance underwriter maintaining a fire protection engineering and inspection service authorized by the state insurance commissioner to do business in this state, but such property may be protected by the city or town under a contractual agreement. For administrative purposes, the benefit charge imposed on any individual property may be compiled into a single charge, provided that the city or town, upon request of the property owner, provide an itemized list of charges for each measurable benefit included in the charge.

(3) The resolution establishing benefit charges shall specify, by legal geographical areas or other specific designations, the charge to apply to each property by location, type, or other designation, or other information that is necessary to the proper computation of the benefit charge to be charged to each property owner subject to the resolution. The county assessor of each county shall determine and identify the personal properties and improvements to real property

which are subject to a benefit charge in each city or town and shall furnish and deliver to the county treasurer of that county a listing of the properties with information describing the location, legal description, and address of the person to whom the statement of benefit charges is to be mailed, the name of the owner, and the value of the property and improvements, together with the benefit charge to apply to each. These benefit charges shall be certified to the county treasurer for collection in the same manner that is used for the collection of fire protection assessments for forestlands protected by the department of natural resources under RCW 76.04.610 and the same penalties and provisions for collection shall apply.

(4) Each city and town shall contract, prior to the imposition of a benefit charge, for the administration and collection of the benefit charge by each county treasurer, who shall deduct a percent, as provided by contract to reimburse the county for expenses incurred by the county assessor and county treasurer in the administration of the resolution and this section. The county treasurer shall make distributions each year, as the charges are collected, in the amount of the benefit charges imposed on behalf of the city or town, less the deduction provided for in the contract.

(5) Any benefit charge authorized by this section shall not be effective unless a proposition to impose the benefit charge is approved by a sixty percent majority of the voters of the city or town voting at a general election or at a special election called by the city or town for that purpose, held within the city or town. An election held pursuant to this section shall be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the first such charge is to be assessed: PROVIDED, That a benefit charge approved at an election shall not remain in effect for a period of more than six years nor more than the number of years authorized by the voters if fewer than six years unless subsequently reapproved by the voters.

(6) The ballot shall be submitted so as to enable the voters favoring the authorization of a benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed thereto to vote "No," and the ballot shall be:

"Shall . . . . . be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for . . . . (insert number of years not to exceed six) years, not to exceed an amount equal to . . . . (insert percentage amount not to exceed sixty) percent of its fire department operating budget?

YES NO  
□ □

(7) A city or town renewing the benefit charge may elect to use the following alternative ballot:

"Shall . . . . . be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges each year for . . . . (insert number of years not to exceed six) years, not to exceed an amount equal to . . . . (insert percentage amount not to exceed sixty) percent of its fire department operating budget?

YES NO  
□ □

(8) Not less than ten days nor more than six months before the election at which the proposition to impose the benefit charge is submitted as provided in this section, the city or town shall hold a public hearing specifically setting forth its proposal to impose benefit charges for the support of its legally authorized activities which will maintain or improve the services afforded in the city or town. A report of the public hearing shall be filed with the county treasurer of each county in which the property is located and be available for public inspection.

(9) (a) Prior to November 15th of each year the city or town shall hold a public hearing to review and establish the benefit charges for the subsequent year.

(b) All resolutions imposing or changing the benefit charges shall be filed with the county treasurer for each county in which the property is located, together with the record of each public hearing, before November 30th immediately preceding the year in which the benefit charges are to be collected on behalf of the city or town fire department.

(c) After the benefit charges have been established, the owners of the property subject to the charge shall be notified of the amount of the charge.

(10) After notice has been given to the property owners of the amount of the charge, the city or town imposing a benefit charge under this section shall form a review board for at least a two-week period and shall, upon complaint in writing of a party aggrieved owning property in the city or town, reduce the charge of a person who, in their opinion, has been charged too large a sum, to a sum or amount as they believe to be the true, fair, and just amount.

(11) A person who is receiving the exemption contained in RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389 shall be exempt from any legal obligation to pay a portion of the charge imposed by this section according to the following:

(a) A person who meets the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5) (a) and does not meet the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5) (b) (i) or (ii) shall be exempt from twenty-five percent of the charge.

(b) A person who meets the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5) (b) (i) shall be exempt from fifty percent of the charge.

(c) A person who meets the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5) (b) (ii) shall be exempt from seventy-five percent of the charge.

(12) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Personal property" includes every form of tangible personal property, including but not limited to, all goods, chattels, stock in trade, estates, or crops, except that the term "personal property" does not include any personal property used for farming, field crops, farm equipment, or livestock; and

(b) "Improvements to real property" does not include permanent growing crops, field improvements installed for the purpose of aiding the growth of permanent crops, or other field improvements normally not subject to damage by fire. [2012 c 47 s 1.]

**RCW 35.13.260 Determining population of annexed territory—  
Certificate—As basis for allocation of state funds—Revised  
certificate.** (1) Whenever any territory is annexed to a city or town,

a certificate as hereinafter provided must be submitted to the office of financial management, hereinafter in this section referred to as "the office," within thirty days of the effective date of the action specified in the relevant ordinance. After approval of the certificate, the office shall retain the original copy and post a copy to the office of financial management website that is accessible to the public. The office must notify the department of transportation and the city or town that the certificate has been approved and posted, and include a link to the website. The certificates must be in a form and contain information as prescribed by the office. A copy of the complete ordinance containing a legal description and a map showing specifically the boundaries of the annexed territory must be included with the certificate. The certificate shall be signed by the mayor and attested by the city clerk. Upon request, the office shall furnish certification forms to any city or town.

(2) (a) The resident population of the annexed territory shall be determined by, or under the direction of, the mayor of the city or town.

(b) If the annexing city or town has a population of ten thousand or less, the annexed territory consists entirely of one or more partial federal census blocks, or 2010 federal decennial census data has not been released within twelve months immediately prior to the date of annexation, the population determination shall consist of an actual enumeration of the population.

(c) In any circumstance, the city or town may choose to have the population determination of the entire annexed territory consist of an actual enumeration. However, if the city or town does not use actual enumeration for determining population, the annexed territory includes or consists of one or more complete federal census blocks, and 2010 federal decennial census data has been released within twelve months immediately prior to the date of annexation, the population determination shall consist of:

(i) Relevant 2010 federal decennial census data pertaining to the complete block or blocks, as such data has been updated by the most recent official population estimate released by the office pursuant to RCW 43.62.030;

(ii) An actual enumeration of any population located within the annexed territory but outside the complete federal census block or blocks; and

(iii) If the office, at least two weeks prior to the date of annexation, confirms the existence of a known census error within a complete federal census block and identifies a structure or complex listed in (c) (iii) (A) through (E) of this subsection (2) as a likely source of the error, an actual enumeration of one or more of the block's identified:

(A) Group quarters;

(B) Mobile home parks;

(C) Apartment buildings that are composed of at least fifty units and are certified for occupancy between January 1, 2010, and April 1, 2011;

(D) Missing subdivisions; and

(E) Closures of any of the categories in (c) (iii) (A) through (D) of this subsection.

(d) Whenever an actual enumeration is used, it shall be made in accordance with the practices and policies of, and subject to the approval of, the office.

(e) The city or town shall be responsible for the full cost of the population determination.

(3) The population shall be determined as of the effective date of annexation as specified in the relevant ordinance.

Until an annexation certificate is filed and approved as provided herein, such annexed territory shall not be considered by the office in determining the population of such city or town.

Upon approval of the annexation certificate, the office shall forward to each state official or department responsible for making allocations or payments to cities or towns, a revised certificate reflecting the increase in population due to such annexation. Upon and after the date of the commencement of the next quarterly period, the population determination indicated in such revised certificate shall be used as the basis for the allocation and payment of state funds to such city or town.

For the purposes of this section, each quarterly period shall commence on the first day of the months of January, April, July, and October. Whenever a revised certificate is forwarded by the office thirty days or less prior to the commencement of the next quarterly period, the population of the annexed territory shall not be considered until the commencement of the following quarterly period. [2024 c 30 s 1; 2011 c 342 s 1; 1979 c 151 s 25; 1975 1st ex.s. c 31 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 50 s 1; 1967 ex.s. c 42 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.260. Prior: 1961 c 51 s 1; 1957 c 175 s 14; prior: 1951 c 248 s 5, part.]

**Effective date—2011 c 342:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 12, 2011]." [2011 c 342 s 3.]

**Effective date—1967 ex.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 3.30.010.

**Savings—1967 ex.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 3.30.010.

*Allocations to cities and towns from motor vehicle fund: RCW 46.68.110.*

*Census to be conducted in decennial periods: State Constitution Art. 2 s 3.*

*Population determinations, office of financial management: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**RCW 35.13.270 Taxes collected in annexed territory—Notification of annexation.** (1) Whenever any territory is annexed to a city or town which is part of a road district of the county and road district taxes have been levied but not collected on any property within the annexed territory, the same shall when collected by the county treasurer be paid to the city or town and by the city or town placed in the city or town street fund; except that road district taxes that are delinquent before the date of annexation shall be paid to the county and placed in the county road fund.

(2) When territory that is part of a fire district is annexed to a city or town, the following apply:



(a) Fire district taxes on annexed property that were levied, but not collected, and were not delinquent at the time of the annexation shall, when collected, be paid to the annexing city or town at times required by the county, but no less frequently than by July 10th for collections through June 30th and January 10th for collections through December 31st following the annexation; and

(b) Fire district taxes on annexed property that were levied, but not collected, and were delinquent at the time of the annexation and the pro rata share of the current year levy budgeted for general obligation debt, when collected, shall be paid to the fire district.

(3) When territory that is part of a library district is annexed to a city or town, the following apply:

(a) Library district taxes on annexed property that were levied, but not collected, and were not delinquent at the time of the annexation shall, when collected, be paid to the annexing city or town at times required by the county, but no less frequently than by July 10th for collections through June 30th and January 10th for collections through December 31st following the annexation; and

(b) Library district taxes on annexed property that were levied, but not collected, and were delinquent at the time of the annexation and the pro rata share of the current year levy budgeted for general obligation debt, when collected, shall be paid to the library district.

(4) Subsections (1) through (3) of this section do not apply to any special assessments due in behalf of such property.

(5) If a city or town annexes property within a fire district or library district while any general obligation bond secured by the taxing authority of the district is outstanding, the bonded indebtedness of the fire district or library district remains an obligation of the taxable property annexed as if the annexation had not occurred.

(6) For each annexation by a city or town, the city or town must provide notification, by certified mail or electronic means, that includes a list of annexed parcel numbers and the street address to the county treasurer and assessor, to the light and power businesses and gas distribution businesses, and to the fire district and library district, as appropriate, at least sixty days before the effective date of the annexation. The county treasurer is only required to remit to the city or town those road taxes, fire district taxes, and library district taxes collected sixty days or more after receipt of the notification. The light and power businesses and gas distribution businesses are only required to remit to the city or town those utility taxes collected sixty days or more after receipt of the notification.

(7) (a) In counties that do not have a boundary review board, the city or town shall provide notification to the fire district or library district of the jurisdiction's resolution approving the annexation. The notification required under this subsection must:

(i) Be made by certified mail within seven days of the resolution approving the annexation; and

(ii) Include a description of the annexed area.

(b) In counties that have a boundary review board, the city or town shall provide notification of the proposed annexation to the fire district or library district simultaneously when notice of the proposed annexation is provided by the jurisdiction to the boundary review board under RCW 36.93.090.

(8) The provisions of this section regarding (a) the transfer of fire and library district property taxes and (b) city and town notifications to fire and library districts do not apply if the city or town has been annexed to and is within the fire or library district when the city or town approves a resolution to annex unincorporated county territory.

(9) An error or accidental omission by a city or town in the transmitted annexation notice required under this section may be corrected by the city or town by providing an amended notice to the county treasurer and assessor, the light and power businesses, the gas distribution businesses, and to the fire district and library district, as appropriate. The recipient of the amended notice is only required to remit applicable taxes to the city or town, in accordance with the corrected information, sixty days after its receipt of the amended notice.

(10) For purposes of this section, "electronic means" means an electronic format agreed to by both sender and recipient that conveys all applicable notification information. [2014 c 123 s 1; 2007 c 285 s 1; 2001 c 299 s 2; 1998 c 106 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.270. Prior: 1957 c 175 s 15; prior: 1951 c 248 s 5, part.]

**RCW 35.13.280 Cancellation, acquisition of franchise or permit for operation of public service business in territory annexed—Regulation of solid waste collection.** The annexation by any city or town of any territory pursuant to those provisions of chapter 35.10 RCW which relate to the annexation of a city or town to a city or town, or pursuant to the provisions of chapter 35.13 RCW shall cancel, as of the effective date of such annexation, any franchise or permit theretofore granted to any person, firm or corporation by the state of Washington, or by the governing body of such annexed territory, authorizing or otherwise permitting the operation of any public transportation, garbage disposal or other similar public service business or facility within the limits of the annexed territory, but the holder of any such franchise or permit canceled pursuant to this section shall be forthwith granted by the annexing city or town a franchise to continue such business within the annexed territory for a term of not less than seven years from the date of issuance thereof, and the annexing city or town, by franchise, permit or public operation, shall not extend similar or competing services to the annexed territory except upon a proper showing of the inability or refusal of such person, firm or corporation to adequately service said annexed territory at a reasonable price: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not preclude the purchase by the annexing city or town of said franchise, business, or facilities at an agreed or negotiated price, or from acquiring the same by condemnation upon payment of damages, including a reasonable amount for the loss of the franchise or permit. In the event that any person, firm or corporation whose franchise or permit has been canceled by the terms of this section shall suffer any measurable damages as a result of any annexation pursuant to the provisions of the laws above mentioned, such person, firm or corporation shall have a right of action against any city or town causing such damages.

After an annexation by a city or town, the utilities and transportation commission shall continue to regulate solid waste collection within the limits of the annexed territory until such time

as the city or town notifies the commission, in writing, of its decision to contract for solid waste collection or provide solid waste collection itself pursuant to RCW 81.77.020. In the event the annexing city or town at any time decides to contract for solid waste collection or decides to undertake solid waste collection itself, the holder of any such franchise or permit that is so canceled in whole or in part shall be forthwith granted by the annexing city or town a franchise to continue such business within the annexed territory for a term of not less than the remaining term of the original franchise or permit, or not less than seven years, whichever is the shorter period, and the city or town, by franchise, permit, or public operation, shall not extend similar or competing services to the annexed territory except upon a proper showing of the inability or refusal of such person, firm, or corporation to adequately service the annexed territory at a reasonable price. Upon the effective date specified by the city or town council's ordinance or resolution to have the city or town contract for solid waste collection or undertake solid waste collection itself, the transition period specified in this section begins to run. This section does not preclude the purchase by the annexing city or town of the franchise, business, or facilities at an agreed or negotiated price, or from acquiring the same by condemnation upon payment of damages, including a reasonable amount for the loss of the franchise or permit. In the event that any person, firm, or corporation whose franchise or permit has been canceled by the terms of this section suffers any measurable damages as a result of any annexation pursuant to this chapter, such person, firm, or corporation has a right of action against any city or town causing such damages. [1997 c 171 s 2; 1994 c 81 s 15; 1983 c 3 s 54; 1965 c 7 s 35.13.280. Prior: 1957 c 282 s 1.]

**Severability—1997 c 171:** See note following RCW 35.02.160.

**RCW 35.13.290 When right-of-way may be included—Use of right-of-way line as corporate boundary.** The boundaries of a city or town arising from an annexation of territory shall not include a portion of the right-of-way of any public street, road, or highway except where the boundary runs from one edge of the right-of-way to the other edge of the right-of-way. However, the right-of-way line of any public street, road, or highway, or any segment thereof, may be used to define a part of a corporate boundary in an annexation proceeding. [1989 c 84 s 8.]

**RCW 35.13.300 Boundary line adjustment—Purpose—Definition.** The purpose of RCW 35.13.300 through 35.13.330 is to establish a process for the adjustment of existing or proposed city boundary lines to avoid a situation where a common boundary line is or would be located within a right-of-way of a public street, road, or highway, or a situation where two cities are separated or would be separated by only the right-of-way of a public street, road, or highway, other than situations where a boundary line runs from one edge of the right-of-way to the other edge of the right-of-way.

As used in RCW 35.13.300 through 35.13.330, "city" includes every city or town in the state, including a code city operating under Title 35A RCW. [1989 c 84 s 12.]

**RCW 35.13.310 Boundary line adjustment—Agreement—Not subject to review.** (1) This section provides a method to adjust the boundary lines between two cities where the two cities share a common boundary within a right-of-way of a public street, road, or highway, or the two cities have a portion of their boundaries separated only by all or part of the right-of-way of a public street, road, or highway. However, this section does not apply to situations where a boundary line runs from one edge of the right-of-way to the other edge of the right-of-way.

(2) The councils of any two cities in a situation described in subsection (1) of this section may enter into an agreement to alter those portions of their boundaries that are necessary to eliminate this situation and create a partial common boundary on either edge of the right-of-way of the public street, road, or highway. An agreement made under this section shall include only boundary line adjustments between the two cities that are necessary to eliminate the situation described in subsection (1) of this section.

A boundary line adjustment under this section is not subject to potential review by a boundary review board. [1989 c 84 s 13.]

**RCW 35.13.320 Boundary line adjustment—When adjustment required—Limitation—Not subject to review.** The councils of any two cities that will be in a situation described in RCW 35.13.310(1) as the result of a proposed annexation by one of the cities may enter into an agreement to adjust those portions of the annexation proposal and the boundaries of the city that is not proposing the annexation. Such an agreement shall not be effective unless the annexation is made.

The annexation proposal shall proceed if such an agreement were not made, but any resulting boundaries between the two cities that meet the descriptions of RCW 35.13.310(1) shall be adjusted by agreement between the two cities within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of the annexation, or the county legislative authority of the county within which the right-of-way is located shall adjust the boundaries within a sixty-day period immediately following the one hundred eightieth day.

An agreement or adjustment made by a county under this section shall include only boundary line adjustments between the two cities that are necessary to eliminate the situation described in RCW 35.13.310(1).

A boundary line adjustment under this section is not subject to potential review by a boundary review board. [1989 c 84 s 14.]

**RCW 35.13.330 Boundary line adjustment—Agreement pending incorporation—Limitation—Not subject to review.** (1) The purpose of this section is to avoid situations arising where the boundaries of an existing city and a newly incorporated city would create a situation described in RCW 35.13.310(1).

(2) A boundary review board that reviews the boundaries of a proposed incorporation may enter into an agreement with the council of a city, that would be in a situation described in subsection (1) of this section as the result of a proposed incorporation of a city, to adjust the boundary line of the city and those of the city proposed to be incorporated to avoid this situation described in subsection (1) of this section if the incorporation were to be approved by the voters.

Such an agreement shall not be effective unless the incorporation occurs.

The incorporation proposal shall proceed if such an agreement were not made, but any resulting boundaries between the two cities that meet create a situation described in RCW 35.13.310(1) shall be adjusted by agreement between the two cities within one hundred eighty days of the official date of the incorporation, or the county legislative authority of the county within which the right-of-way is located shall adjust the boundaries within a sixty-day period immediately following the one hundred eightieth day.

An agreement or adjustment made by a county under this section shall include only boundary line adjustments between the two cities that are necessary to eliminate the situation described in RCW 35.13.310(1).

A boundary line adjustment under this section is not subject to potential review by a boundary review board. [1989 c 84 s 15.]

**RCW 35.13.340 Boundary line adjustment—Inclusion or exclusion of remaining portion of parcel—When subject to review—Definition.** The boundaries of a city shall be adjusted to include or exclude the remaining portion of a parcel of land located partially within and partially without \*of the boundaries of that city upon the governing body of the city adopting a resolution approving such an adjustment that was requested in a petition signed by the owner of the parcel. A boundary adjustment made pursuant to this section shall not be subject to potential review by the boundary review board of the county within which the parcel is located if the remaining portion of the parcel to be included or excluded from the city is located in the unincorporated area of the county and the adjustment is approved by resolution of the county legislative authority or in writing by a county official or employee of the county who is designated by ordinance of the county to make such approvals.

Where part of a single parcel of land is located within the boundaries of one city, and the remainder of the parcel is located within the boundaries of a second city that is located immediately adjacent to the first city, the boundaries of the two cities may be adjusted so that all of the parcel is located within either of the cities, if the adjustment was requested in a petition signed by the property owner and is approved by both cities. Approval by a city may be through either resolution of its city council, or in writing by an official or employee of the city who has been designated by ordinance of the city to make such approvals. Such an adjustment is not subject to potential review by the boundary review board of the county in which the parcel is located.

Whenever a portion of a public right-of-way is located on such a parcel, the boundary adjustment shall be made in such a manner as to include all or none of that portion of the public right-of-way within the boundaries of the city.

As used in this section, "city" shall include any city or town, including a code city. [1989 c 84 s 24.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The word "of" appears to be unnecessary.

**RCW 35.13.350 Providing annexation information to public.** A city or town can provide factual public information on the effects of a pending annexation proposed for the city or town. [1989 c 351 s 8.]

**RCW 35.13.360 Transfer of county sheriff's employees—Purpose.** It is the purpose of RCW 35.13.360 through 35.13.400 to require the lateral transfer of any qualified county sheriff's employee who, by reason of annexation or incorporation of an unincorporated area of a county, will or is likely to be laid off due to sheriff's department cutbacks resulting from the loss of the unincorporated law enforcement responsibility. [1993 c 189 s 2.]

**RCW 35.13.370 Transfer of county sheriff's employees—When authorized.** When any portion of an unincorporated area of a county is to be annexed or incorporated into a city, code city, or town, any employee of the sheriff's office of the county may transfer his or her employment to the police department of the city, code city, or town as provided in RCW 35.13.360 through 35.13.400 if the employee: (1) Was, at the time the annexation or incorporation occurred, employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions of the county sheriff's office; (2) will, as a direct consequence of the annexation or incorporation, be separated from the employ of the county; and (3) can perform the duties and meets the city's, code city's or town's minimum standards and qualifications of the position to be filled within their police department.

Nothing in this section or RCW 35.13.380 requires a city, code city, or town to accept the voluntary transfer of employment of a person who will not be laid off due to his or her seniority status. [1993 c 189 s 3.]

**RCW 35.13.380 Transfer of county sheriff's employees—Conditions, limitations.** (1) An eligible employee under RCW 35.13.370 may transfer into the civil service system for the police department by filing a written request with the civil service commission of the affected city, code city, or town and by giving written notice thereof to the legislative authority of the county. Upon receipt of such request by the civil service commission the transfer shall be made. The employee so transferring will: (a) Be on probation for the same period as are new employees in the same classification of the police department; (b) be eligible for promotion after completion of the probationary period in compliance with existing civil service rules pertaining to lateral transfers based upon combined service time; (c) receive a salary at least equal to that of other new employees in the same classification of the police department; and (d) in all other matters, such as sick leave and vacation, have, within the civil service system, all the rights, benefits, and privileges that the employee would have been entitled to had he or she been a member of the police department from the beginning of his or her employment with the county. The county is responsible for compensating an employee for benefits accrued while employed with the sheriff's office unless a different agreement is reached between the county and the city, code city, or town. No accrued benefits are transferable to the recipient agency unless the recipient agency agrees to accept the accrued

benefits. All benefits shall then accrue based on the combined seniority of each employee in the recipient agency. The county shall, upon receipt of such notice, transmit to the civil service commission a record of the employee's service with the county which shall be credited to the employee as a part of his or her period of employment in the police department. For purposes of layoffs by the city, code city, or town, only the time of service accrued with the city, code city, or town shall apply unless an agreement is reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the police department and sheriff's office employees and the police department and sheriff's office.

(2) Only as many of the transferring employees shall be placed upon the payroll of the police department as the city, code city, or town determines are needed to provide an adequate level of law enforcement service. The needed employees shall be taken in order of seniority and the remaining employees who transfer as provided in RCW 35.13.360 through 35.13.400 shall head the list of their respective class or job listing exclusive of rank in the civil service system in order of their seniority, so that they shall be the first to be employed in the police department as vacancies become available. Employees who are not immediately hired by the city, code city, or town shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period not to exceed thirty-six months unless a longer period is authorized by an agreement reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the police department and sheriff's office employees and the police department and sheriff's office. The county sheriff's office must rehire former employees who are placed on the city's reemployment list before it can hire anyone else to perform the same duties previously performed by these employees who were laid off.

(3) The thirty-six month period contained in subsection (2) of this section shall commence:

(a) On the effective date of the annexation in cases of annexation; and

(b) On the date when the city creates its own police department in cases of incorporation.

(4) The city, code city, or town shall retain the right to select the police chief regardless of seniority. [1993 c 189 s 4.]

**RCW 35.13.390 Transfer of county sheriff's employees—Rules.** In addition to its other duties prescribed by law, the civil service commission shall make rules necessary to provide for the orderly integration of employees of a county sheriff's office to the police department of the city, code city, or town pursuant to RCW 35.13.360 through 35.13.400. [1993 c 189 s 5.]

**RCW 35.13.400 Transfer of county sheriff's employees—Notification of right to transfer—Time for filing transfer request.** When any portion of an unincorporated area of a county is to be annexed or incorporated into a city, code city, or town and layoffs will result in the county sheriff's office, employees so affected shall be notified of their right to transfer. The affected employees shall have ninety days after the commencement of the thirty-six month period as specified in RCW 35.13.380(3) to file a request to transfer

their employment to the police department of the city, code city, or town under RCW 35.13.360 through 35.13.400. [1993 c 189 s 6.]

**RCW 35.13.410 Alternative direct petition method—Commencement of proceedings—Notice to legislative body—Meeting—Assumption of indebtedness—Comprehensive plan.** Proceedings for the annexation of territory pursuant to this section and RCW 35.13.420 shall be commenced as provided in this section. Before the circulation of a petition for annexation, the initiating party or parties who, except as provided in RCW 28A.335.110, shall be either not less than ten percent of the residents of the area to be annexed or the owners of not less than ten percent of the acreage for which annexation is petitioned, shall notify the legislative body of the city or town in writing of their intention to commence annexation proceedings. The legislative body shall set a date, not later than sixty days after the filing of the request, for a meeting with the initiating parties to determine whether the city or town will accept, reject, or geographically modify the proposed annexation, whether it shall require the simultaneous adoption of the comprehensive plan if such plan has been prepared and filed for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35.13.177 and 35.13.178, and whether it shall require the assumption of all or any portion of existing city or town indebtedness by the area to be annexed. If the legislative body requires the assumption of all or any portion of indebtedness and/or the adoption of a comprehensive plan, it shall record this action in its minutes and the petition for annexation shall be so drawn as to clearly indicate this fact. There shall be no appeal from the decision of the legislative body. [2003 c 331 s 2.]

**Intent—2003 c 331:** "The legislature recognizes that on March 14, 2002, the Washington state supreme court decided in *Grant County Fire Protection District No. 5 v. City of Moses Lake*, 145 Wn.2d 702 (2002), that the petition method of annexation authorized by RCW 35.13.125 through 35.13.160 and 35A.14.120 through 35A.14.150 is unconstitutional. The legislature also recognizes that on October 11, 2002, the Washington state supreme court granted a motion for reconsideration of this decision. The legislature intends to provide a new method of direct petition annexation that enables property owners and registered voters to participate in an annexation process without the constitutional defect identified by the court." [2003 c 331 s 1.]

**Severability—2003 c 331:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 c 331 s 14.]

**Effective date—2003 c 331:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 16, 2003]." [2003 c 331 s 15.]

**RCW 35.13.420 Alternative direct petition method—Petition—Signers—Content.** (1) A petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a city or town may be made in writing addressed to and filed with



the legislative body of the municipality to which annexation is desired. Except where all the property sought to be annexed is property of a school district, and the school directors thereof file the petition for annexation as in RCW 28A.335.110, the petition must be signed by the owners of a majority of the acreage for which annexation is petitioned and a majority of the registered voters residing in the area for which annexation is petitioned.

(2) If no residents exist within the area proposed for annexation, the petition must be signed by the owners of a majority of the acreage for which annexation is petitioned.

(3) The petition shall set forth a legal description of the property proposed to be annexed that complies with RCW 35.02.170, and shall be accompanied by a drawing that outlines the boundaries of the property sought to be annexed. If the legislative body has required the assumption of all or any portion of city or town indebtedness by the area annexed, and/or the adoption of a comprehensive plan for the area to be annexed, these facts, together with a quotation of the minute entry of such requirement or requirements, shall be set forth in the petition. [2003 c 331 s 3.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 331:** See notes following RCW 35.13.410.

**RCW 35.13.430 Alternative direct petition method—Notice of hearing.** When a petition for annexation is filed with the city or town council, or commission in those cities having a commission form of government, that meets the requirements of RCW 35.13.410, 35.13.420, and 35.21.005, of which fact satisfactory proof may be required by the council or commission, the council or commission may entertain the same, fix a date for a public hearing thereon and cause notice of the hearing to be published in one issue of a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town. The notice shall also be posted in three public places within the territory proposed for annexation, and shall specify the time and place of hearing and invite interested persons to appear and voice approval or disapproval of the annexation. The expense of publication and posting of the notice shall be borne by the signers of the petition. [2003 c 331 s 4.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 331:** See notes following RCW 35.13.410.

**RCW 35.13.440 Alternative direct petition method—Ordinance providing for annexation.** Following the hearing, the council or commission shall determine by ordinance whether annexation shall be made. Subject to the provisions of RCW 35.13.410, 35.13.460, and 35.21.005, they may annex all or any portion of the proposed area but may not include in the annexation any property not described in the petition. Upon passage of the ordinance a certified copy shall be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located. [2003 c 331 s 5.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 331:** See notes following RCW 35.13.410.

**RCW 35.13.450 Alternative direct petition method—Effective date of annexation and comprehensive plan—Assessment, taxation of territory annexed.** Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, the area annexed shall become part of the city or town. All property within the annexed territory shall, if the annexation petition so provided, be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing city or town is assessed and taxed to pay for all or of any portion of the then outstanding indebtedness of the city or town to which the area is annexed, approved by the voters, contracted, or incurred before, or existing at, the date of annexation. If the annexation petition so provided, all property in the annexed area is subject to and is a part of the comprehensive plan as prepared and filed as provided for in RCW 35.13.177 and 35.13.178. [2003 c 331 s 6.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 331:** See notes following RCW 35.13.410.

**RCW 35.13.460 Alternative direct petition method—Method is alternative.** The method of annexation provided for in RCW 35.13.410 through 35.13.450 is an alternative method, and does not supersede any other method. [2003 c 331 s 7.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 331:** See notes following RCW 35.13.410.

**RCW 35.13.470 Annexation of territory within urban growth areas—Interlocal agreement—Public hearing—Ordinance providing for annexation.** (1) The legislative body of a county, city, or town planning under chapter 36.70A RCW and subject to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.215 may initiate an annexation process for unincorporated territory by adopting a resolution commencing negotiations for an interlocal agreement as provided in chapter 39.34 RCW between a county and any city or town within the county. The territory proposed for annexation must meet the following criteria: (a) Be within the city or town urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110, and (b) at least 60 percent of the boundaries of the territory proposed for annexation must be contiguous to the annexing city or town or one or more cities or towns.

(2) If the territory proposed for annexation has been designated in an adopted county comprehensive plan as part of an urban growth area, urban service area, or potential annexation area for a specific city or town, or if the urban growth area territory proposed for annexation has been designated in a written agreement between a city or town and a county for annexation to a specific city or town, the designation or designations shall receive full consideration before a city or county may initiate the annexation process provided for in RCW 35.13.480.

(3) The agreement shall describe the boundaries of the territory to be annexed. A public hearing shall be held by each legislative body, separately or jointly, before the agreement is executed. Each legislative body holding a public hearing shall, separately or jointly, publish the agreement at least once a week for two weeks

before the date of the hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory proposed for annexation.

(4) If an interlocal agreement under this section is used for a sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.415, the agreement under this section must address the following:

(a) Balancing of annexations of commercial, industrial, and residential properties so that any potential loss or gain is considered and distributed fairly as determined by tax revenue;

(b) Development, ownership, and maintenance of infrastructure; and

(c) The potential for revenue-sharing agreements.

(5) Following adoption and execution of the agreement by both legislative bodies, the city or town legislative body shall adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation of the territory described in the agreement. The legislative body shall cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for two weeks subsequent to passage of the ordinance, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the city and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory to be annexed. If the annexation ordinance provides for assumption of indebtedness or adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, the notice shall include a statement of the requirements. Any territory to be annexed through an ordinance adopted under this section is annexed and becomes a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, which date may not be fewer than 45 days after adoption of the ordinance. [2023 c 351 s 1; 2003 c 299 s 1.]

**RCW 35.13.480 Annexation of territory within urban growth areas—County may initiate process with other cities or towns—Interlocal agreement—Public hearing—Ordinance—Referendum—Election, when necessary.**

(1) The legislative body of any county planning under chapter 36.70A RCW and subject to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.215 may initiate an annexation process with the legislative body of any other cities or towns that are contiguous to the territory proposed for annexation in RCW 35.13.470 if:

(a) The county legislative body initiated an annexation process as provided in RCW 35.13.470; and

(b) The affected city or town legislative body adopted a responsive resolution rejecting the proposed annexation or declined to create the requested interlocal agreement with the county; or

(c) More than one hundred eighty days have passed since adoption of a county resolution as provided for in RCW 35.13.470 and the parties have not adopted or executed an interlocal agreement providing for the annexation of unincorporated territory. The legislative body for either the county or an affected city or town may, however, pass a resolution extending the negotiation period for one or more six-month periods if a public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each extension.

(2) Any county initiating the process provided for in subsection (1) of this section must do so by adopting a resolution commencing negotiations for an interlocal agreement as provided in chapter 39.34 RCW between the county and any city or town within the county. The annexation area must be within an urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110 and at least sixty percent of the boundaries of the

territory to be annexed must be contiguous to one or more cities or towns.

(3) The agreement shall describe the boundaries of the territory to be annexed. A public hearing shall be held by each legislative body, separately or jointly, before the agreement is executed. Each legislative body holding a public hearing shall, separately or jointly, publish the agreement at least once a week for two weeks before the date of the hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory proposed for annexation.

(4) Following adoption and execution of the agreement by both legislative bodies, the city or town legislative body shall adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation. The legislative body shall cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for two weeks subsequent to passage of the ordinance, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the city and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory to be annexed. If the annexation ordinance provides for assumption of indebtedness or adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, the notice shall include a statement of the requirements. Any area to be annexed through an ordinance adopted under this section is annexed and becomes a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, which date may not be less than forty-five days after adoption of the ordinance.

(5) The annexation ordinances provided for in \*RCW 35.13.470(4) and subsection (4) of this section are subject to referendum for forty-five days after passage. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the legislative body, signed by registered voters in number equal to not less than fifteen percent of the votes cast in the last general state election in the area to be annexed, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose according to RCW 29A.04.330. Notice of the election shall be given as provided in RCW 35.13.080 and the election shall be conducted as provided in the general election law. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation ordinance, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation.

(6) If more than one city or town adopts interlocal agreements providing for annexation of the same unincorporated territory as provided by this section, an election shall be held in the area to be annexed pursuant to RCW 35.13.070 and 35.13.080. In addition to the provisions of RCW 35.13.070 and 35.13.080, the ballot shall also contain a separate proposition allowing voters to cast votes in favor of annexation to any one city or town participating in an interlocal agreement as provided by this section. If a majority of voters voting on the proposition vote against annexation, the proposition is defeated. If, however, a majority of voters voting in the election approve annexation, the area shall be annexed to the city or town receiving the highest number of votes among those cast in favor of annexation.

(7) Costs for an election required under subsection (6) of this section shall be borne by the county. [2006 c 344 s 23; 2003 c 299 s 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.13.470 was amended by 2023 c 351 s 1, changing subsection (4) to subsection (5).

**Effective date—2006 c 344 ss 1-16 and 18-40:** See note following RCW 29A.04.311.

**RCW 35.13.490 Annexation of territory used for an agricultural fair.** (1) Territory owned by a county and used for an agricultural fair as provided in chapter 15.76 RCW or chapter 36.37 RCW may only be annexed to a city or town through the method prescribed in this section.

(a) The legislative body of the city or town proposing the annexation must submit a request for annexation and a legal description of the subject territory to the legislative authority of the county within which the territory is located.

(b) Upon receipt of the request and description, the county legislative authority has thirty days to review the proposal and determine if the annexation proceedings will continue. As a condition of approval, the county legislative authority may modify the proposal, but it may not add territory that was not included in the request and description. Approval of the county legislative authority is a condition precedent to further proceedings upon the request and there is no appeal of the county legislative authority's decision.

(c) If the county legislative authority determines that the proceedings may continue, it must, within thirty days of the determination, fix a date for a public hearing on the proposal, and cause notice of the hearing to be published at least once a week for two weeks prior to the hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the territory proposed for annexation. The notice must also be posted in three public places within the subject territory, specify the time and place of the hearing, and invite interested persons to appear and voice approval or disapproval of the annexation. If the annexation proposal provides for assumption of indebtedness or adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, the notice must include a statement of these requirements.

(d) If, following the conclusion of the hearing, a majority of the county legislative authority deems the annexation proposal to be in the best interest of the county, it may adopt a resolution approving of the annexation.

(e) If, following the county legislative authority's adoption of the annexation approval resolution, the legislative body of the city or town proposing annexation determines to effect the annexation, it must do so by ordinance. The ordinance: (i) May only include territory approved for annexation in the resolution adopted under (d) of this subsection; and (ii) must not exclude territory approved for annexation in the resolution adopted under (d) of this subsection. Upon passage of the annexation ordinance, a certified copy must be filed with the applicable county legislative authority.

(2) Any territory annexed through an ordinance adopted under this section is annexed and becomes a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance. [2009 c 402 s 3.]

**Intent—2009 c 402:** "The legislature recognizes that agricultural fairs serve valuable educational, vocational, and recreational purposes that promote the public good and serve as showcases for an important sector of Washington's economy. The legislature also recognizes that counties provide territory for agricultural fairs and supporting services, thereby creating locales for economic and other beneficial activities. Washington's increasing population can, however, create significant annexation pressures that impact fairgrounds and surrounding lands.

In recognition of the many benefits of agricultural fairs and the importance of promoting effective annexation laws, the legislature intends to establish clear and logical procedures for the annexation of county-owned fairgrounds that are consistent with the long-standing requirement that these grounds may only be annexed with the consent of a majority of the county legislative authority." [2009 c 402 s 1.]

**RCW 35.13.500 Annexation of territory within regional transit authorities.** When territory is annexed under this chapter to a city located within the boundaries of a regional transit authority, the territory is simultaneously included within the boundaries of the authority and subject from the effective date of the annexation to all taxes and other liabilities and obligations applicable within the city with respect to the authority. The city must notify the authority of the annexation. [2010 c 19 s 1.]

**RCW 35.13.900 Application of chapter to annexations involving water or sewer service.** Nothing in this chapter precludes or otherwise applies to an annexation by a city or town of unincorporated territory as authorized by RCW 57.24.170, 57.24.190, and 57.24.210. [1996 c 230 s 1601; 1995 c 279 s 3.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Chapter 35.13A RCW**  
**WATER OR SEWER DISTRICTS—ASSUMPTION OF JURISDICTION**

**Sections**

- 35.13A.010 Definitions.
- 35.13A.020 Assumption authorized—Disposition of properties and rights—Outstanding indebtedness—Management and control.
- 35.13A.030 Assumption of control if sixty percent or more of area or valuation within city.
- 35.13A.040 Assumption of control if less than sixty percent of area or valuation within city.
- 35.13A.050 Territory containing facilities within or without city—Duties of city or district—Rates and charges—Assumption of responsibility—Outstanding indebtedness—Properties and rights.
- 35.13A.060 District in more than one city—Assumption of responsibilities—Duties of cities.
- 35.13A.070 Contracts.
- 35.13A.080 Dissolution of water district or sewer district.
- 35.13A.090 Employment and rights of district employees.
- 35.13A.100 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.
- 35.13A.111 Assumption of water-sewer district with fewer than two hundred fifty customers.
- 35.13A.115 Assumption resolution or ordinance—Referendum.
- 35.13A.120 Assumption resolution or ordinance—Effective date.

**RCW 35.13A.010 Definitions.** Whenever used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings:

(1) The words "district," "water district," and "sewer district" shall mean a "water-sewer district" as that term is used in Title 57 RCW.

(2) The word "city" shall mean a city or town of any class and shall also include any code city as defined in chapter 35A.01 RCW.

(3) The word "indebtedness" shall include general obligation, revenue, and special indebtedness and temporary, emergency, and interim loans. [1998 c 326 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 1.]

**Effective date—1998 c 326:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 3, 1998]." [1998 c 326 s 4.]

**RCW 35.13A.020 Assumption authorized—Disposition of properties and rights—Outstanding indebtedness—Management and control.** (1) Whenever all of the territory of a district is included within the corporate boundaries of a city, the city legislative body may adopt a resolution or ordinance to assume jurisdiction over all of the district.

(2) Upon the assumption, all real and personal property, franchises, rights, assets, taxes levied but not collected for the district for other than indebtedness, water, sewer, and drainage

facilities, and all other facilities and equipment of the district shall become the property of the city subject to all financial, statutory, or contractual obligations of the district for the security or performance of which the property may have been pledged. The city, in addition to its other powers, shall have the power to manage, control, maintain, and operate the property, facilities and equipment and to fix and collect service and other charges from owners and occupants of properties so served by the city, subject, however, to any outstanding indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, of the district payable from taxes, assessments, or revenues of any kind or nature and to any other contractual obligations of the district.

(3) The city may by resolution or ordinance of its legislative body, assume the obligation of paying such district indebtedness and of levying and of collecting or causing to be collected the district taxes, assessments, and utility rates and charges of any kind or nature to pay and secure the payment of the indebtedness, according to all of the terms, conditions and covenants incident to the indebtedness, and shall assume and perform all other outstanding contractual obligation of the district in accordance with all of their terms, conditions, and covenants. An assumption shall not be deemed to impair the obligation of any indebtedness or other contractual obligation. During the period until the outstanding indebtedness of the district has been discharged, the territory of the district and the owners and occupants of property therein, shall continue to be liable for its and their proportionate share of the indebtedness, including any outstanding assessments levied within any local improvement district or utility local improvement district thereof. The city shall assume the obligation of causing the payment of the district's indebtedness, collecting the district's taxes, assessments, and charges, and observing and performing the other district contractual obligations. The legislative body of the city shall act as the officers of the district for the purpose of certifying the amount of any property tax to be levied and collected therein, and causing service and other charges and assessments to be collected from the property or owners or occupants thereof, enforcing the collection and performing all other acts necessary to ensure performance of the district's contractual obligations in the same manner and by the same means as if the territory of the district had not been included within the boundaries of a city.

When a city assumes the obligation of paying the outstanding indebtedness, and if property taxes or assessments have been levied and service and other charges have accrued for this purpose but have not been collected by the district prior to the assumption, the same when collected shall belong and be paid to the city and be used by the city so far as necessary for payment of the indebtedness of the district existing and unpaid on the date the city assumes the indebtedness. Any funds received by the city which have been collected for the purpose of paying any bonded or other indebtedness of the district, shall be used for the purpose for which they were collected and for no other purpose. Any outstanding indebtedness shall be paid as provided in the terms, conditions, and covenants of the indebtedness. All funds of the district on deposit with the county treasurer at the time of title transfer shall be used by the city solely for the benefit of the assumed utility and shall not be transferred to or used for the benefit of the city's general fund. [1999 c 153 s 28; (2010 c 102 s 6 expired January 1, 2015); 1998 c 326 s 2; 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 2.]



**Application—2010 c 102:** "This act applies only to a city, as well as the water-sewer districts within the corporate boundaries of the city and potential annexation areas that, as of June 10, 2010:

(1) Has a population of between eighty thousand and eighty-five thousand as certified in the April 1, 2009, official population estimates listed by the office of financial management; and

(2) Is located in a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more." [2010 c 102 s 9.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 102:** "This act expires January 1, 2015." [2010 c 102 s 11.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**Effective date—1998 c 326:** See note following RCW 35.13A.010.

**RCW 35.13A.030 Assumption of control if sixty percent or more of area or valuation within city.** Whenever a portion of a district equal to at least sixty percent of the area or sixty percent of the assessed valuation of the real property lying within such district, is included within the corporate boundaries of a city, the city may assume by ordinance the full and complete management and control of that portion of the entire district not included within another city, whereupon the provisions of RCW 35.13A.020 shall be operative; or the city may proceed directly under the provisions of RCW 35.13A.050. [1999 c 153 s 29; (2010 c 102 s 7 expired January 1, 2015); 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 3.]

**Application—Expiration date—2010 c 102:** See notes following RCW 35.13A.020.

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.13A.040 Assumption of control if less than sixty percent of area or valuation within city.** Whenever the portion of a district included within the corporate boundaries of a city is less than sixty percent of the area of the district and less than sixty percent of the assessed valuation of the real property within the district, the city may elect to proceed under the provisions of RCW 35.13A.050. [1999 c 153 s 30; (2010 c 102 s 8 expired January 1, 2015); 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 4.]

**Application—Expiration date—2010 c 102:** See notes following RCW 35.13A.020.

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.13A.050 Territory containing facilities within or without city—Duties of city or district—Rates and charges—Assumption of responsibility—Outstanding indebtedness—Properties and rights.** When electing under RCW 35.13A.030 or 35.13A.040 to proceed under this

section, the city may assume, by ordinance, jurisdiction of the district's responsibilities, property, facilities and equipment within the corporate limits of the city: PROVIDED, That if on the effective date of such an ordinance the territory of the district included within the city contains any facilities serving or designed to serve any portion of the district outside the corporate limits of the city or if the territory lying within the district and outside the city contains any facilities serving or designed to serve territory included within the city (which facilities are hereafter in this section called the "serving facilities"), the city or district shall for the economically useful life of any such serving facilities make available sufficient capacity therein to serve the sewage or water requirements of such territory, to the extent that such facilities were designed to serve such territory at a rate charged to the municipality being served which is reasonable to all parties.

In the event a city proceeds under this section, the district may elect upon a favorable vote of a majority of all voters within the district voting upon such propositions to require the city to assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the district's property, facilities and equipment throughout the entire district and to pay the city a charge for such operation and maintenance which is reasonable under all of the circumstances.

A city acquiring property, facilities and equipment under the provisions of this section shall acquire such property, facilities and equipment, and fix and collect service and other charges from owners and occupants of properties served by the city, subject, to any contractual obligations of the district which relate to the property, facilities, or equipment so acquired by the city or which are secured by taxes, assessments or revenues from the territory of the district included within the city. In such cases, the property included within the city and the owners and occupants thereof shall continue to be liable for payment of its and their proportionate share of any outstanding district indebtedness. The district and its officers shall continue to levy taxes and assessments on and to collect service and other charges from such property, or owners or occupants thereof, to enforce such collections, and to perform all other acts necessary to insure performance of the district's contractual obligations in the same manner and by the same means as if the territory of the district had not been included within the boundaries of a city. [1971 ex.s. c 95 s 5.]

**RCW 35.13A.060 District in more than one city—Assumption of responsibilities—Duties of cities.** Whenever more than one city, in whole or in part, is included within a district, the city which has within its boundaries sixty percent or more of the area of the assessed valuation of the district (in this section referred to as the "principal city") may, with the approval of any other city containing part of such district, assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the district's property, facilities and equipment within such other city and make and enforce such charges for operation, maintenance and retirement of indebtedness as may be reasonable under all the circumstances.

Any other city having less than sixty percent in area or assessed valuation of such district, within its boundaries may install facilities and create local improvement districts or otherwise finance

the cost of installation of such facilities and if such facilities have been installed in accordance with reasonable standards fixed by the principal city, such other city may connect such facilities to the utility system of such district operated by the principal city upon providing for payment by the owners or occupants of properties served thereby, of such charges established by the principal city as may be reasonable under the circumstances. [1999 c 153 s 31; 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 6.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.13A.070 Contracts.** Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, one or more cities and one or more districts may, through their legislative authorities, authorize a contract with respect to the rights, powers, duties, and obligation of such cities, or districts with regard to the use and ownership of property, the providing of services, the maintenance and operation of facilities, allocation of cost, financing and construction of new facilities, application and use of assets, disposition of liabilities and debts, the performance of contractual obligations, and any other matters arising out of the inclusion, in whole or in part, of the district or districts within any city or cities, or the assumption by the city of jurisdiction of a district under \*RCW 35.13A.110. The contract may provide for the furnishing of services by any party thereto and the use of city or district facilities or real estate for such purpose, and may also provide for the time during which such district or districts may continue to exercise any rights, privileges, powers, and functions provided by law for such district or districts as if the district or districts or portions thereof were not included within a city or were not subject to an assumption of jurisdiction under \*RCW 35.13A.110, including but not by way of limitation, the right to promulgate rules and regulations, to levy and collect special assessments, rates, charges, service charges, and connection fees, to adopt and carry out the provisions of a comprehensive plan, and amendments thereto, for a system of improvements, and to issue general obligation bonds or revenue bonds in the manner provided by law. The contract may provide for the transfer to a city of district facilities, property, rights, and powers as provided in RCW 35.13A.030, 35.13A.050, and \*35.13A.110, whether or not sixty percent or any of the area or assessed valuation of real estate lying within the district or districts is included within such city. The contract may provide that any party thereto may authorize, issue, and sell revenue bonds to provide funds for new water or sewer improvements or to refund any water revenue, sewer revenue, or combined water and sewer revenue bonds outstanding of any city, or district which is a party to such contract if such refunding is deemed necessary, providing such refunding will not increase interest costs. The contract may provide that any party thereto may authorize and issue, in the manner provided by law, general obligation or revenue bonds of like amounts, terms, conditions, and covenants as the outstanding bonds of any other party to the contract, and such new bonds may be substituted or exchanged for such outstanding bonds. However, no such exchange or substitution shall be effected in such a manner as to

impair the obligation or security of any such outstanding bonds.  
[1997 c 426 s 2; 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.13A.110 expired December 31, 1998.

**RCW 35.13A.080 Dissolution of water district or sewer district.**

In any of the cases provided for in RCW 35.13A.020, 35.13A.030, 35.13A.050, and \*35.13A.110, and notwithstanding any other method of dissolution provided by law, dissolution proceedings may be initiated by either the city or the district, or both, when the legislative body of the city and the governing body of the district agree to, and petition for, dissolution of the district.

The petition for dissolution shall be signed by the chief administrative officer of the city and the district, upon authorization of the legislative body of the city and the governing body of the district, respectively and such petition shall be presented to the superior court of the county in which the city is situated.

If the petition is thus authorized by both the city and district, and title to the property, facilities, and equipment of the district has passed to the city pursuant to action taken under this chapter, all indebtedness and local improvement district or utility local improvement district assessments of the district have been discharged or assumed by and transferred to the city, and the petition contains a statement of the distribution of assets and liabilities mutually agreed upon by the city and the district and a copy of the agreement between such city and the district is attached thereto, a hearing shall not be required and the court shall, if the interests of all interested parties have been protected, enter an order dissolving the district.

In any of the cases provided for in RCW 35.13A.020, 35.13A.030, and \*35.13A.110, if the petition for an order of dissolution is signed on behalf of the city alone or the district alone, or there is no mutual agreement on the distribution of assets and liabilities, the superior court shall enter an order fixing a hearing date not less than sixty days from the day the petition is filed, and the clerk of the court of the county shall give notice of such hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the district once a week for three successive weeks and by posting in three public places in the district at least twenty-one days before the hearing. The notice shall set forth the filing of the petition, its purposes, and the date and place of hearing thereon.

After the hearing the court shall enter its order with respect to the dissolution of the district. If the court finds that such district should be dissolved and the functions performed by the city, the court shall provide for the transfer of assets and liabilities to the city. The court may provide for the dissolution of the district upon such conditions as the court may deem appropriate. A certified copy of the court order dissolving the district shall be filed with the county auditor. If the court does not dissolve the district, it shall state the reasons for declining to do so. [1997 c 426 s 3; 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.13A.110 expired December 31, 1998.

**RCW 35.13A.090 Employment and rights of district employees.**

Whenever a city acquires all of the facilities of a district, pursuant to this chapter, such a city shall offer to employ every full time employee of the district who is engaged in the operation of such a district's facilities on the date on which such city acquires the district facilities. When a city acquires any portion of the facilities of such a district, such a city shall offer to employ full time employees of the district as of the date of the acquisition of the facilities of the district who are not longer needed by the district.

Whenever a city employs a person who was employed immediately prior thereto by the district, arrangements shall be made:

(1) For the retention of all sick leave standing to the employee's credit in the plan of such district.

(2) For a vacation with pay during the first year of employment equivalent to that to which he or she would have been entitled if he or she had remained in the employment of the district. [2009 c 549 s 2011; 1999 c 153 s 32; 1971 ex.s. c 95 s 9.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.13A.100 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.** A city assuming responsibility for a water system that is not in compliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, and its agents and employees, are immune from lawsuits or causes of action, based on noncompliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, which predate the date of assuming responsibility and continue after the date of assuming responsibility, provided that the city has submitted and is complying with a plan and schedule of improvements approved by the department of health. This immunity shall expire on the earlier of the date the plan of improvements is completed or four years from the date of assuming responsibility. This immunity does not apply to intentional injuries, fraud, or bad faith. [1994 c 292 s 5.]

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.13A.111 Assumption of water-sewer district with fewer than two hundred fifty customers.** The board of commissioners of a water-sewer district, with fewer than two hundred fifty customers on July 24, 2005, and the city council of a code city with a population greater than one hundred thousand on July 24, 2005, may provide for assumption by the city of the district in accordance with RCW 35.13A.020, except as provided herein, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a contract executed in accordance with RCW 35.13A.070. None of the territory of the water-sewer district need be included within the territory of the city. The contract and assumption shall be approved by resolution of the board of commissioners and ordinance of the city council. If the water-sewer district has no indebtedness or monetary obligations on the date of assumption, the city shall use any surplus funds only for water services delivered to and water facilities constructed in the former territory of the district, unless provided otherwise in the contract. In connection with the assumption,

the water-sewer district or the city, or both, may provide for dissolution of the district pursuant to RCW 35.13A.080. [2005 c 43 s 1.]

**RCW 35.13A.115 Assumption resolution or ordinance—Referendum.**

(1) Except as provided otherwise by subsection (4) of this section, a resolution or ordinance adopted by the legislative body of a city to assume jurisdiction of all or part of a water-sewer district under this chapter is subject to a referendum. Any referendum petition to repeal the assumption resolution or ordinance must be filed with the county auditor within ten days of passage of the resolution or ordinance. Within ten days of the filing of a petition, the county auditor must confer with the petitioner concerning the form and style of the petition and issue a petition identification number. The ballot title must be prepared by the applicable city attorney in accordance with this section and RCW 29A.36.071, and the question posed to the voters must be written so that an affirmative answer to the question and a majority affirmative vote on the measure results in approval of the proposed assumption, and a negative answer to the question and a majority negative vote on the measure results in the assumption being barred. The petitioner must be notified of the identification number and ballot title within this ten-day period. After this notification, the petitioner has forty-five days in which to secure on petition forms the signatures of at least ten percent of the number of voters residing in the part of the water-sewer district subject to the assumption resolution or ordinance who voted in the most recent general election, and file the signed petitions with the county auditor. Each petition form must contain the ballot title and full text of the measure to be referred. The county auditor must verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petitions.

(2) If sufficient valid signatures on the petitions are properly submitted, the county auditor must submit the referendum measure to the registered voters residing in the part of the water-sewer district subject to the assumption resolution or ordinance in a general or special election no later than one hundred twenty days after the signed petition has been filed with the county auditor. Elections must be conducted in accordance with general election law, and the cost of the election must be borne by the city seeking approval to assume jurisdiction of all or part of the water-sewer district.

(3) When a referendum petition is filed with the county auditor, the assumption resolution or ordinance sought to be referred to the voters, and any proceedings before a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW, are suspended from taking effect. Such suspension terminates when: (a) There is a final determination of insufficiency or untimeliness of the referendum petition; or (b) the assumption resolution or ordinance so referred is approved by the voters at a referendum election.

(4) If a city legislative authority assumes jurisdiction of all or part of a water-sewer district through a contract with a water-sewer district, or through an interlocal agreement with a water-sewer district under chapter 39.34 RCW, the provisions of this section do not apply. [2015 c 172 s 1.]

**RCW 35.13A.120 Assumption resolution or ordinance—Effective date.** A resolution or ordinance adopted by a city in accordance with this chapter to assume jurisdiction of all or part of a district may not take effect until ninety or more days after its adoption. [2015 c 172 s 2.]

**Chapter 35.16 RCW  
REDUCTION OF CITY LIMITS**

**Sections**

- 35.16.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 35.16.010 Petition, resolution for election.
- 35.16.030 Canvassing the returns—Abstract of vote.
- 35.16.040 Ordinance to reduce boundaries.
- 35.16.050 Recording of ordinance and plat on effective date of reduction.
- 35.16.060 Effect of exclusion as to liability for indebtedness.
- 35.16.070 Previously granted franchises in excluded territory.

**RCW 35.16.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 35.16 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 29.]

**RCW 35.16.010 Petition, resolution for election.** Upon the filing of a petition which is sufficient as determined by RCW 35A.01.040 requesting the exclusion from the boundaries of a city or town of an area described by metes and bounds or by reference to a recorded plat or government survey, signed by qualified voters of the city or town equal in number to not less than ten percent of the number of voters voting at the last general municipal election, the city or town legislative body shall submit the question to the voters. As an alternate method, the legislative body of the city or town may by resolution submit a proposal to the voters for excluding such a described area from the boundaries of the city or town. The question shall be submitted at the next general municipal election if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days or at a special election called for that purpose not less than ninety days nor more than one hundred eighty days after the certification of sufficiency of the petition or the passage of the resolution. The petition or resolution shall set out and describe the territory to be excluded from the city or town, together with the boundaries of the city or town as it will exist after such change is made. [1994 c 273 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.16.010. Prior: (i) 1895 c 93 s 1, part; RRS s 8902, part. (ii) 1895 c 93 s 4, part; RRS s 8905, part.]

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.16.030 Canvassing the returns—Abstract of vote.** The election returns shall be canvassed as provided in RCW 29A.60.010. If three-fifths of the votes cast on the proposition favor the reduction of the corporate limits, the legislative body of the city or town, by an order entered on its minutes, shall direct the clerk to make and transmit to the office of the secretary of state a certified abstract of the vote. The abstract shall show the total number of voters voting, the number of votes cast for reduction and the number of votes cast against reduction. [2015 c 53 s 27; 1994 c 273 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.16.030. Prior: 1895 c 93 s 1, part; RRS s 8902, part.]



*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of election—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.16.040 Ordinance to reduce boundaries.** Promptly after the filing of the abstract of votes with the office of the secretary of state, the legislative body of the city or town shall adopt an ordinance defining and fixing the corporate limits after excluding the area as determined by the election. The ordinance shall also describe the excluded territory by metes and bounds or by reference to a recorded plat or government survey and declare it no longer a part of the city or town. [1994 c 273 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.16.040. Prior: 1895 c 93 s 2; RRS s 8903.]

**RCW 35.16.050 Recording of ordinance and plat on effective date of reduction.** A certified copy of the ordinance defining the reduced city or town limits together with a map showing the corporate limits as altered shall be filed in accordance with RCW 29A.76.020 and recorded in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the city or town is situated, upon the effective date of the ordinance. The new boundaries of the city or town shall take effect immediately after they are filed and recorded with the county auditor. [2015 c 53 s 28; 1996 c 286 s 3; 1994 c 273 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.16.050. Prior: 1895 c 93 s 3; RRS s 8904.]

**RCW 35.16.060 Effect of exclusion as to liability for indebtedness.** The exclusion of an area from the boundaries of a city or town shall not exempt any real property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying any indebtedness of the city or town existing at the time of its exclusion, and the interest thereon. [1965 c 7 s 35.16.060. Prior: 1895 c 93 s 4, part; RRS s 8905, part.]

**RCW 35.16.070 Previously granted franchises in excluded territory.** In regard to franchises previously granted for operation of any public service business or facility within the territory excluded from a city or town by proceedings under this chapter, the rights, obligations, and duties of the legislative body of the county or other political subdivision having jurisdiction over such territory and of the franchise holder shall be as provided in RCW 35.02.160, relating to inclusion of territory by an incorporation. [1994 c 273 s 6.]

**Chapter 35.17 RCW**  
**COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

**Sections**

- 35.17.010 Definition of commission form.
- 35.17.020 Elections—Terms of commissioners—Vacancies.
- 35.17.030 Laws applicable.
- 35.17.035 Second-class cities, parking meter revenue for revenue bonds.
- 35.17.040 Offices.
- 35.17.050 Meetings.
- 35.17.060 President.
- 35.17.070 Vice president.
- 35.17.080 Employees of commission.
- 35.17.090 Distribution of powers—Assignment of duties.
- 35.17.100 Bonds of commissioners and employees.
- 35.17.105 Clerk may take acknowledgments.
- 35.17.108 Salaries of mayor and commissioners.
- 35.17.120 Officers and employees—Salaries and wages.
- 35.17.130 Officers and employees—Creation—Removal—Changes in compensation.
- 35.17.150 Officers and employees—Passes, free services prohibited, exceptions—Penalty.
- 35.17.170 Financial statements—Monthly—Annual.
- 35.17.180 Legislative power—How exercised.
- 35.17.190 Legislative ordinances and resolutions.
- 35.17.200 Legislative—Appropriations of money.
- 35.17.210 Legislative—Street improvements.
- 35.17.220 Legislative—Franchises—Referendum.
- 35.17.230 Legislative—Ordinances—Time of going into effect.
- 35.17.240 Legislative—Referendum—Filing suspends ordinance.
- 35.17.250 Legislative—Referendum—Petitions and conduct of elections.
- 35.17.260 Legislative—Ordinances by initiative petition.
- 35.17.270 Legislative—Initiative petition—Submission procedures.
- 35.17.280 Legislative—Initiative petition—Checking by clerk.
- 35.17.290 Legislative—Initiative petition—Appeal to court.
- 35.17.300 Legislative—Initiative—Conduct of election.
- 35.17.310 Legislative—Initiative—Notice of election.
- 35.17.330 Legislative—Initiative—Effective date—Record.
- 35.17.340 Legislative—Initiative—Repeal or amendment.
- 35.17.350 Legislative—Initiative—Repeal or amendment—Method.
- 35.17.360 Legislative—Initiative—Repeal or amendment—Record.
- 35.17.370 Organization on commission form—Eligibility—Census.
- 35.17.380 Organization—Petition.
- 35.17.390 Organization—Ballots.
- 35.17.400 Organization—Election of officers—Term.
- 35.17.410 Organization—Effect on ordinances—Boundaries—Property.
- 35.17.420 Organization—Revision of appropriations.
- 35.17.430 Abandonment of commission form.
- 35.17.440 Abandonment—Method.
- 35.17.450 Abandonment—Conduct of election—Canvass.
- 35.17.460 Abandonment—Effect.

*Imposition or increase of business and occupation tax—Referendum procedure required—Exclusive procedure: RCW 35.21.706.*

*Population determinations: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**RCW 35.17.010 Definition of commission form.** The commission form of city government means a city government in which the legislative powers and duties are exercised by a commission of three, consisting of a mayor, a commissioner of finance and accounting, and a commissioner of streets and public improvements, and in which the executive and administrative powers and duties are distributed among the three departments as follows:

(1) Department of public safety of which the mayor shall be the superintendent;

(2) Department of finance and accounting of which the commissioner of finance and accounting shall be the superintendent;

(3) Department of streets and public improvements of which the commissioner of streets and public improvement shall be the superintendent. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.010. Prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 11, part; RRS s 9100, part. (ii) 1943 c 25 s 3, part; 1911 c 116 s 12, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9101, part.]

**RCW 35.17.020 Elections—Terms of commissioners—Vacancies.** (1) All regular elections in cities organized under the statutory commission form of government shall be held quadrennially in the odd-numbered years on the dates provided in RCW 29A.04.330. However, after commissioners are elected at the next general election occurring in 1995 or 1997, regular elections in cities organized under a statutory commission form of government shall be held biennially at municipal general elections.

(2) The commissioners shall be nominated and elected at large. Their terms shall be for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. However, at the next regular election of a city organized under a statutory commission form of government, the terms of office of commissioners shall occur with the person who is elected as a commissioner receiving the least number of votes being elected to a two-year term of office and the other two persons who are elected being elected to four-year terms of office. Thereafter, commissioners shall be elected to four-year terms of office.

(3) Vacancies on a commission shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [2013 c 11 s 87. Prior: 1994 c 223 s 10; 1994 c 119 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.020; prior: 1963 c 200 s 12; 1959 c 86 s 2; 1955 c 55 s 9; prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 5; RRS s 9094. (ii) 1943 c 25 s 1, part; 1911 c 116 s 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9092, part.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.17.030 Laws applicable.** Cities organized under the commission form have all the powers of cities of the second class and shall be governed by the statutes applicable to cities of that class to the extent to which they are appropriate and not in conflict with

provisions specifically applicable to cities organized under the commission form. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.030. Prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 11, part; RRS s 9100, part. (ii) 1911 c 116 s 4, part; RRS s 9093, part.]

*Second-class cities: Chapter 35.23 RCW.*

**RCW 35.17.035 Second-class cities, parking meter revenue for revenue bonds.** See RCW 35.23.454.

**RCW 35.17.040 Offices.** The commission shall have and maintain an office at the city hall, or such other place as the city may provide. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.040. Prior: 1955 c 309 s 3; prior: 1943 c 25 s 4, part; 1911 c 116 s 14, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9103, part.]

**RCW 35.17.050 Meetings.** Regular meetings of the commission shall be held on the second Monday after the election of the commissioners and thereafter at least once each week on a day to be fixed by ordinance. Special meetings may be called by the mayor or two commissioners. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.050. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 15, part; RRS s 9104, part.]

**RCW 35.17.060 President.** The mayor shall be president of the commission. He or she shall preside at its meetings when present and shall oversee all departments and recommend to the commission, action on all matters requiring attention in any department. [2009 c 549 s 2014; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.060. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 15, part; RRS s 9104, part.]

**RCW 35.17.070 Vice president.** The commissioner of finance and accounting shall be vice president of the commission. In the absence or inability of the mayor, he or she shall perform the duties of president. [2009 c 549 s 2015; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.070. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 15, part; RRS s 9104, part.]

**RCW 35.17.080 Employees of commission.** The commission shall appoint by a majority vote a city clerk and such other officers and employees as the commission may by ordinance provide. Any officer or employee appointed by the commission may be discharged at any time by vote of a majority of the members of the commission. Any commissioner may perform any duties pertaining to his or her department but without additional compensation therefor. [2009 c 549 s 2016; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.080. Prior: 1943 c 25 s 3, part; 1911 c 116 s 12, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9101, part.]

**RCW 35.17.090 Distribution of powers—Assignment of duties.** The commission by ordinance shall determine what powers and duties are to be performed in each department, shall prescribe the powers and duties of the various officers and employees and make such rules and

regulations for the efficient and economical conduct of the business of the city as it may deem necessary and proper. The commission may assign particular officers and employees to one or more departments and may require an officer or employee to perform duties in two or more departments. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.090. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 11, part; RRS s 9100, part.]

**RCW 35.17.100 Bonds of commissioners and employees.** Every member of the city commission, before qualifying, shall give a good and sufficient bond to the city in a sum equivalent to five times the amount of his or her annual salary, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his or her office. The bonds must be approved by a judge of the superior court for the county in which the city is located and filed with the clerk thereof. The commission, by resolution, may require any of its appointees to give bond to be fixed and approved by the commission and filed with the mayor. [2007 c 218 s 65; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.100. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 6; RRS s 9095.]

~~Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:~~ See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**RCW 35.17.105 Clerk may take acknowledgments.** The clerk or deputy clerk of any city having a commission form of government shall, without charge, take acknowledgments and administer oaths required by law on all claims and demands against the city. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.105.]

**RCW 35.17.108 Salaries of mayor and commissioners.** The annual salaries of the mayor and the commissioners of any city operating under a commission form of government shall be as fixed by charter or ordinance of said city. The power and authority conferred by this section shall be construed as in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of any such city. [1967 c 100 s 1.]

**RCW 35.17.120 Officers and employees—Salaries and wages.** All appointive officers and employees shall receive such compensation as the commission shall fix by ordinance, payable monthly or at such shorter periods as the commission may determine. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.120. Prior: 1943 c 25 s 4, part; 1911 c 116 s 14, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9103, part.]

**RCW 35.17.130 Officers and employees—Creation—Removal—Changes in compensation.** The commission shall have power from time to time to create, fill and discontinue offices and employments other than those herein prescribed, according to their judgment of the needs of the city; and may, by majority vote of all the members, remove any such officer or employees, except as otherwise provided for in this chapter; and may by resolution, or otherwise, prescribe, limit or change the compensation of such officers or employees. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.130. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 13; RRS s 9102.]

**RCW 35.17.150 Officers and employees—Passes, free services prohibited, exceptions—Penalty.** No officer or employee, elected or appointed, shall receive from any enterprise operating under a public franchise any frank, free ticket, or free service or receive any service upon terms more favorable than are granted to the public generally: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to free transportation furnished to police officers and firefighters in uniform nor to free service to city officials provided for in the franchise itself.

Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor. [2009 c 549 s 2017; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.150. Prior: 1961 c 268 s 11; prior: 1911 c 116 s 17, part; RRS s 9106, part.]

**RCW 35.17.170 Financial statements—Monthly—Annual.** The commission shall each month print in pamphlet form a detailed itemized statement of all receipts and expenses of the city and a summary of its proceedings during the preceding month and furnish copies thereof to the state library, the city library, the newspapers of the city, and to persons who apply therefor at the office of the city clerk. At the end of each year the commission shall cause a complete examination of all the books and accounts of the city to be made by competent accountants and shall publish the result of such examination to be made in the manner above provided for publication of statements of monthly expenditures. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.170. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 18; RRS s 9107.]

**RCW 35.17.180 Legislative power—How exercised.** Each member of the commission shall have the right to vote on all questions coming before the commission. Two members of the commission shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of at least two members shall be necessary to adopt any motion, resolution, ordinance, or course of action.

Every measure shall be reduced to writing and read before the vote is taken and upon every vote the yeas and nays shall be called and recorded. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.180. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 10, part; RRS s 9099, part.]

**RCW 35.17.190 Legislative ordinances and resolutions.** Every resolution and ordinance adopted by the commission shall be signed by the mayor or by two members of the commission and filed and recorded within five days of its passage. The mayor shall have no veto power. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.190. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 10, part; RRS s 9099, part.]

**RCW 35.17.200 Legislative—Appropriations of money.** No money shall be appropriated except by ordinance and every such ordinance complete in the form in which it is finally passed shall remain on file with the city clerk for public inspection at least one week before final passage. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.200. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 16, part; RRS s 9105, part.]

**RCW 35.17.210 Legislative—Street improvements.** Every ordinance or resolution ordering any street improvement or sewer complete in the form in which it is finally passed shall remain on file with the city clerk for public inspection at least one week before final passage. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.210. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 16, part; RRS s 9105, part.]

**RCW 35.17.220 Legislative—Franchises—Referendum.** No franchise or right to occupy or use the streets, highways, bridges or other public places shall be granted, renewed, or extended except by ordinance and every such ordinance complete in the form in which it is finally passed shall remain on file with the city clerk for at least one week before final passage and if the franchise or grant is for interurban or street railways, gas or waterworks, electric light or power plants, heating plants, telegraph or telephone systems or other public service utilities, the ordinance must be submitted to a vote of the people at a general or special election and approved by a majority of those voting thereon. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.220. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 16, part; RRS s 9105, part.]

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.17.230 Legislative—Ordinances—Time of going into effect.** Ordinances shall not go into effect before thirty days from the time of final passage and are subject to referendum during the interim except:

- (1) Ordinances initiated by petition;
- (2) Ordinances necessary for immediate preservation of public peace, health, and safety which contain a statement of urgency and are passed by unanimous vote of all the commissioners;
- (3) Ordinances providing for local improvement districts. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.230. Prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 22, part; RRS s 9111, part. (ii) 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**RCW 35.17.240 Legislative—Referendum—Filing suspends ordinance.** Upon the filing of a referendum petition praying therefor, the commission shall reconsider an ordinance subject to referendum and upon reconsideration shall defeat it in its entirety or shall submit it to a vote of the people. The operation of an ordinance so protested against shall be suspended until the referendum petition is finally found insufficient or until the ordinance protested against has received a majority of the votes cast thereon at the election. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.240. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 22, part; RRS s 9111, part.]

**RCW 35.17.250 Legislative—Referendum—Petitions and conduct of elections.** All provisions applicable to the character, form, and number of signatures required for an initiative petition, to the examination and certification thereof, and to the submission to the vote of the people of the ordinance proposed thereby, shall apply to a referendum petition and to the ordinance sought to be defeated thereby. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.250. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 22, part; RRS s 9111, part.]

**RCW 35.17.260 Legislative—Ordinances by initiative petition.**

Ordinances may be initiated by petition of registered voters of the city filed with the commission. If the petition accompanying the proposed ordinance is signed by the registered voters in the city equal in number to twenty-five percent of the votes cast for all candidates for mayor at the last preceding city election, and if it contains a request that, unless passed by the commission, the ordinance be submitted to a vote of the registered voters of the city, the commission shall either:

(1) Pass the proposed ordinance without alteration within twenty days after the county auditor's certificate of sufficiency has been received by the commission; or

(2) Immediately after the county auditor's certificate of sufficiency for the petition is received, cause to be called a special election to be held on the next election date, as provided in RCW 29A.04.330, provided that the resolution deadline for that election has not passed, for submission of the proposed ordinance without alteration, to a vote of the people unless a general election will occur within ninety days, in which event submission must be made on the general election ballot. [2015 c 146 s 5; 2015 c 53 s 29; 1996 c 286 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.260. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2015 c 53 s 29 and by 2015 c 146 s 5, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**RCW 35.17.270 Legislative—Initiative petition—Submission procedures.** The petitioner preparing an initiative petition for submission to the commission shall follow the procedures established in RCW 35.21.005. [1996 c 286 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.270. Prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part. (ii) 1911 c 116 s 20, part; RRS s 9109, part. (iii) 1911 c 116 s 24; RRS s 9113.]

**RCW 35.17.280 Legislative—Initiative petition—Checking by clerk.** Within ten days from the filing of a petition submitting a proposed ordinance the city clerk shall ascertain and append to the petition his or her certificate stating whether or not it is signed by a sufficient number of registered voters, using the registration records and returns of the preceding municipal election for his or her sources of information, and the commission shall allow him or her extra help for that purpose, if necessary. If the signatures are found by the clerk to be insufficient the petition may be amended in that respect within ten days from the date of the certificate. Within ten days after submission of the amended petition the clerk shall make an examination thereof and append his or her certificate thereto in the same manner as before. If the second certificate shall also show the number of signatures to be insufficient, the petition shall be returned to the person filing it. [2009 c 549 s 2018; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.280. Prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 20, part; RRS s 9109, part. (ii) 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]



**RCW 35.17.290 Legislative—Initiative petition—Appeal to court.**

If the clerk finds the petition insufficient or if the commission refuses either to pass an initiative ordinance or order an election thereon, any taxpayer may commence an action in the superior court against the city and procure a decree ordering an election to be held in the city for the purpose of voting upon the proposed ordinance if the court finds the petition to be sufficient. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.290. Prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 20, part; RRS s 9109, part. (ii) 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**RCW 35.17.300 Legislative—Initiative—Conduct of election.**

Publication of notice, the election, the canvass of the returns and declaration of the results, shall be conducted in all respects as are other city elections. Any number of proposed ordinances may be voted on at the same election, but there shall not be more than one special election for that purpose during any one six-month period. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.300. Prior: (i) 1911 c 116 s 20, part; RRS s 9109, part. (ii) 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.17.310 Legislative—Initiative—Notice of election.**

The city clerk shall cause any ordinance or proposition required to be submitted to the voters at an election to be published once in each of the daily newspapers in the city not less than five nor more than twenty days before the election, or if no daily newspaper is published in the city, publication shall be made in each of the weekly newspapers published therein. This publication shall be in addition to the notice required in RCW 29A.52.355. [2015 c 53 s 30; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.310. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**RCW 35.17.330 Legislative—Initiative—Effective date—Record.**

If the number of votes cast thereon favor the proposed ordinance, it shall become effective immediately and shall be made a part of the record of ordinances of the city. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.330. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**RCW 35.17.340 Legislative—Initiative—Repeal or amendment.**

Upon the adoption of an ordinance initiated by petition, the city clerk shall write on the margin of the record thereof "ordinance by petition No. . . . ," or "ordinance by vote of the people," and it cannot be repealed or amended except by a vote of the people. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.340. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**RCW 35.17.350 Legislative—Initiative—Repeal or amendment—**

**Method.** The commission may by means of an ordinance submit a proposition for the repeal or amendment of an ordinance, initiated by petition, by submitting it to a vote of the people at any general

election and if a majority of the votes cast upon the proposition favor it, the ordinance shall be repealed or amended accordingly.

A proposition of repeal or amendment must be published before the election thereon as is an ordinance initiated by petition when submitted to election. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.350. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**RCW 35.17.360 Legislative—Initiative—Repeal or amendment—**

**Record.** Upon the adoption of a proposition to repeal or amend an ordinance initiated by petition, the city clerk shall write upon the margin of the record of the ordinance "repealed (or amended) by ordinance No. . . . ," or "repealed (or amended) by vote of the people." [1965 c 7 s 35.17.360. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 21, part; RRS s 9110, part.]

**RCW 35.17.370 Organization on commission form—Eligibility—**

**Census.** Any city having a population of two thousand and less than thirty thousand may organize as a city under the commission form of government. The requisite population shall be determined by the last preceding state or federal census or the council may cause a census to be taken by one or more suitable persons, in which the full name of each person in the city shall be plainly written, the names alphabetically arranged and regularly numbered in a complete series, verified before an officer authorized to administer oaths and filed with the city clerk. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.370. Prior: 1927 c 210 s 1; 1911 c 116 s 1; RRS s 9090.]

*Census to be conducted in decennial periods: State Constitution Art. 2 s 3.*

*Determination of population: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**RCW 35.17.380 Organization—Petition.**

Upon petition of electors in any city equal in number to twenty-five percent of the votes cast for all candidates for mayor at the last preceding city election therein, the mayor by proclamation shall cause to be submitted the question of organizing the city under the commission form of government at a special election at a time specified therein and within sixty days after the filing of the petition. If the plan is not adopted at the special election called, it shall not be resubmitted to the voters of the city for adoption within two years thereafter. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.380. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 2, part; RRS s 9091, part.]

**RCW 35.17.390 Organization—Ballots.**

The proposition on the ballot shall be: "Shall the proposition to organize the city of (name of city) under the commission form of government be adopted?" followed by the words: "For organization as a city under commission form" and "against organization as a city under commission form." The election shall be conducted, the vote canvassed, and the result declared in the same manner as provided by law in respect to other city elections. If a majority of the votes cast are in favor thereof the city shall

proceed to elect a mayor and two commissioners. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.390. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 2, part; RRS s 9091, part.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.17.400 Organization—Election of officers—Term.** The first election of commissioners shall be held at the next special election that occurs at least sixty days after the election results are certified where the proposition to organize under the commission form was approved by city voters, and the commission first elected shall commence to serve as soon as they have been elected and have qualified and shall continue to serve until their successors have been elected and qualified and have assumed office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. The date of the second election for commissioners shall be in accordance with RCW 29A.04.330 such that the term of the first commissioners will be as near as possible to, but not in excess of, four years calculated from the first day in January in the year after the year in which the first commissioners were elected. [2015 c 53 s 31; 1994 c 223 s 11; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 18; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.400. Prior: 1963 c 200 s 13; 1955 c 55 s 10; prior: 1943 c 25 s 1, part; 1911 c 116 s 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9092, part.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.17.410 Organization—Effect on ordinances—Boundaries—Property.** All bylaws, ordinances and resolutions in force when a city organizes under the commission form shall remain in force until amended or repealed.

The boundaries of a city reorganized under the commission form shall not be changed thereby.

All rights and property vested in the city before reorganization under the commission form shall vest in the city as reorganized and no right or liability either in favor of or against it, existing at the time and no suit or prosecution shall be affected by the change. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.410. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 4, part; RRS s 9093, part.]

**RCW 35.17.420 Organization—Revision of appropriations.** If, at the beginning of the term of office of the first commission elected in a city organized under the commission form, the appropriations for the expenditures of the city for the current fiscal year have been made, the commission, by ordinance, may revise them. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.420. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 19; RRS s 9108.]

**RCW 35.17.430 Abandonment of commission form.** Any city which has operated under the commission form for more than six years may again reorganize as a noncommission city without changing its classification unless it desires to do so. [1965 ex.s. c 47 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.17.430. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 23, part; RRS s 9112, part.]

**RCW 35.17.440 Abandonment—Method.** Upon the filing of a petition praying therefor, signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the registered voters resident in the city, a special election shall be called at which the following proposition only shall be submitted: "Shall the city of (name of city) abandon its organization as a city under the commission form and become a city under the general laws governing cities of like population?" [1965 c 7 s 35.17.440. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 23, part; RRS s 9112, part.]

**RCW 35.17.450 Abandonment—Conduct of election—Canvass.** The sufficiency of the petition for the abandonment of the commission form of city government shall be determined, the election ordered and conducted, the returns canvassed and the results declared as required by the provisions applicable to the proceedings for the enactment of an ordinance by initiative petition to the extent to which they are appropriate. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.450. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 23, part; RRS s 9112, part.]

**RCW 35.17.460 Abandonment—Effect.** If a majority of the votes cast upon the proposition of abandoning the commission form of city government favor the proposition, the city shall be reorganized under general laws immediately upon the first election of city officers, which shall be held on the date of the next general city election of cities of its class. The change in form of government shall not affect the property, rights, or liabilities of the city. [1965 c 7 s 35.17.460. Prior: 1911 c 116 s 23, part; RRS s 9112, part.]

**Chapter 35.18 RCW  
COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN**

**Sections**

- 35.18.010 The council-manager plan.
- 35.18.020 Number of councilmembers—Wards, districts—Terms—  
Vacancies.
- 35.18.030 Laws applicable to council-manager cities—Civil service.
- 35.18.035 Second-class cities, parking meter revenue for revenue  
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- 35.18.040 City manager—Qualifications.
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- 35.18.080 City manager—Creation of departments.
- 35.18.090 City manager—Department heads—Authority.
- 35.18.100 City manager—Appointment of subordinates—Qualifications—  
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- 35.18.110 City manager—Interference by councilmembers.
- 35.18.120 City manager—Removal—Resolution and notice.
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employees.
- 35.18.285 Organization—First council may revise budget.
- 35.18.290 Abandonment of council-manager plan.
- 35.18.300 Abandonment—Method.
- 35.18.310 Abandonment—Special election necessary.
- 35.18.320 Abandonment—Effect.

**RCW 35.18.010 The council-manager plan.** Under the council-manager plan of city government, the councilmembers shall be the only elective officials. The council shall appoint an officer whose title shall be "city manager" who shall be the chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of city or town government. The city manager shall be responsible to the council for the proper administration of all affairs of the city or town. [2009 c 549 s 2019; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.010. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 2; prior: (i) 1943 c 271 s 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-17, part. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 12,

part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-21, part. (iii) 1949 c 84 s 2, part; 1943 c 271 s 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-26, part.]

**RCW 35.18.020 Number of councilmembers—Wards, districts—Terms—Vacancies.**

(1) The number of councilmembers in a city or town operating with a council-manager plan of government shall be based upon the latest population of the city or town that is determined by the office of financial management as follows:

(a) A city or town having not more than two thousand inhabitants, five councilmembers; and

(b) A city or town having more than two thousand, seven councilmembers.

(2) Except for the initial staggering of terms, councilmembers shall serve for four-year terms of office. All councilmembers shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. Councilmembers may be elected on a citywide or townwide basis, or from wards or districts, or any combination of these alternatives. Candidates shall run for specific positions. Wards or districts shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29A.76 RCW. Wards or districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a resident of the ward or district may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a councilmember of the ward or district; and (b) only voters of the ward or district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a councilmember of the ward or district. Voters of the entire city or town may vote at the general election to elect a councilmember of a ward or district, unless the city or town had prior to January 1, 1994, limited the voting in the general election for any or all council positions to only voters residing within the ward or district associated with the council positions. If a city or town had so limited the voting in the general election to only voters residing within the ward or district, then the city or town shall be authorized to continue to do so.

(3) When a city or town has qualified for an increase in the number of councilmembers from five to seven by virtue of the next succeeding population determination made by the office of financial management, two additional council positions shall be filled at the next municipal general election with the person elected to one of the new council positions receiving the greatest number of votes being elected for a four-year term of office and the person elected to the other additional council position being elected for a two-year term of office. The two additional councilmembers shall assume office immediately when qualified in accordance with RCW 29A.04.133, but the term of office shall be computed from the first day of January after the year in which they are elected. Their successors shall be elected to four-year terms of office.

Prior to the election of the two new councilmembers, the city or town council shall fill the additional positions by appointment not later than forty-five days following the release of the population determination, and each appointee shall hold office only until the new position is filled by election.

(4) When a city or town has qualified for a decrease in the number of councilmembers from seven to five by virtue of the next succeeding population determination made by the office of financial management, two council positions shall be eliminated at the next municipal general election if four council positions normally would be

filled at that election, or one council position shall be eliminated at each of the next two succeeding municipal general elections if three council positions normally would be filled at the first municipal general election after the population determination. The council shall by ordinance indicate which, if any, of the remaining positions shall be elected at large or from wards or districts.

(5) Vacancies on a council shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [2015 c 53 s 32; 1994 c 223 s 12; 1981 c 260 s 7. Prior: 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 19; 1979 c 151 s 26; 1956 c 7 s 35.18.020; prior: 1959 c 76 s 1; 1955 c 337 s 3; prior: (i) 1943 c 271 s 6; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-15. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-13, part.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

*Population determinations, office of financial management: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.18.030 Laws applicable to council-manager cities—Civil service.** A city or town organized under the council-manager plan shall have all the powers which cities of its class have and shall be governed by the statutes applicable to such cities to the extent to which they are appropriate and not in conflict with the provisions specifically applicable to cities organized under the council-manager plan.

Any city adopting a council-manager form of government may adopt any system of civil service which would be available to it under any other form of city government. Any state law relative to civil service in cities of the class of a city under the council-manager type of government shall be applicable thereto. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.030. Prior: (i) 1949 c 84 s 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-33. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-19, part. (iii) 1943 c 271 s 21; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-30.]

**RCW 35.18.035 Second-class cities, parking meter revenue for revenue bonds.** See RCW 35.23.454.

**RCW 35.18.040 City manager—Qualifications.** The city manager need not be a resident. He or she shall be chosen by the council solely on the basis of his or her executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his or her actual experience in, or his or her knowledge of, accepted practice in respect to the duties of his or her office. No person elected to membership on the council shall be eligible for appointment as city manager until one year has elapsed following the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected. [2009 c 549 s 2020; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.040. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 4; prior: (i) 1949 c 84 s 2, part; 1943 c 271 s 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-26, part. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 12, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-21, part.]

**RCW 35.18.050 City manager—Bond and oath.** Before entering upon the duties of his or her office the city manager shall take the official oath for the support of the government and the faithful performance of his or her duties and shall execute and file with the clerk of the council a bond in favor of the city or town in such sum as may be fixed by the council. [2009 c 549 s 2021; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.050. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 5; prior: 1943 c 271 s 12, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-21, part.]

**RCW 35.18.060 City manager—Authority.** The powers and duties of the city manager shall be:

(1) To have general supervision over the administrative affairs of the municipality;

(2) To appoint and remove at any time all department heads, officers, and employees of the city or town, except members of the council, and subject to the provisions of any applicable law, rule, or regulation relating to civil service: PROVIDED, That the council may provide for the appointment by the mayor, subject to confirmation by the council, of the city planning commission, and other advisory citizens' committees, commissions and boards advisory to the city council: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the city manager shall appoint the municipal judge to a term of four years, subject to confirmation by the council. The municipal judge may be removed only on conviction of malfeasance or misconduct in office, or because of physical or mental disability rendering him or her incapable of performing the duties of his or her office. The council may cause an audit to be made of any department or office of the city or town government and may select the persons to make it, without the advice or consent of the city manager;

(3) To attend all meetings of the council at which his or her attendance may be required by that body;

(4) To see that all laws and ordinances are faithfully executed, subject to the authority which the council may grant the mayor to maintain law and order in times of emergency;

(5) To recommend for adoption by the council such measures as he or she may deem necessary or expedient;

(6) To prepare and submit to the council such reports as may be required by that body or as he or she may deem it advisable to submit;

(7) To keep the council fully advised of the financial condition of the city or town and its future needs;

(8) To prepare and submit to the council a tentative budget for the fiscal year;

(9) To perform such other duties as the council may determine by ordinance or resolution. [2009 c 549 s 2022; 1987 c 3 s 5; 1965 ex.s. c 116 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.060. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 6; prior: (i) 1949 c 84 s 2, part; 1943 c 271 s 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-26, part. (ii) 1949 c 84 s 1; 1943 c 271 s 15; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-24. (iii) 1949 c 84 s 3, part; 1943 c 271 s 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-27, part.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**RCW 35.18.070 City manager—May serve two or more cities.**

Whether the city manager shall devote his or her full time to the affairs of one city or town shall be determined by the council. A city



manager may serve two or more cities or towns in that capacity at the same time. [2009 c 549 s 2023; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.070. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 13; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-22.]

**RCW 35.18.080 City manager—Creation of departments.** On recommendation of the city manager, the council may create such departments, offices and employments as may be found necessary and may determine the powers and duties of each department or office. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.080. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 16; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-25.]

**RCW 35.18.090 City manager—Department heads—Authority.** The city manager may authorize the head of a department or office responsible to him or her to appoint and remove subordinates in such department or office. Any officer or employee who may be appointed by the city manager, or by the head of a department or office, except one who holds his or her position subject to civil service, may be removed by the manager or other such appointing officer at any time. Subject to the provisions of RCW 35.18.060, the decision of the manager or other appointing officer, shall be final and there shall be no appeal therefrom to any other office, body, or court whatsoever. [2009 c 549 s 2024; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.090. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 7; prior: (i) 1949 c 84 s 2, part; 1943 c 271 s 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-26, part. (ii) 1949 c 84 s 3, part; 1943 c 271 s 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-27, part.]

**RCW 35.18.100 City manager—Appointment of subordinates—Qualifications—Terms.** Appointments made by or under the authority of the city manager shall be on the basis of executive and administrative ability and of the training and experience of the appointees in the work which they are to perform. Residence within the city or town shall not be a requirement. All such appointments shall be without definite term. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.100. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 8; prior: 1949 c 84 s 2, part; 1943 c 271 s 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9198-26, part.]

**RCW 35.18.110 City manager—Interference by councilmembers.** Neither the council, nor any of its committees or members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to, or his or her removal from, office by the city manager or any of his or her subordinates. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the council and its members shall deal with the administrative service solely through the manager and neither the council nor any committee or member thereof shall give orders to any subordinate of the city manager, either publicly or privately: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the council, while in open session, from fully and freely discussing with the city manager anything pertaining to appointments and removals of city officers and employees and city affairs. [2009 c 549 s 2025; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.110. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 14; prior: 1943 c 271 s 19, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-28, part.]

**RCW 35.18.120 City manager—Removal—Resolution and notice.** The city manager shall be appointed for an indefinite term and may be removed by a majority vote of the council.

At least thirty days before the effective date of his or her removal, the city manager must be furnished with a formal statement in the form of a resolution passed by a majority vote of the city council stating the council's intention to remove him or her and the reasons therefor. Upon passage of the resolution stating the council's intention to remove the manager, the council by a similar vote may suspend him or her from duty, but his or her pay shall continue until his or her removal becomes effective. [2009 c 549 s 2026; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.120. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 17; prior: 1943 c 271 s 14, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-23, part.]

**RCW 35.18.130 City manager—Removal—Reply and hearing.** The city manager may, within thirty days from the date of service upon him or her of a copy thereof, reply in writing to the resolution stating the council's intention to remove him or her. In the event no reply is timely filed, the resolution shall upon the thirty-first day from the date of such service, constitute the final resolution removing the manager, and his or her services shall terminate upon that day. If a reply shall be timely filed with its clerk, the council shall fix a time for a public hearing upon the question of the manager's removal and a final resolution removing the manager shall not be adopted until a public hearing has been had. The action of the council in removing the manager shall be final. [2009 c 549 s 2027; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.130. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 18; prior: 1943 c 271 s 14, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-23, part.]

**RCW 35.18.140 City manager—Substitute.** The council may designate a qualified administrative officer of the city or town to perform the duties of manager:

(1) Upon the adoption of the council-manager plan, pending the selection and appointment of a manager; or

(2) Upon the termination of the services of a manager, pending the selection and appointment of a new manager; or

(3) During the absence, disability, or suspension of the manager. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.140. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 19; prior: 1943 c 271 s 14, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-23, part.]

**RCW 35.18.150 Council—Eligibility.** Only a qualified elector of the city or town may be a member of the council and upon ceasing to be such, or upon being convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or of violating the provisions of RCW 35.18.110, he or she shall immediately forfeit his or her office. [2009 c 549 s 2028; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.150. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 15; prior: (i) 1943 c 271 s 19, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-28, part. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 9, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-18, part.]

**RCW 35.18.160 Council—Authority.** The council shall have all of the powers which inhere in the city or town not reserved to the people or vested in the city manager, including but not restricted to the

authority to adopt ordinances and resolutions. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.160. Prior: (i) 1943 c 271 s 9, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-18, part. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-19, part.]

**RCW 35.18.170 Council meetings.** The council shall meet at the times and places fixed by ordinance but must hold at least one regular meeting each month. The clerk shall call special meetings of the council upon request of the mayor or any two members. At all meetings of the city council, a majority of the councilmembers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may adjourn from time to time and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as may be prescribed by ordinance. Requests for special meetings shall state the subject to be considered and no other subject shall be considered at a special meeting.

All meetings of the council and of committees thereof shall be open to the public and the rules of the council shall provide that citizens of the city or town shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at any meetings in regard to any matter being considered thereat. [2009 c 549 s 2029; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.170. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 20; prior: 1943 c 271 s 7; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-16.]

**RCW 35.18.180 Council—Ordinances—Recording.** No ordinance, resolution, or order, including those granting a franchise or valuable privilege, shall have any validity or effect unless passed by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members of the city or town council. Every ordinance or resolution adopted shall be signed by the mayor or two members, filed with the clerk within two days and by him or her recorded. [2009 c 549 s 2030; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.180. Prior: 1959 c 76 s 3; 1943 c 271 s 11; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-20.]

**RCW 35.18.190 Mayor—Election—Vacancy.** Biennially at the first meeting of the new council the members thereof shall choose a chair from among their number who shall have the title of mayor. In addition to the powers conferred upon him or her as mayor, he or she shall continue to have all the rights, privileges and immunities of a member of the council. If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor, the members of the council at their next regular meeting shall select a mayor from among their number for the unexpired term. [2009 c 549 s 2031; 1969 c 101 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.190. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 9; prior: 1943 c 271 s 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-17, part.]

**RCW 35.18.200 Mayor—Duties.** The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council, and be recognized as the head of the city or town for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for purposes of military law.

He or she shall have no regular administrative duties, but in time of public danger or emergency, if so authorized by the council, shall take command of the police, maintain law, and enforce order. [2009 c 549 s 2032; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.200. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 10; prior: 1943 c 271 s 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-17, part.]

**RCW 35.18.210 Mayor pro tempore.** In case of the mayor's absence, a mayor pro tempore selected by the members of the council from among their number shall act as mayor during the continuance of the absence. [1969 c 101 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.210. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 11; prior: 1943 c 271 s 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-17, part.]

**RCW 35.18.220 Salaries.** Each member of the council shall receive such compensation as may be provided by law to cities of the class to which it belongs. The city manager and other officers or assistants shall receive such salary or compensation as the council shall fix by ordinance and shall be payable at such times as the council may determine. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.220. Prior: (i) 1943 c 271 s 9, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-18, part. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 20; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-29.]

**RCW 35.18.230 Organization on council-manager plan—Eligibility.** Any city or town having a population of less than thirty thousand may be organized as a council-manager city or town under this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.230. Prior: 1959 c 76 s 2; 1943 c 271 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-10.]

**RCW 35.18.240 Organization—Petition.** Petitions to reorganize a city or town on the council-manager plan must be signed by registered voters resident therein equal in number to at least twenty percent of the votes cast for all candidates for mayor at the last preceding municipal election. In addition to the signature and residence addresses of the petitioners thereon, a petition must contain an affidavit stating the number of signers thereon at the time the affidavit is made.

Petitions containing the required number of signatures shall be accepted by the city or town clerk as prima facie valid until their invalidity has been proved.

A variation on such petitions between the signatures on the petition and that on the voter's permanent registration caused by the substitution of initials instead of the first or middle names or both shall not invalidate the signature on the petition if the surname and handwriting are the same. Signatures, including the original, of any voter who has signed such petitions two or more times shall be stricken. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.240. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 22; prior: (i) 1943 c 271 s 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-11, part. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 5; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-14.]

**RCW 35.18.250 Organization—Election procedure.** Upon the filing of a petition for the adoption of the council-manager plan of government, or upon resolution of the council to that effect, the mayor, only after the petition has been found to be valid, by proclamation issued within ten days after the filing of the petition or the resolution with the clerk, shall cause the question to be submitted at a special election to be held at a time specified in the proclamation, which shall be as soon as possible after the sufficiency of the petition has been determined or after the said resolution of the council has been enacted, but in no event shall said special

election be held during the ninety day period immediately preceding any regular municipal election therein. All acts necessary to hold this election, including legal notice, jurisdiction and canvassing of returns, shall be conducted in accordance with existing law. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.250. Prior: 1959 c 76 s 4; 1955 c 337 s 23; prior: 1943 c 271 s 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-11, part.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.18.260 Organization—Ballots.** At the election for organization on the council-manager plan, the proposition on the ballots shall be: "Shall the city (or town) of . . . . . adopt the council-manager plan of municipal government?" followed by the words: "For organization as a council-manager city or town . . . ." "Against organization as a council-manager city or town . . . ." The election shall be conducted, the vote canvassed and the results declared in the same manner as provided by law in respect to other municipal elections. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.260. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-12.]

**RCW 35.18.270 Organization—Election of council, procedure.** If the majority of the votes cast at a special election for organization on the council-manager plan favor the plan, the city or town shall elect the council required under the council-manager plan in number according to its population at the next municipal general election. However, special elections shall be held to nominate and elect the new city councilmembers at the next primary and general election held in an even-numbered year if the next municipal general election is more than one year after the date of the election at which the voters approved the council-manager plan. The staggering of terms of office shall occur at the election when the new councilmembers are elected, where the simple majority of the persons elected as councilmembers receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or three-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and the remainder of the persons elected as councilmembers shall be elected to two-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or one-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The initial councilmembers shall take office immediately when they are elected and qualified, but the lengths of their terms of office shall be calculated from the first day in January in the year following the election. [1994 c 223 s 13; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 20; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.270. Prior: 1959 c 76 s 5; 1955 c 337 s 12; prior: (i) 1943 c 271 s 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-17, part. (ii) 1943 c 271 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-13, part.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.18.280 Organization—Holding over by incumbent officials and employees.** Councilmembers shall take office at the times provided by RCW 35.18.270 as now or hereafter amended. The other city officials and employees who are incumbent at the time the council-manager plan takes effect shall hold office until their successors have been selected in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [2009 c 549 s 2033; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.280. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-17, part.]

**RCW 35.18.285 Organization—First council may revise budget.** If, at the beginning of the term of office of the first council elected in a city organized under the council-manager plan, the appropriations for the expenditures of the city for the current fiscal year have been made, the council, by ordinance, may revise them but may not exceed the total appropriations for expenditures already specified in the budget for the year. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.285. Prior: 1955 c 337 s 24.]

**RCW 35.18.290 Abandonment of council-manager plan.** Any city or town which has operated under the council-manager plan for more than six years may abandon such organization and accept the provisions of the general laws then applicable to municipalities upon the petition of not less than twenty percent of the registered voters therein, without changing its classification unless it desires to do so. [1965 ex.s. c 47 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.18.290. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 22, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-31, part.]

**RCW 35.18.300 Abandonment—Method.** The sufficiency of the petition for abandonment of the council-manager form of government shall be determined, the election ordered and conducted, and the results declared generally as provided for the procedure for reorganizing under the council-manager plan so far as those provisions are applicable. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.300. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 23, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-32, part.]

*Organization on council-manager plan: RCW 35.18.240 through 35.18.285.*

**RCW 35.18.310 Abandonment—Special election necessary.** The proposition to abandon the council-manager plan must be voted on at a special election called for that purpose at which the only proposition to be voted on shall be: "Shall the city (or town) of . . . . . abandon its organization under the council-manager plan and become a city (or town) under the general law governing cities (or towns) of . . . . . class?" [1965 c 7 s 35.18.310. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 22 part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-31, part.]

**RCW 35.18.320 Abandonment—Effect.** If a majority of votes cast at the special election favor the abandonment of the council-manager form of government, the officers elected at the next succeeding biennial election shall be those then prescribed for cities or towns of like class. Upon the qualification of such officers, the

municipality shall again become organized under the general laws of the state, but such change shall not affect in any manner or degree the property, rights, or liabilities of the corporation but shall merely extend to such change in its form of government. [1965 c 7 s 35.18.320. Prior: 1943 c 271 s 23, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9198-32, part.]

**Chapter 35.20 RCW**  
**MUNICIPAL COURTS—CITIES OVER FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND**

**Sections**

- 35.20.010 Municipal court established—Termination of court—  
Agreement covering costs of handling resulting criminal  
cases—Arbitration—Notice.
- 35.20.020 Sessions—Judges may act as magistrates—Night court.
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- 35.20.280 City trial court improvement account—Contribution by city  
to account—Use of funds.
- 35.20.290 Applicability of courts open to all act.
- 35.20.910 Construction of other laws.

**Rules of court:** See *Rules for Appeal of Decisions of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (RALJ)*.

*Courts of limited jurisdiction: Title 3 RCW.*

*Courts of record: Title 2 RCW.*



**RCW 35.20.010 Municipal court established—Termination of court—  
Agreement covering costs of handling resulting criminal cases—**

**Arbitration—Notice.** (1) There is hereby created and established in each incorporated city of this state having a population of more than four hundred thousand inhabitants, as shown by the federal or state census, whichever is the later, a municipal court, which shall be styled "The Municipal Court of . . . . . (name of city)," hereinafter designated and referred to as the municipal court, which court shall have jurisdiction and shall exercise all the powers by this chapter declared to be vested in such municipal court, together with such powers and jurisdiction as is generally conferred in this state either by common law or statute. However, no municipal court established under this section shall have jurisdiction over any matter until six months after a notice of intent to create a new municipal court is sent to the administrative office of the courts.

(2) A municipality operating a municipal court under this section may terminate that court if the municipality has reached an agreement with the county under chapter 39.34 RCW under which the county is to be paid a reasonable amount for costs associated with prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing in criminal cases filed in district court as a result of the termination. However, no municipal court may be terminated under this section unless a notice of intent to terminate is sent to the administrative office of the courts six months in advance of the termination. The agreement shall provide for periodic review and renewal of the terms of the agreement. If the municipality and the county are unable to agree on the terms for renewal of the agreement, they shall be deemed to have entered into an agreement to submit the issue to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. Pending conclusion of the arbitration proceeding, the terms of the agreement shall remain in effect. The municipality and the county have the same rights and are subject to the same duties as other parties who have agreed to submit to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW.

(3) A city that has entered into an agreement for court services with the county must provide written notice of the intent to terminate the agreement to the county legislative authority and to the administrative office of the courts not less than one year prior to February 1st of the year in which all district court judges are subject to election. A city that terminates an agreement for court services to be provided by a district court may terminate the agreement only at the end of a four-year district court judicial term.

(4) A county that wishes to terminate an agreement with a city for the provision of court services must provide written notice of the intent to terminate the agreement to the city legislative authority and to the administrative office of the courts not less than one year prior to the expiration of the agreement. [2024 c 61 s 5; 2005 c 433 s 37; 2001 c 68 s 3; 1984 c 258 s 201; 1975 c 33 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.010. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 1.]

**Application—Captions not law—Savings—Effective date—2005 c 433:** See RCW 7.04A.290 through 7.04A.310 and 7.04A.900.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—  
Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Severability—1975 c 33:** See note following RCW 35.21.780.

**RCW 35.20.020 Sessions—Judges may act as magistrates—Night court.** The municipal court shall be always open except on nonjudicial days. It shall hold regular and special sessions at such times as may be prescribed by the judges thereof. The judges shall have the power to act as magistrates in accordance with the provisions of chapter 10.16 RCW. The legislative body of the city may by ordinance authorize a department of the municipal court to act as a night court, and shall appropriate the necessary funds therefor. [1965 c 7 s 35.20.020. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 2.]

**RCW 35.20.030 Jurisdiction—Maximum penalties for criminal violations—Review—Costs.** The municipal court shall have jurisdiction to try violations of all city ordinances and all other actions brought to enforce or recover license penalties or forfeitures declared or given by any such ordinances. It is empowered to forfeit cash bail or bail bonds and issue execution thereon, to hear and determine all causes, civil or criminal, arising under such ordinances, and to pronounce judgment in accordance therewith: PROVIDED, That for a violation of the criminal provisions of an ordinance no greater punishment shall be imposed than a fine of five thousand dollars or imprisonment in the city jail for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or both such fine and imprisonment, but the punishment for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment provided in state law for the same crime. All civil and criminal proceedings in municipal court, and judgments rendered therein, shall be subject to review in the superior court by writ of review or on appeal: PROVIDED, That an appeal from the court's determination or order in a traffic infraction proceeding may be taken only in accordance with RCW 46.63.090(5). Costs in civil and criminal cases may be taxed as provided in district courts. A municipal court participating in the program established by the administrative office of the courts pursuant to RCW 2.56.160 shall have jurisdiction to take recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within its jurisdiction on warrants issued by any court of limited jurisdiction participating in the program. [2011 c 96 s 24; 2005 c 282 s 41; 2000 c 111 s 7; 1993 c 83 s 3; 1984 c 258 s 801; 1979 ex.s. c 136 s 23; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.030. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**Effective date—1993 c 83:** See note following RCW 35.21.163.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Effective date—Severability—1979 ex.s. c 136:** See notes following RCW 46.63.010.

**RCW 35.20.090 Trial by jury—Juror's fees.** In all civil cases and criminal cases where jurisdiction is concurrent with district courts as provided in RCW 35.20.250, within the jurisdiction of the

municipal court, the plaintiff or defendant may demand a jury, which shall consist of six citizens of the state who shall be impaneled and sworn as in cases before district courts, or the trial may be by a judge of the municipal court: PROVIDED, That no jury trial may be held on a proceeding involving a traffic infraction. A defendant requesting a jury shall pay to the court a fee which shall be the same as that for a jury in district court. Where there is more than one defendant in an action and one or more of them requests a jury, only one jury fee shall be collected by the court. Each juror may receive up to twenty-five dollars but in no case less than ten dollars for each day in attendance upon the municipal court, and in addition thereto shall receive mileage at the rate determined under RCW 43.03.060: PROVIDED, That the compensation paid jurors shall be determined by the legislative authority of the city and shall be uniformly applied. Trial by jury shall be allowed in criminal cases involving violations of city ordinances commencing January 1, 1972, unless such incorporated city affected by this chapter has made provision therefor prior to January 1, 1972. [1987 c 202 s 195; 1980 c 148 s 6. Prior: 1979 ex.s. c 136 s 24; 1979 ex.s. c 135 s 8; prior: 1977 ex.s. c 248 s 3; 1977 ex.s. c 53 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.090; prior: 1955 c 290 s 9.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**Effective date—1980 c 148:** See note following RCW 46.10.490.

**Effective date—Severability—1979 ex.s. c 136:** See notes following RCW 46.63.010.

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 135:** See note following RCW 2.36.080.

**RCW 35.20.100 Departments of court—Jurisdiction and venue—Presiding judge—Costs of election.** There shall be three departments of the municipal court, which shall be designated as Department Nos. 1, 2 and 3. However, when the administration of justice and the accomplishment of the work of the court make additional departments necessary, the legislative body of the city may create additional departments as they are needed. The departments shall be established in such places as may be provided by the legislative body of the city, and each department shall be presided over by a municipal judge. However, notwithstanding the priority of action rule, for a defendant incarcerated at a jail facility outside the city limits but within the county in which the city is located, the city may, pursuant to an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW, contract with the county to transfer jurisdiction and venue over the defendant to a district court and to provide all judicial services at the district court as would be provided by a department of the municipal court. The judges shall select, by majority vote, one of their number to act as presiding judge of the municipal court for a term of one year, and he or she shall be responsible for administration of the court and assignment of calendars to all departments. A change of venue from one department of the municipal court to another department shall be allowed in accordance with the provisions of RCW 3.66.090 in all civil and criminal proceedings. The city shall assume the costs of the elections of the municipal judges in accordance with the provisions of

RCW 29A.04.410. [2015 c 53 s 33; 1997 c 25 s 1; 1984 c 258 s 71; 1972 ex.s. c 32 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 1; 1967 c 241 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.100. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 10.]

**Effective date—1997 c 25:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 15, 1997]." [1997 c 25 s 2.]

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Application—1967 c 241:** See note following RCW 3.66.090.

**RCW 35.20.105 Court administrator.** There shall be a court administrator of the municipal court appointed by the judges of the municipal court, subject to confirmation by a majority of the legislative body of the city, and removable by the judges of the municipal court subject to like confirmation. Before entering upon the duties of his or her office the court administrator shall take and subscribe an oath the same as required for officers of the city, and shall execute a penal bond in such sum and with such sureties as the legislative body of the city may direct and subject to their approval, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties, and that he or she will pay over to the treasurer of said city all moneys belonging to the city which shall come into his or her hands as such court administrator. The court administrator shall be paid such compensation as the legislative body of the city may deem reasonable. The court administrator shall act under the supervision and control of the presiding judge of the municipal court and shall supervise the functions of the chief clerk and director of the traffic violations bureau or similar agency of the city, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the presiding judge of the municipal court. [2009 c 549 s 2034; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 2.]

**RCW 35.20.110 Seal of court—Extent of process.** The municipal court shall have a seal which shall be the vignette of George Washington, with the words "Seal of The Municipal Court of . . . . . (name of city), State of Washington," surrounding the vignette. All process from such court runs throughout the state. The supreme court may determine by rule what process must be issued under seal. [1999 c 152 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.110. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 11.]

**RCW 35.20.120 Expenses of court.** All blanks, books, papers, stationery and furniture necessary for the transaction of business and the keeping of records of the court shall be furnished at the expense of the city, except those expenses incidental to the operation of the court in matters brought before the court because of concurrent jurisdiction with the district court, which expense shall be borne by the county and paid out of the county treasury. All other expenses on account of such court which may be authorized by the city council or the county commissioners and which are not specifically mentioned in this chapter, shall be paid respectively out of the city treasury and

county treasury. [1987 c 202 s 196; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.120. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 12.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**RCW 35.20.131 Director of traffic violations.** There shall be a director of the traffic violations bureau or such similar agency of the city as may be created by ordinance of said city. Said director shall be appointed by the judges of the municipal court subject to such civil service laws and rules as may be provided in such city. Said director shall act under the supervision of the court administrator of the municipal court and shall be responsible for the supervision of the traffic violations bureau or similar agency of the city. Upon \*this 1969 amendatory act becoming effective those employees connected with the traffic violations bureau under civil service status shall be continued in such employment and such classification. Before entering upon the duties of his or her office said director shall take and subscribe an oath the same as required for officers of the city and shall execute a penal bond in such sum and with such sureties as the legislative body of the city may direct and subject to their approval, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties, and that he or she will faithfully account to and pay over to the treasurer of said city all moneys belonging to the city which shall come into his or her hands as such director. Said director shall be paid such compensation as the legislative body of the city may deem reasonable. [2009 c 549 s 2035; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "this 1969 amendatory act" [1969 ex.s. c 147] became effective August 11, 1969.

**RCW 35.20.140 Monthly meeting of judges—Rules and regulations of court.** It shall be the duty of the judges to meet together at least once each month, except during the months of July and August, at such hour and place as they may designate, and at such other times as they may desire, for the consideration of such matters pertaining to the administration of justice in said court as may be brought before them. At these meetings they shall receive and investigate, or cause to be investigated, all complaints presented to them pertaining to the court and the employees thereof, and shall take such action as they may deem necessary or proper with respect thereto. They shall have power and it shall be their duty to adopt, or cause to be adopted, rules and regulations for the proper administration of justice in said court. [1965 c 7 s 35.20.140. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 14.]

**RCW 35.20.150 Election of judges—Vacancies.** The municipal judges shall be elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1958, and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November every fourth year thereafter by the electorate of the city in which the court is located. The auditor of the county concerned shall designate by number each position to be filled in the municipal court, and each candidate at the time of the filing of his or her declaration of candidacy shall designate by number so assigned the position for which he or she is a candidate, and the name of such candidate shall

appear on the ballot only for such position. The name of the person who receives the greatest number of votes and of the person who receives the next greatest number of votes at the primary for a single nonpartisan position shall appear on the general election ballot under the designation therefor. Elections for municipal judge shall be nonpartisan. They shall hold office for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. The term of office shall start on the second Monday in January following such election. Any vacancy in the municipal court due to a death, disability or resignation of a municipal court judge shall be filled by the mayor, to serve out the unexpired term. Such appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the legislative body of the city. [2009 c 549 s 2036; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 120 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.150. Prior: 1961 c 213 s 1; 1955 c 290 s 15.]

**Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 120:** See note following RCW 29A.52.210.

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.20.155 Municipal court commissioners—Appointment, powers.** When so authorized by the city legislative authority, the judges of the city may appoint one or more municipal court commissioners. A commissioner must be a registered voter of the city, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing judges. A person appointed as a commissioner authorized to hear or dispose of cases must be a lawyer who is admitted to the practice of law in the state of Washington. A commissioner has such power, authority, and jurisdiction in criminal and civil matters as the appointing judges possess and may prescribe. [1996 c 16 s 3.]

**RCW 35.20.160 Judges' salaries.** The total of the salaries of each municipal judge under this chapter shall be fixed by the legislative body of the city at not less than nine thousand dollars per annum, to be paid in monthly or semimonthly installments as for other officials of the city, and such total salaries shall not be more than the salaries paid the superior court judges in the county in which the court is located. [1965 c 147 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.160. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 16.]

*Cities over four hundred thousand, district court judges' salaries:*  
RCW 3.58.010.

**RCW 35.20.170 Qualifications of judges—Practice of law prohibited.** No person shall be eligible to the office of judge of the municipal court unless he or she shall have been admitted to practice law before the courts of record of this state and is an elector of the city in which he or she files for office. No judge of said court during his or her term of office shall engage either directly or indirectly in the practice of law. [2009 c 549 s 2037; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.170. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 17.]

**RCW 35.20.175 Judicial officers—Disqualification.** (1) A municipal court judicial officer shall not preside in any of the following cases:

(a) In an action to which the judicial officer is a party, or in which the judicial officer is directly interested, or in which the judicial officer has been an attorney for a party.

(b) When the judicial officer or one of the parties believes that the parties cannot have an impartial trial or hearing before the judicial officer. The judicial officer shall disqualify himself or herself under the provisions of this section if, before any discretionary ruling has been made, a party files an affidavit that the party cannot have a fair and impartial trial or hearing by reason of the interest or prejudice of the judicial officer. The following are not considered discretionary rulings: (i) The arrangement of the calendar; (ii) the setting of an action, motion, or proceeding for hearing or trial; (iii) the arraignment of the accused; or (iv) the fixing of bail and initially setting conditions of release. Only one change of judicial officer is allowed each party in an action or proceeding.

(2) When a judicial officer is disqualified under this section, the case shall be heard before another judicial officer of the municipality.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "judicial officer" means a judge, judge pro tempore, or court commissioner. [2008 c 227 s 10.]

**Effective date—Subheadings not law—2008 c 227:** See notes following RCW 3.50.003.

**RCW 35.20.180 Judges' oath of office, official bonds.** Every judge of such municipal court, before he or she enters upon the duties of his or her office, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of judge of the municipal court of the city of . . . . . (naming such city) according to the best of my ability; and I do further certify that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of an organization that advocates, the overthrow of the government of the United States by force or violence." The oath shall be filed in the office of the county auditor. He or she shall also give such bonds to the state and city for the faithful performance of his or her duties as may be by law or ordinance directed. [2009 c 549 s 2038; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.180. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 18.]

**RCW 35.20.190 Additional judge.** Whenever the number of departments of the municipal court is increased, the mayor of such city shall appoint a qualified person as provided in RCW 35.20.170 to act as municipal judge until the next general election. He or she shall be paid salaries in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and provided with the necessary court, office space and personnel as authorized herein. [2009 c 549 s 2039; 1967 c 241 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.190. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 19.]

**Application—1967 c 241:** See note following RCW 3.66.090.

**RCW 35.20.200 Judges pro tempore.** The presiding municipal court judge shall, from attorneys residing in the city and qualified to hold the position of judge of the municipal court as provided in RCW 35.20.170, appoint judges pro tempore who shall act in the absence of the regular judges of the court or in addition to the regular judges when the administration of justice and the accomplishment of the work of the court make it necessary. The presiding municipal court judge may appoint, as judges pro tempore, any full-time district court judges serving in the county in which the city is situated. The term of office must be specified in writing. While acting as judge of the court, judges pro tempore shall have all of the powers of the regular judges. Before entering upon his or her duties, each judge pro tempore shall take, subscribe and file an oath as is taken by a municipal judge. Judges pro tempore shall not practice before the municipal court during their term of office as judge pro tempore. Such municipal judges pro tempore shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by ordinance by the legislative body of the city and such compensation shall be paid by the city except that district court judges shall not be compensated by the city other than pursuant to an interlocal agreement. [2000 c 55 s 2; 1996 c 16 s 2; 1990 c 182 s 1; 1972 ex.s. c 32 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.200. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 20.]

*Judges pro tempore appointments: RCW 3.02.060.*

**RCW 35.20.205 Judicial officers—Hearing examiner.** The judges of the municipal court may employ judicial officers to assist in the administration of justice and the accomplishment of the work of the court as said work may be assigned to it by statute or ordinance. The duties and responsibilities of such officers shall be judicial in nature and shall be fixed by court rule as adopted by the municipal court judges or fixed by ordinance of the city. The judicial officers may be authorized to hear and determine cases involving the commission of traffic infractions as provided in chapter 46.63 RCW. The \*mayor may appoint the judicial officers as judges pro tempore pursuant to RCW 35.20.200: PROVIDED, That the judicial officer need not be a resident of the city.

To utilize the services of such judicial officers for the purpose of hearing contested matters relating to the interest of the city and its citizens and the operation of the various departments of the city, the city may by ordinance create the office of hearing examiner in the municipal court and assign to it judicial duties and responsibilities. [1980 c 128 s 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 214 s 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "Mayor" was replaced by "presiding municipal court judge" as the appointing authority for judges pro tempore in RCW 35.20.200, by 2000 c 55 s 2.

**Effective date—Severability—1980 c 128:** See notes following RCW 46.63.060.

**RCW 35.20.210 Clerks of court.** There shall be a chief clerk of the municipal court appointed by the judges of the municipal court subject to such civil service laws and rules as may be provided in such city. After August 11, 1969, those employees connected with the court under civil service status shall be continued in such employment



and such classification. Before the chief clerk enters upon the duties of the chief clerk's office, the chief clerk shall take and subscribe an oath the same as required for officers of the city, and shall execute a penal bond in such sum and with such sureties as the legislative body of the city may direct and subject to their approval, conditioned that the chief clerk will faithfully account to and pay over to the treasurer of said city all moneys coming into his or her hands as such clerk, and that he or she will faithfully perform the duties of his or her office to the best of his or her knowledge and ability. Upon the recommendation of the judges of the municipal court, the legislative body of the city may provide for the appointment of such assistant clerks of the municipal court as said legislative body deems necessary, with such compensation as said legislative body may deem reasonable and such assistant clerks shall be subject to such civil service as may be provided in such city: PROVIDED, That the judges of the municipal court shall appoint such clerks as the board of county commissioners may determine to handle cases involving violations of state law, wherein the court has concurrent jurisdiction with the district and superior court. All clerks of the court shall have power to administer oaths, swear and acknowledge signatures of those persons filing complaints with the court, take testimony in any action, suit or proceeding in the court relating to the city or county for which they are appointed, and may certify any records and documents of the court pertaining thereto. They shall give bond for the faithful performance of their duties as required by law. [1987 c 202 s 197; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.210. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 21.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**RCW 35.20.220 Powers and duties of chief clerk—Remittance by city treasurer—Interest—Disposition.** (1) The chief clerk, under the supervision and direction of the court administrator of the municipal court, shall have the custody and care of the books, papers and records of the court. The chief clerk or a deputy shall be present during the session of the court and has the power to swear all witnesses and jurors, administer oaths and affidavits, and take acknowledgments. The chief clerk shall keep the records of the court and shall issue all process under his or her hand and the seal of the court. The chief clerk shall do and perform all things and have the same powers pertaining to the office as the clerks of the superior courts have in their office. He or she shall receive all fines, penalties, and fees of every kind and keep a full, accurate, and detailed account of the same. The chief clerk shall on each day pay into the city treasury all money received for the city during the day previous, with a detailed account of the same, and taking the treasurer's receipt therefor.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 9A.88.120 and 10.99.080, the city treasurer shall remit monthly thirty-two percent of the noninterest money received under this section, other than for parking infractions and certain costs to the state treasurer. "Certain costs" as used in this subsection, means those costs awarded to prevailing parties in civil actions under RCW 4.84.010 or 36.18.040, or those costs awarded against convicted defendants in criminal actions under RCW 10.01.160, 10.46.190, or 36.18.040, or other similar statutes if such costs are

specifically designated as costs by the court and are awarded for the specific reimbursement of costs incurred by the state, county, city, or town in the prosecution of the case, including the fees of defense counsel. Money remitted under this subsection to the state treasurer shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(3) The balance of the noninterest money received under this section shall be retained by the city and deposited as provided by law.

(4) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, penalties, fines, fees, and costs may accrue interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum, upon assignment to a collection agency. Interest may accrue only while the case is in collection status.

(b) As of June 7, 2018, penalties, fines, bail forfeitures, fees, and costs imposed against a defendant in a criminal proceeding shall not accrue interest.

(5) Interest retained by the court on penalties, fines, bail forfeitures, fees, and costs shall be split twenty-five percent to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund, twenty-five percent to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial information system account as provided in RCW 2.68.020, twenty-five percent to the city general fund, and twenty-five percent to the city general fund to fund local courts. [2018 c 269 s 5; 2012 c 136 s 7; 2012 c 134 s 9; 2009 c 479 s 19; 2004 c 15 s 9; 1995 c 291 s 4; 1988 c 169 s 6; 1985 c 389 s 8; 1984 c 258 s 319; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.220. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 22.]

**Construction—2018 c 269:** See note following RCW 10.82.090.

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Intent—2004 c 15:** See note following RCW 10.99.080.

**Effective date—1985 c 389:** See note following RCW 27.24.070.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Intent—1984 c 258:** See note following RCW 3.34.130.

**RCW 35.20.230 Director of probation services—Probation officers—Bailiffs.** The judges of the municipal court shall appoint a director of probation services who shall, under the direction and supervision of the court administrator of the municipal court, supervise the probation officers of the municipal court. The judges of the municipal court shall also appoint a bailiff for the court, together with such number of probation officers and additional bailiffs as may be authorized by the legislative body of the city. The director of probation services, probation officers, and bailiff or bailiffs shall be paid by the city treasurer in such amount as is deemed reasonable by the legislative body of the city: PROVIDED, That such additional probation officers and bailiffs of the court as may be authorized by the county commissioners shall be paid from the county treasury. [1998 c 238 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.230. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 23.]

**RCW 35.20.240 First judges—Transfer of equipment.** Upon the effective date of this chapter (June 8, 1955), any justice of the peace who was the duly appointed and acting police justice of the city shall become a judge of the municipal court upon his or her filing his or her oath of office and bond as required by this chapter, and shall serve as a judge of said municipal court until the regularly elected judges of the court shall qualify following their election in 1958, or thereafter as provided in RCW 35.20.150. Such judge shall be paid salaries in accordance with this chapter while so serving. Such salaries from the city and county shall be in lieu of those now (June 8, 1955) being paid to the justice of the peace acting as police justice of the city court: PROVIDED, That upon the justices of the peace qualifying as municipal judges under this chapter, the number of justices of the peace for such city shall be reduced accordingly as provided in RCW 35.20.190. Should any justice of the peace acting as police judge fail to qualify as a judge of the municipal court, the mayor of such city shall designate one of the other justices of the peace of that city to act as municipal judge until the next general election in November, 1958, and the qualifying of the regularly elected judge. All furniture and equipment belonging to the city and county in which the court is situated, now under the care and custody of the justice of the peace and municipal judge, shall be transferred to the municipal court for use in the operation and maintenance of such court. [2009 c 549 s 2041; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.240. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 24.]

**Reviser's note:** Justices of the peace and courts to be construed to mean district judges and courts. See RCW 3.30.015.

**RCW 35.20.250 Concurrent jurisdiction with superior court and district court.** The municipal court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court and district court in all civil and criminal matters as now provided by law for district judges, and a judge thereof may sit in preliminary hearings as magistrate. Fines, penalties, and forfeitures before the court under the provisions of this section shall be paid to the county treasurer as provided for district court and commitments shall be to the county jail. Appeals from judgment or order of the court in such cases shall be governed by the law pertaining to appeals from judgments or orders of district judges operating under chapter 3.30 RCW. [1987 c 202 s 198; 1979 ex.s. c 136 s 25; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.250. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 25.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**Effective date—Severability—1979 ex.s. c 136:** See notes following RCW 46.63.010.

**RCW 35.20.255 Deferral or suspension of sentences—Probation—Maximum term—Transfer to another state.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, judges of the municipal court, in their discretion, shall have the power in all criminal proceedings within their jurisdiction including violations of city ordinances, to defer imposition of any sentence, suspend all or part of any sentence including installment payment of fines, fix the terms of any such

deferral or suspension, and provide for such probation as in their opinion is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances of the case, but in no case shall it extend for more than five years from the date of conviction for a defendant to be sentenced for a domestic violence offense or under RCW 46.61.5055 and two years from the date of conviction for all other offenses. A defendant who has been sentenced, or whose sentence has been deferred, and who then fails to appear for any hearing to address the defendant's compliance with the terms of probation when ordered to do so by the court, shall have the term of probation tolled until such time as the defendant makes his or her presence known to the court on the record. However, the jurisdiction period in this section does not apply to the enforcement of orders issued under RCW 46.20.720. Any time before entering an order terminating probation, the court may modify or revoke its order suspending or deferring the imposition or execution of the sentence. For the purposes of this subsection, "domestic violence offense" means a crime listed in RCW 10.99.020 that is not a felony offense.

(2) (a) If a defendant whose sentence has been deferred requests permission to travel or transfer to another state, the director of probation services or a designee thereof shall determine whether such request is subject to RCW 9.94A.745, the interstate compact for adult offender supervision. If such request is subject to the compact, the director or designee shall:

(i) Notify the department of corrections of the defendant's request;

(ii) Provide the department of corrections with the supporting documentation it requests for processing an application for transfer;

(iii) Notify the defendant of the fee due to the department of corrections for processing an application under the compact;

(iv) Cease supervision of the defendant while another state supervises the defendant pursuant to the compact;

(v) Resume supervision if the defendant returns to this state before the period of deferral expires.

(b) The defendant shall receive credit for time served while being supervised by another state.

(c) If the probationer is returned to the state at the request of the receiving state under rules of the interstate compact for adult offender supervision, the department of corrections is responsible for the cost of returning the probationer.

(d) The state of Washington, the department of corrections and its employees, and any city and its employees are not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission authorized or required under this section unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence.

(3) Judges of the municipal court shall not defer sentence for an offense sentenced under RCW 46.61.5055. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 35 s 7; 2010 c 274 s 407; 2005 c 400 s 5; 2001 c 94 s 3; 1999 c 56 s 3; 1983 c 156 s 8; 1969 ex.s. c 147 s 9.]

**Intent—2010 c 274:** See note following RCW 10.31.100.

**Application—Effective date—2005 c 400:** See notes following RCW 9.94A.74504.

**RCW 35.20.258 Sentencing—Crimes against property—Criminal history check.** Before a sentence is imposed upon a defendant convicted of a crime against property, the court or the prosecuting authority shall check existing judicial information systems to determine the criminal history of the defendant. [2009 c 431 s 18.]

**Applicability—2009 c 431:** See note following RCW 4.24.230.

**RCW 35.20.260 Subpoenas—Witness fees.** The court shall have authority to subpoena witnesses as now authorized in superior courts throughout the state. Such witnesses shall be paid according to law with mileage as authorized for witnesses to such cases. [1965 c 7 s 35.20.260. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 26.]

**RCW 35.20.270 Service of criminal and civil process—Jurisdiction—Costs.** (1) All criminal and civil process issuing out of courts created under this title shall be directed to the chief of police of the city served by the court and/or to the sheriff of the county in which the court is held and/or the warrant officers and be by them executed according to law in any county of this state.

(2) No process of courts created under this title shall be executed outside the corporate limits of the city served by the court unless the person authorized by the process first contacts the applicable law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the process is to be served.

(3) Upon a defendant being arrested in another city or county the cost of arresting or serving process thereon shall be borne by the court issuing the process including the cost of returning the defendant from any county of the state to the city. [2015 c 288 s 3; 1992 c 99 s 1; 1977 ex.s. c 108 s 1.]

**RCW 35.20.280 City trial court improvement account—Contribution by city to account—Use of funds.** Any city operating a municipal court under this chapter that receives state contribution for municipal court judges' salaries under RCW 2.56.030 shall create a city trial court improvement account. An amount equal to one hundred percent of the state's contribution for the payment of municipal judges' salaries shall be deposited into the account. Money in the account shall be used to fund improvements to the municipal court's staffing, programs, facilities, or services, as appropriated by the city legislative authority. [2005 c 457 s 5.]

**Intent—2005 c 457:** See note following RCW 43.08.250.

**RCW 35.20.290 Applicability of courts open to all act.** The provisions of RCW 2.28.300 through 2.28.330 apply to municipal courts. [2020 c 37 s 8.]

**Findings—Short title—2020 c 37:** See notes following RCW 2.28.300.

**RCW 35.20.910 Construction of other laws.** All acts or parts of acts which are inconsistent or conflicting with the provisions of this chapter, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. No provision of this chapter shall be construed as repealing or anyway limiting or affecting the jurisdiction of district judges under the general laws of this state. [1987 c 202 s 199; 1965 c 7 s 35.20.910. Prior: 1955 c 290 s 28.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**Chapter 35.21 RCW**  
**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Sections**

- 35.21.005 Sufficiency of petitions.
- 35.21.010 General corporate powers—Towns, restrictions as to area.
- 35.21.015 Salary commissions.
- 35.21.020 Auditoriums, art museums, swimming pools, etc.—Power to acquire.
- 35.21.030 Auxiliary water systems for protection from fire.
- 35.21.070 Cumulative reserve fund—Authority to create.
- 35.21.080 Cumulative reserve fund—Annual levy for—Application of budget law.
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- 35.21.156 Solid waste—Contracts with vendors for solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or facilities—Requirements—Vendor selection procedures.
- 35.21.157 Solid waste collection—Rate increase notice.
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- 35.21.160 Jurisdiction over adjacent waters.
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- 35.21.190 Parkways, park drives, and boulevards.
- 35.21.192 Urban agriculture zone.
- 35.21.194 Community gardens.
- 35.21.195 Statewide sexual assault kit tracking system—Participation by local law enforcement agencies.
- 35.21.200 Residence qualifications of appointive officials and employees.
- 35.21.203 Recall sufficiency hearing—Payment of defense expenses.
- 35.21.205 Liability insurance for officials and employees.

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- 35.21.910 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination prohibited.
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*Accident claims against: RCW 35.31.020.*

*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection, preservation, or open space purposes by cities or towns: RCW 64.04.130.*

*Actions against  
public corporations: RCW 4.08.120.  
state: Chapter 4.92 RCW.*

*Actions by in corporate name: RCW 4.08.110.*

*Cemeteries, public acquisition and maintenance: Chapter 68.52 RCW.*

*Diking and drainage districts: Chapters 85.05, 86.09 RCW.*

*Disturbances at state penal facilities: Chapter 72.02 RCW.*

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

*Fire protection districts: Title 52 RCW.*

*Flood control maintenance, state participation in: Chapter 86.26 RCW.*

*Hospitals, joint operation with counties: RCW 36.62.030, 36.62.110.*

*Industrial development revenue bonds: Chapter 39.84 RCW.*

*Intergovernmental disposition of property: Chapter 39.33 RCW.*

*Irrigation districts: Chapter 87.03 RCW.*

*Joint governmental activities: Chapter 36.64 RCW.*

*Judgment against local governmental entity, enforcement: RCW 6.17.080.*

*Legal publications: Chapter 65.16 RCW.*

*Liquor*  
*revolving fund, distribution from: RCW 66.08.190, 66.08.210.*  
*sales of subject to local option: Chapter 66.40 RCW.*

*Local adopt-a-highway programs: RCW 47.40.105.*

*Local fire district annexation: RCW 52.04.181.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc.,*  
*review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Local law enforcement agencies, reports by regarding missing children:*  
*RCW 13.60.020.*

*Lost and found property: Chapter 63.21 RCW.*

*Meetings, minutes of governmental bodies, open to public inspection:*  
*Chapter 42.30 RCW.*

*Municipal utilities: Chapter 35.92 RCW.*

*Municipal water and sewer facilities act: Chapter 35.91 RCW.*

*Peddlers' and hawkers' licenses: Chapter 36.71 RCW.*

*Police dogs—Immunity: RCW 4.24.410.*

*Port districts: Title 53 RCW.*

*Public records, destruction of: Chapter 40.14 RCW.*

*Public utility districts: Title 54 RCW.*

*Residence qualifications of civil service employees—Residency not*  
*grounds for discharge: RCW 52.30.050.*

*Senior citizens programs—Authorization to establish and administer:*  
*RCW 36.39.060.*

*Soil and water conservation districts: Chapter 89.08 RCW.*

*Transfer of real property or contract for use for park and*  
*recreational purposes: RCW 39.33.060.*

*Unclaimed property in hands of city police: Chapter 63.32 RCW.*

*Water-sewer districts: Title 57 RCW.*

*Weeds, duty to destroy, extermination areas: RCW 17.04.160.*

**RCW 35.21.005 Sufficiency of petitions.** Wherever in this title petitions are required to be signed and filed, the following rules shall govern the sufficiency thereof:

(1) A petition may include any page or group of pages containing an identical text or prayer intended by the circulators, signers or sponsors to be presented and considered as one petition and containing the following essential elements when applicable, except that the elements referred to in (d) and (e) of this subsection are essential for petitions referring or initiating legislative matters to the voters, but are directory as to other petitions:

(a) The text or prayer of the petition which shall be a concise statement of the action or relief sought by petitioners and shall include a reference to the applicable state statute or city ordinance, if any;

(b) If the petition initiates or refers an ordinance, a true copy thereof;

(c) If the petition seeks the annexation, incorporation, withdrawal, or reduction of an area for any purpose, an accurate legal description of the area proposed for such action and if practical, a map of the area;

(d) Numbered lines for signatures with space provided beside each signature for the name and address of the signer and the date of signing;

(e) The warning statement prescribed in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Petitions shall be printed or typed on single sheets of white paper of good quality and each sheet of petition paper having a space thereon for signatures shall contain the text or prayer of the petition and the following warning:

WARNING

Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, or who knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, or signs a petition seeking an election when he or she is not a legal voter, or signs a petition when he or she is otherwise not qualified to sign, or who makes herein any false statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Each signature shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil and shall be followed by the name and address of the signer and the date of signing.

(3) The term "signer" means any person who signs his or her own name to the petition.

(4) To be sufficient a petition must contain valid signatures of qualified registered voters or property owners, as the case may be, in the number required by the applicable statute or ordinance. Within three working days after the filing of a petition, the officer with whom the petition is filed shall transmit the petition to the county auditor for petitions signed by registered voters, or to the county assessor for petitions signed by property owners for determination of sufficiency. The officer or officers whose duty it is to determine the

sufficiency of the petition shall proceed to make such a determination with reasonable promptness and shall file with the officer receiving the petition for filing a certificate stating the date upon which such determination was begun, which date shall be referred to as the terminal date. Additional pages of one or more signatures may be added to the petition by filing the same with the appropriate filing officer prior to such terminal date. Any signer of a filed petition may withdraw his or her signature by a written request for withdrawal filed with the receiving officer prior to such terminal date. Such written request shall so sufficiently describe the petition as to make identification of the person and the petition certain. The name of any person seeking to withdraw shall be signed exactly the same as contained on the petition and, after the filing of such request for withdrawal, prior to the terminal date, the signature of any person seeking such withdrawal shall be deemed withdrawn.

(5) Petitions containing the required number of signatures shall be accepted as prima facie valid until their invalidity has been proved.

(6) A variation on petitions between the signatures on the petition and that on the voter's permanent registration caused by the substitution of initials instead of the first or middle names, or both, shall not invalidate the signature on the petition if the surname and handwriting are the same.

(7) If a person signs a petition more than once, all but the first valid signature must be rejected.

(8) Signatures followed by a date of signing which is more than six months prior to the date of filing of the petition shall be stricken.

(9) When petitions are required to be signed by the owners of property, the determination shall be made by the county assessor. Where validation of signatures to the petition is required, the following shall apply:

(a) The signature of a record owner, as determined by the records of the county auditor, shall be sufficient without the signature of his or her spouse;

(b) In the case of mortgaged property, the signature of the mortgagor shall be sufficient, without the signature of his or her spouse;

(c) In the case of property purchased on contract, the signature of the contract purchaser, as shown by the records of the county auditor, shall be deemed sufficient, without the signature of his or her spouse;

(d) Any officer of a corporation owning land within the area involved who is duly authorized to execute deeds or encumbrances on behalf of the corporation, may sign on behalf of such corporation, and shall attach to the petition a certified excerpt from the bylaws of such corporation showing such authority;

(e) When the petition seeks annexation, any officer of a corporation owning land within the area involved, who is duly authorized to execute deeds or encumbrances on behalf of the corporation, may sign under oath on behalf of such corporation. If an officer signs the petition, he or she must attach an affidavit stating that he or she is duly authorized to sign the petition on behalf of such corporation;

(f) When property stands in the name of a deceased person or any person for whom a guardian has been appointed, the signature of the



executor, administrator, or guardian, as the case may be, shall be equivalent to the signature of the owner of the property; and

(g) When a parcel of property is owned by multiple owners, the signature of an owner designated by the multiple owners is sufficient.

(10) The officer or officers responsible for determining the sufficiency of the petition shall do so in writing and transmit the written certificate to the officer with whom the petition was originally filed. [2014 c 121 s 2; 2008 c 196 s 1; 2003 c 331 s 8; 1996 c 286 s 6.]

**Finding—Intent—2014 c 121:** "(1) The legislature finds that in *Filo Foods, LLC v. City of SeaTac*, No. 70758-2-I (Wash. Ct. Apps. Div. I, Feb. 10, 2014), the Washington court of appeals ruled that RCW 35A.01.040(7), requiring local certifying officers to strike all signatures of any person signing an optional municipal code city initiative petition two or more times, was unconstitutional. The court held that the statute unduly burdened the first amendment rights of voters who expressed a view on a political matter by signing an initiative petition.

(2) The legislature intends to require local officers certifying city and town petitions to count one valid signature of a duplicate signer. This will ensure that a person inadvertently signing a city or town petition more than once will not be penalized for doing so." [2014 c 121 s 1.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 331:** See notes following RCW 35.13.410.

**RCW 35.21.010 General corporate powers—Towns, restrictions as to area.** (1) Municipal corporations now or hereafter organized are bodies politic and corporate under the name of the city of . . . . ., or the town of . . . . ., as the case may be, and as such may sue and be sued, contract or be contracted with, acquire, hold, possess and dispose of property, subject to the restrictions contained in other chapters of this title, having a common seal, and change or alter the same at pleasure, and exercise such other powers, and have such other privileges as are conferred by this title. However, not more than two square miles in area shall be included within the corporate limits of a town having a population of fifteen hundred or less, or located in a county with a population of one million or more, and not more than three square miles in area shall be included within the corporate limits of a town having a population of more than fifteen hundred in a county with a population of less than one million, nor shall more than twenty acres of unplatted land belonging to any one person be taken within the corporate limits of a town without the consent of the owner of such unplatted land.

(2) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (3) of this section, a town located in three or more counties is excluded from a limitation in square mileage.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the original incorporation of a town shall be limited to an area of not more than one square mile and a population as prescribed in RCW 35.01.040. [1995 c 196 s 5; 1991 c 363 s 37; 1965 c 138 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.010. Prior: 1963 c 119 s 1; 1890 p 141 s 15, part; RRS s 8935.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Validation of certain incorporations and annexations—Municipal corporations of the fourth class—1961 ex.s. c 16:** "Any incorporation of a municipal corporation of the fourth class and any annexation of territory to a municipal corporation of the fourth class prior to March 31, 1961, which is otherwise valid except for compliance with the limitation to the area of one square mile as prescribed by section 15, page 141, Laws of 1889-90, is hereby validated and declared to be a valid incorporation or annexation in all respects." [1961 ex.s. c 16 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.015 Salary commissions.** (1) Salaries for elected officials of towns and cities may be set by salary commissions established in accordance with city charter or by ordinance and in conformity with this section.

(2) The members of such commissions shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of a city charter, or as specified in this subsection:

(a) Shall be appointed by the mayor with approval of the city council;

(b) May not be appointed to more than two terms;

(c) May only be removed during their terms of office for cause of incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office or for a disqualifying change of residence; and

(d) May not include any officer, official, or employee of the city or town or any of their immediate family members. "Immediate family member" as used in this subsection means the parents, spouse, siblings, children, or dependent relatives of the officer, official, or employee, whether or not living in the household of the officer, official, or employee.

(3) Any change in salary shall be filed by the commission with the city clerk and shall become effective and incorporated into the city or town budget without further action of the city council or salary commission.

(4) Salary increases established by the commission shall be effective as to all city or town elected officials, regardless of their terms of office.

(5) Salary decreases established by the commission shall become effective as to incumbent city or town elected officials at the commencement of their next subsequent terms of office.

(6) Salary increases and decreases shall be subject to referendum petition by the people of the town or city in the same manner as a city ordinance upon filing of such petition with the city clerk within thirty days after filing of the salary schedule. In the event of the filing of a valid referendum petition, the salary increase or decrease shall not go into effect until approved by vote of the people.

(7) Referendum measures under this section shall be submitted to the voters of the city or town at the next following general or municipal election occurring thirty days or more after the petition is filed, and shall be otherwise governed by the provisions of the state Constitution, or city charter, or laws generally applicable to referendum measures.

(8) The action fixing the salary by a commission established in conformity with this section shall supersede any other provision of state statute or city or town ordinance related to municipal budgets or to the fixing of salaries.

(9) Salaries for mayors and councilmembers established under an ordinance or charter provision in existence on July 22, 2001, that substantially complies with this section shall remain in effect unless and until changed in accordance with such charter provision or ordinance. [2001 c 73 s 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2001 c 73:** "The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(1) Article XXX, section 1 of the state Constitution permits midterm salary increases for municipal officers who do not fix their own compensation;

(2) The Washington citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials established pursuant to Article XXVIII, section 1 of the state Constitution with voter approval has assured that the compensation for state and county elected officials will be fair and certain, while minimizing the dangers of midterm salary increases being used to influence those officers in the performance of their duties;

(3) The same public benefits of independent salary commissions should be extended to the setting of compensation of municipal elected officers; and

(4) This act is intended to clarify the intent of the legislature that existing state law authorizes:

(a) The establishment of independent salary commissions to set the salaries of city or town elected officials, county commissioners, and county councilmembers; and

(b) The authority of the voters of such cities, towns, and counties to review commission decisions to increase or decrease such salaries by means of referendum." [2001 c 73 s 1.]

**Severability—2001 c 73:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2001 c 73 s 6.]

**RCW 35.21.020 Auditoriums, art museums, swimming pools, etc.— Power to acquire.** Any city or town in this state acting through its council or other legislative body, and any separately organized park district acting through its board of park commissioners or other governing officers, shall have power to acquire by donation, purchase or condemnation, and to construct and maintain public auditoriums, art museums, swimming pools, and athletic and recreational fields, including golf courses, buildings and facilities within or without its parks, and to use or let the same for such public and private purposes for such compensation and rental and upon such conditions as its council or other legislative body or board of park commissioners shall from time to time prescribe. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.020. Prior: 1947 c 28 s 1; 1937 c 98 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 8981-4.]

*Acquisition of property for parks, recreational, viewpoint, greenbelt, conservation, historic, scenic or view purposes: RCW 36.34.340.*

**RCW 35.21.030 Auxiliary water systems for protection from fire.**

Any city or town shall have power to provide for the protection of such city or town, or any part thereof, from fire, and to establish, construct and maintain an auxiliary water system, or systems, or extensions thereof, or additions thereto, and the structures and works necessary therefor or forming a part thereof, including the acquisition or damaging of lands, rights-of-way, rights, property, water rights, and the necessary sources of supply of water for such purposes, within or without the corporate limits of such city or town, and to manage, regulate and control the same. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.030. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 5; RRS s 9356.]

**RCW 35.21.070 Cumulative reserve fund—Authority to create.**

Any city or town may establish by ordinance a cumulative reserve fund in general terms for several different municipal purposes as well as for a very specific municipal purpose, including that of buying any specified supplies, material or equipment, or the construction, alteration or repair of any public building or work, or the making of any public improvement, or for creation of a revenue stabilization fund for future operations. The ordinance shall designate the fund as "cumulative reserve fund for . . . . . (naming purpose or purposes for which fund is to be accumulated and expended)." The moneys in the fund may be allowed to accumulate from year to year until the legislative authority of the city or town shall determine to expend the moneys in the fund for the purpose or purposes specified: PROVIDED, That any moneys in the fund shall never be expended for any other purpose or purposes than those specified, without an approving vote by a two-thirds majority of the members of the legislative authority of the city or town. [1983 c 173 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.070. Prior: 1953 c 38 s 1; 1941 c 60 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9213-5.]

**RCW 35.21.080 Cumulative reserve fund—Annual levy for—**

**Application of budget law.** An item for said cumulative reserve fund may be included in the city or town's annual budget or estimate of amounts required to meet public expense for the ensuing year and a tax levy made within the limits and as authorized by law for said item; and said item and levy may be repeated from year to year until, in the judgment of the legislative body of the city or town, the amount required for the specified purpose or purposes has been raised or accumulated. Any moneys in said fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse nor shall the same be a surplus available or which may be used for any other purpose or purposes than those specified, except as herein provided. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.080. Prior: 1953 c 38 s 2; 1941 c 60 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9213-6.]

**RCW 35.21.085 Payrolls fund—Claims fund.**

The legislative authority of any city or town is authorized to create the following special funds:

(1) Payrolls—into which moneys may be placed from time to time as directed by the legislative authority from any funds available and upon which warrants may be drawn and cashed for the purpose of paying any moneys due city employees for salaries and wages. The accounts of the city or town shall be so kept that they shall show the department

or departments and amounts to which the payment is properly chargeable.

(2) Claims—into which may be paid moneys from time to time from any funds which are available and upon which warrants may be issued and paid in payment of claims against the city or town for any purpose. The accounts of the city or town shall be so kept that they shall show the department or departments and the respective amounts for which the warrant is issued and paid. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.085. Prior: 1953 c 27 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.086 Payrolls fund—Transfers from insolvent funds.**

Transfers from an insolvent fund to the payrolls fund or claims fund shall be by warrant. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.086. Prior: 1953 c 27 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.087 Employee checks, drafts, warrants—City, town may cash.** Any city or town is hereby authorized, at its option and after the adoption of the appropriate ordinance, to accept in exchange for cash a payroll check, draft, or warrant; expense check, draft, or warrant; or personal check from a city or town employee in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) The check, warrant, or draft must be drawn to the order of cash or bearer and be immediately payable by a drawee financial institution;

(2) The person presenting the check, draft, or warrant to the city or town must produce identification as outlined by the city or town in the authorizing ordinance;

(3) The payroll check, draft, or warrant or expense check, draft, or warrant must have been issued by the city or town; and

(4) Personal checks cashed pursuant to this authorization cannot exceed two hundred dollars.

In the event that any personal check cashed for a city or town employee by the city or town under this section is dishonored by the drawee financial institution when presented for payment, the city or town is authorized, after notice to the drawer or endorser of the dishonor, to withhold from the drawer's or endorser's next payroll check, draft, or warrant the full amount of the dishonored check. [1991 c 185 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.088 Equipment rental fund.** Any city or town may create, by ordinance, an "equipment rental fund," hereinafter referred to as "the fund," in any department of the city or town to be used as a revolving fund to be expended for salaries, wages, and operations required for the repair, replacement, purchase, and operation of equipment, and for the purchase of equipment, materials, and supplies to be used in the administration and operation of the fund.

The legislative authority of a city or town may transfer any equipment, materials or supplies of any office or department to the equipment rental fund either without charge, or may grant a credit to such office or department equivalent to the value of the equipment, materials or supplies transferred. An office or department receiving such a credit may use it any time thereafter for renting or purchasing equipment, materials, supplies or services from the equipment rental fund.

Money may be placed in the fund from time to time by the legislative authority of the city or town. Cities and towns may purchase and sell equipment, materials and supplies by use of such fund, subject to any laws governing the purchase and sale of property. Such equipment, materials and supplies may be rented for the use of various offices and departments of any city or town or may be rented by any such city or town to governmental agencies. The proceeds received by any city or town from the sale or rental of such property shall be placed in the fund, and the purchase price of any such property or rental payments made by a city or town shall be made from moneys available in the fund. The ordinance creating the fund shall designate the official or body that is to administer the fund and the terms and charges for the rental for the use of any such property which has not been purchased for its own use out of its own funds and may from time to time amend such ordinance.

There shall be paid monthly into the fund out of the moneys available to the department using any equipment, materials, and/or supplies, which have not been purchased by that department for its own use and out of its own funds, reasonable rental charges fixed by the legislative authority of the city or town, and moneys in the fund shall be retained there from year to year so long as the legislative authority of the city or town desires to do so.

Every city having a population of more than eight thousand, according to the last official census, shall establish such an equipment rental fund in its street department or any other department of city government. Such fund shall acquire the equipment necessary to serve the needs of the city street department. Such fund may, in addition, be created to service any other departments of city government or other governmental agencies as authorized hereinabove. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.088. Prior: 1963 c 115 s 7; 1953 c 67 s 1.]

*Census to be conducted in decennial periods: State Constitution Art. 2 s 3.*

*Determination of population: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**RCW 35.21.090 Dikes, levees, embankments—Authority to construct.** Any city or town shall have power to provide for the protection of such city or town, or any part thereof, from overflow, and to establish, construct and maintain dikes, levees, embankments, or other structures and works, or to open, deepen, straighten or otherwise enlarge natural watercourses, waterways and other channels, including the acquisition or damaging of lands, rights-of-way, rights and property therefor, within or without the corporate limits of such city or town, and to manage, regulate and control the same. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.090. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 4; 1907 c 241 s 68; RRS s 9355.]

*Eminent domain: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.21.095 Bridge jumping hazard signs.** (1)(a) The executive officer, or a designated employee, with control of operations and maintenance of a bridge of any city or town may authorize the erection of informational signs near or attached to bridges providing location-specific information about the hazards of jumping with the goal of

preventing future deaths. These signs are meant to provide more information than just a "no jumping" sign so that people can better understand the hazards related to a particular location. Signs providing information on the hazards of cold-water shock that leads to drowning may be erected in locations where people might otherwise think a location is safe for swimming. Signs may include the statewide 988 suicide prevention hotline.

(b) Any city or town responsible for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of bridges is encouraged to create a process where individuals may request the installation of an informational sign to address jumping off a bridge in locations that do not have such signs installed.

(c) Signs created under this section may not conflict with provisions of the manual on uniform traffic control devices or existing state laws related to placement and design of signs that are placed along transportation corridors.

(d) If a sign is to be located along a state highway or the interstate system, the department of transportation must approve the sign and location prior to erecting the sign, but no permit or fee is necessary.

(e) Cities and towns may accept gifts or donations to pay for the creation, installation, or maintenance of signs under this section.

(2) This section applies prospectively.

(3) This section does not create a private right of action by, or a legal duty to, any party, and may not be used to impose liability on the city or town if a sign has or has not been erected on its property. The state of Washington, including all of its agencies, subdivisions, employees, and agents, shall not be liable in tort for any violation of chapter 54, Laws of 2023, notwithstanding any other provision of law. [2023 c 54 s 4.]

**Short title—2023 c 54:** "This act may be known and cited as "Zack's law."" [2023 c 54 s 1.]

**Intent—Finding—2023 c 54:** "(1) The legislature intends state and local agencies to install signs on or near bridges to warn people of the dangers of diving or jumping off the bridge.

(2) This law is enacted at the request of family and friends of Zachary Lee Rager and the Chehalis community in the expectation that better information on bridges will prevent future deaths. On March 23, 2021, Zachary Lee Rager jumped off a bridge in a location he had jumped from many times before during the summer months. Unfortunately, the colder water and conditions were different earlier in the year, and he did not survive.

(3) The legislature finds that cold-water shock drowning can occur when the water temperature is below 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature difference when a body is submerged in the colder water leads to involuntary gasping, inhalation of water, loss of mobility, and loss of consciousness. The ability to hold one's breath is substantially reduced to seconds rather than minutes. Many people may underestimate the conditions on a sunny and warm day, like Zachary Lee Rager did, and a sign that waters may still be too cold for swimming and facts about cold-water shock drowning could prevent future deaths.

(4) The legislature recognizes that state agencies and local governments currently may install informational signs pursuant to RCW 47.42.050. This act creates a pathway so that governments may work

with individuals and communities to provide more signs with location appropriate information in the expectation that more information will prevent future deaths.

(5) Lastly, the legislature is directing state and local governments to consider installing informational signs about the hazards of diving or jumping under this act when they construct new bridges or replace existing infrastructure. The legislature recognizes that not every bridge will need such signs. The choice to install a sign is going to be specific to the location and an assessment of many different factors, including the size of the waterway, the height of the bridge, the communities' level of interest in having such signs, the physical layout of the bridge and surrounding terrain, the resources provided to pay for the bridge, and the likelihood of individuals to use that particular location to dive or jump." [2023 c 54 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.100 Donations—Authority to accept and use.** Every city and town by ordinance may accept any money or property donated, devised, or bequeathed to it and carry out the terms of the donation, devise, or bequest, if within the powers granted by law. If no terms or conditions are attached to the donation, devise, or bequest, the city or town may expend or use it for any municipal purpose. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.100. Prior: 1941 c 80 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9213-8.]

**RCW 35.21.110 Ferries—Authority to acquire and maintain.** Any incorporated city or town within the state is authorized to construct, or condemn and purchase, or purchase, and to maintain a ferry across any unfordable stream adjoining and within one mile of its limits, together with all necessary grounds, roads, approaches and landings necessary or appertaining thereto located within one mile of the limits of such city or town, with full jurisdiction and authority to manage, regulate and control the same beyond the limits of the corporation and to operate the same free or for toll. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.110. Prior: 1895 c 130 s 1; RRS s 5476.]

**RCW 35.21.120 Solid waste handling system—Contracts.** A city or town may by ordinance provide for the establishment of a system or systems of solid waste handling for the entire city or town or for portions thereof. A city or town may provide for solid waste handling by or under the direction of officials and employees of the city or town or may award contracts for any service related to solid waste handling including contracts entered into under RCW 35.21.152. Contracts for solid waste handling may provide that a city or town provide for a minimum periodic fee or other method of compensation in consideration of the operational availability of a solid waste handling system, plant, site, or other facility at a specified minimum level, without regard to the ownership of the system, plant, site, or other facility, or the amount of solid waste actually handled during all or any part of the contract period. When a minimum level of solid waste is specified in a contract for solid waste handling, there shall be a specific allocation of financial responsibility in the event the amount of solid waste handled falls below the minimum level provided in the contract.



As used in this chapter, the terms "solid waste" and "solid waste handling" shall be as defined in RCW 70A.205.015. [2020 c 20 s 1005; 1989 c 399 s 1; 1986 c 282 s 18; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.120. Prior: 1943 c 270 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9504-1, part.]

**Severability—Legislative findings—Construction—Liberal construction—Supplemental powers—1986 c 282:** See notes following RCW 35.21.156.

*Contracts with vendors for solid waste handling: RCW 35.21.156.*

**RCW 35.21.130 Solid waste or recyclable materials collection—Ordinance.** A solid waste or recyclable materials collection ordinance may:

(1) Require property owners and occupants of premises to use the solid waste collection and disposal system or recyclable materials collection and disposal system, and to dispose of their solid waste and recyclable materials as provided in the ordinance: PROVIDED, That a solid waste or recycling ordinance shall not require any retail enterprise engaged in the sale of consumer-packaged products to locate or place a public recycling collection site or buy-back center upon or within a certain distance of the retail establishment as a condition of engaging in the sale of consumer-packaged products; and

(2) Fix charges for solid waste collection and disposal, recyclable materials collection and disposal, or both, and the manner and time of payment therefor including therein a provision that upon failure to pay the charges, the amount thereof shall become a lien against the property for which the solid waste or recyclable materials collection service is rendered. The ordinance may also provide penalties for its violation. [1989 c 431 s 51; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.130. Prior: 1943 c 270 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9504-1, part.]

**RCW 35.21.135 Solid waste or recyclable materials collection—Curbside recycling—Reduced rate.** (1) Each city or town providing by ordinance or resolution a reduced solid waste collection rate to residents participating in a residential curbside recycling program implemented under RCW 70A.205.045, may provide a similar reduced rate to residents participating in any other recycling program, if such program is approved by the jurisdiction. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to reduce the authority of a city to adopt ordinances under RCW 35.21.130(1).

(2) For the purposes of this section, "reduced rate" means a residential solid waste collection rate incorporating a rebate, refund, or discount. Reduced rate shall not include residential solid waste collection rate based on the volume or weight of solid waste set out for collection. [2020 c 20 s 1006; 1991 c 319 s 404.]

**RCW 35.21.140 Garbage—Notice of lien—Foreclosure.** A notice of the city's or town's lien for garbage collection and disposal service specifying the charges, the period covered by the charges and giving the legal description of the premises sought to be charged, shall be filed with the county auditor within the time required and shall be foreclosed in the manner and within the time prescribed for liens for

labor and material. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.140. Prior: 1943 c 270 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9504-1, part.]

**RCW 35.21.150 Garbage—Lien—Priority.** The garbage collection and disposal service lien shall be prior to all liens and encumbrances filed subsequent to the filing of the notice of it with the county auditor, except the lien of general taxes and local improvement assessments whether levied prior or subsequent thereto. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.150. Prior: 1943 c 270 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9504-1, part.]

**RCW 35.21.152 Solid waste handling—Agreements—Purposes—Terms and conditions.** A city or town may construct, lease, condemn, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, and extend systems, plants, sites, or other facilities for solid waste handling, and shall have full jurisdiction and authority to manage, regulate, maintain, utilize, operate, control, and establish the rates and charges for those solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities owned or operated by the city or town. A city or town may enter into agreements with public or private parties to: (1) Construct, lease, purchase, acquire, manage, maintain, utilize, or operate publicly or privately owned or operated solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities; (2) establish rates and charges for those systems, plants, sites, or other facilities; (3) designate particular publicly or privately owned or operated systems, plants, sites, or other facilities as disposal sites; and (4) sell the materials or products of those systems, plants, or other facilities. Any agreement entered into shall be for such term and under such conditions as may be determined by the legislative authority of the city or town. [1989 c 399 s 2; 1977 ex.s. c 164 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 208 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.154 Solid waste—Compliance with chapter 70A.205 RCW required.** Nothing in RCW 35.21.152 will relieve a city or town of its obligations to comply with the requirements of chapter 70A.205 RCW. [2020 c 20 s 1007; 1989 c 399 s 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 208 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.156 Solid waste—Contracts with vendors for solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or facilities—Requirements—Vendor selection procedures.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any city charter, or any law to the contrary, and in addition to any other authority provided by law, the legislative authority of a city or town may contract with one or more vendors for one or more of the design, construction, or operation of, or other service related to, the systems, plants, sites, or other facilities for solid waste handling in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section. Solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or other facilities constructed, purchased, acquired, leased, added to, altered, extended, maintained, managed, utilized, or operated pursuant to this section, RCW 35.21.120 and 35.21.152, whether publicly or privately owned, shall be in substantial compliance with the solid waste management plan applicable to the city or town adopted pursuant to chapter 70A.205 RCW. Agreements relating to such solid waste handling systems,

plants, sites, or other facilities may be for such term and may contain such covenants, conditions, and remedies as the legislative authority of a city or town may deem necessary or appropriate. When a contract for design services is entered into separately from other services permitted under this section, procurement shall be in accordance with chapter 39.80 RCW.

(2) If the legislative authority of the city or town decides to proceed with the consideration of qualifications or proposals for services from vendors, the city or town shall publish notice of its requirements and request submission of qualifications statements or proposals. The notice shall be published in the official newspaper of the city or town at least once a week for two weeks not less than sixty days before the final date for the submission of qualifications statements or proposals. The notice shall state in summary form (a) the general scope and nature of the design, construction, operation, or other service, (b) the name and address of a representative of the city or town who can provide further details, (c) the final date for the submission of qualifications statements or proposals, (d) an estimated schedule for the consideration of qualifications, the selection of vendors, and the negotiation of a contract or contracts for services, (e) the location at which a copy of any request for qualifications or request for proposals will be made available, and (f) the criteria established by the legislative authority to select a vendor or vendors, which may include but shall not be limited to the vendor's prior experience, including design, construction, or operation of other similar facilities; respondent's management capability, schedule availability and financial resources; cost of the services, nature of facility design proposed by the vendor; system reliability; performance standards required for the facilities; compatibility with existing service facilities operated by the public body or other providers of service to the public; project performance guarantees; penalty and other enforcement provisions; environmental protection measures to be used; consistency with the applicable comprehensive solid waste management plan; and allocation of project risks.

(3) If the legislative authority of the city or town decides to proceed with the consideration of qualifications or proposals, it may designate a representative to evaluate the vendors who submitted qualifications statements or proposals and conduct discussions regarding qualifications or proposals with one or more vendors. The legislative authority or representative may request submission of qualifications statements and may later request more detailed proposals from one or more vendors who have submitted qualifications statements, or may request detailed proposals without having first received and evaluated qualifications statements. The legislative authority or its representative shall evaluate the qualifications or proposals, as applicable. If two or more vendors submit qualifications or proposals that meet the criteria established by the legislative authority of the city or town, discussions and interviews shall be held with at least two vendors. Any revisions to a request for qualifications or request for proposals shall be made available to all vendors then under consideration by the city or town and shall be made available to any other person who has requested receipt of that information.

(4) Based on criteria established by the legislative authority of the city or town, the representative shall recommend to the legislative authority a vendor or vendors that are initially

determined to be the best qualified to provide one or more of the design, construction or operation of, or other service related to, the proposed project or services. The legislative authority may select one or more qualified vendors for one or more of the design, construction, or operation of, or other service related to, the proposed project or services.

(5) The legislative authority or its representative may attempt to negotiate a contract with the vendor or vendors selected for one or more of the design, construction, or operation of, or other service related to, the proposed project or services on terms that the legislative authority determines to be fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the city or town. If the legislative authority or its representative is unable to negotiate such a contract with any one or more of the vendors first selected on terms that it determines to be fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the city or town, negotiations with any one or more of the vendors shall be terminated or suspended and another qualified vendor or vendors may be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section. If the legislative authority decides to continue the process of selection, negotiations shall continue with a qualified vendor or vendors in accordance with this section at the sole discretion of the legislative authority until an agreement is reached with one or more qualified vendors, or the process is terminated by the legislative authority. The process may be repeated until an agreement is reached.

(6) Prior to entering into a contract with a vendor, the legislative authority of the city or town shall make written findings, after holding a public hearing on the proposal, that it is in the public interest to enter into the contract, that the contract is financially sound, and that it is advantageous for the city or town to use this method for awarding contracts compared to other methods.

(7) Each contract shall include a project performance bond or bonds or other security by the vendor that in the judgment of the legislative authority of the city or town is sufficient to secure adequate performance by the vendor.

(8) The provisions of chapters 39.12 and 39.19 RCW shall apply to a contract entered into under this section to the same extent as if the systems and plants were owned by a public body.

(9) The vendor selection process permitted by this section shall be supplemental to and shall not be construed as a repeal of or limitation on any other authority granted by law.

The alternative selection process provided by this section may not be used in the selection of a person or entity to construct a publicly owned facility for the storage or transfer of solid waste or solid waste handling equipment unless the facility is either (a) privately operated pursuant to a contract greater than five years, or (b) an integral part of a solid waste processing facility located on the same site. Instead, the applicable provisions of RCW 35.22.620, and 35.23.352, and chapters 39.04 and 39.30 RCW shall be followed. [2020 c 20 s 1008; 1989 c 399 s 7; 1986 c 282 s 17. Formerly RCW 35.92.024.]

**Legislative findings—Construction—1986 c 282 ss 17-20:** "The legislature finds that the regulation, management, and disposal of solid waste through waste reduction, recycling, and the use of resource recovery facilities of the kind described in RCW 35.92.022 and 36.58.040 should be conducted in a manner substantially consistent

with the priorities and policies of the solid waste management act, chapter 70.95 RCW. Nothing contained in sections 17 through 20 of this act shall detract from the powers, duties, and functions given to the utilities and transportation commission in chapter 81.77 RCW." [1986 c 282 s 16.]

**Liberal construction—Supplemental powers—1986 c 282 ss 16-20:**

"Sections 16 through 20 of this act, being necessary for the health and welfare of the state and its inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effect its purposes. Sections 16 through 20 of this act shall be deemed to provide an alternative method for the performance of those subjects authorized by these sections and shall be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers conferred by the Washington state Constitution, other state laws, and the charter of any city or county." [1986 c 282 s 21.]

**RCW 35.21.157 Solid waste collection—Rate increase notice. (1)**

A city that contracts for the collection of solid waste, or provides for the collection of solid waste directly, shall notify the public of each proposed rate increase for a solid waste handling service. The notice may be mailed to each affected ratepayer or published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the collection area. The notice shall be available to affected ratepayers at least forty-five days prior to the proposed effective date of the rate increase.

(2) For purposes of this section, "solid waste handling" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70A.205.015. [2020 c 20 s 1009; 1994 c 161 s 2.]

**Findings—Declaration—1994 c 161:** "The legislature finds that local governments and private waste management companies have significantly changed solid waste management services in an effort to preserve landfill space and to avoid costly environmental cleanups of municipal landfills. The legislature recognizes that these new services have enabled the state to achieve one of the nation's highest recycling rates.

The legislature also finds that the need to pay for the cleanup of past disposal practices and to provide new recycling services has caused solid waste rates to increase substantially. The legislature further finds that private solid waste collection companies regulated by the utilities and transportation commission are required to provide public notice but that city-managed solid waste collection systems are not. The legislature declares it to be in the public interest for city-managed systems to provide public notice of solid waste rate increases." [1994 c 161 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.158 Collection and transportation of recyclable materials by recycling companies or nonprofit entities—Reuse or reclamation—Application of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a recycling company or nonprofit entity from collecting and transporting recyclable materials from a buy-back center, drop-box, or from a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials, or upon agreement with a solid waste collection company.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting a commercial or industrial generator of commercial recyclable materials from selling, conveying, or arranging for transportation of such material to a recycler for reuse or reclamation. [1989 c 431 s 33.]

**RCW 35.21.160 Jurisdiction over adjacent waters.** The powers and jurisdiction of all incorporated cities and towns of the state having their boundaries or any part thereof adjacent to or fronting on any bay or bays, lake or lakes, sound or sounds, river or rivers, or other navigable waters are hereby extended into and over such waters and over any tidelands intervening between any such boundary and any such waters to the middle of such bays, sounds, lakes, rivers, or other waters in every manner and for every purpose that such powers and jurisdiction could be exercised if the waters were within the city or town limits. In calculating the area of any town for the purpose of determining compliance with the limitation on the area of a town prescribed by RCW 35.21.010, the area over which jurisdiction is conferred by this section shall not be included. [1969 c 124 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.160. Prior: 1961 c 277 s 4; 1909 c 111 s 1; RRS s 8892.]

**RCW 35.21.163 Penalty for act constituting a crime under state law—Limitation.** Except as limited by the maximum penalty authorized by law, no city, code city, or town, may establish a penalty for an act that constitutes a crime under state law that is different from the penalty prescribed for that crime by state statute. [1993 c 83 s 1.]

**Effective date—1993 c 83:** "This act shall take effect July 1, 1994." [1993 c 83 s 11.]

**RCW 35.21.165 Driving while under the influence of liquor or drug—Minimum penalties.** Except as limited by the maximum penalties authorized by law, no city or town may establish a penalty for an act that constitutes the crime of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, as provided in RCW 46.61.502, or the crime of being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, as provided in RCW 46.61.504, that is less than the penalties prescribed for those crimes in RCW 46.61.5055. [1995 c 332 s 8; 1994 c 275 s 36; 1983 c 165 s 40.]

**Severability—Effective dates—1995 c 332:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

**Short title—Effective date—1994 c 275:** See notes following RCW 46.04.015.

**Legislative finding, intent—Effective dates—Severability—1983 c 165:** See notes following RCW 46.20.308.

**RCW 35.21.175 Offices to be open certain days and hours.** All city and town offices shall be kept open for the transaction of business during such days and hours as the municipal legislative authority shall by ordinance prescribe. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.175. Prior: 1955 ex.s. c 9 s 4; prior: 1951 c 100 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.180 Ordinances—Adoption of codes by reference.** Ordinances passed by cities or towns must be posted or published in a newspaper as required by their respective charters or the general laws: PROVIDED, That ordinances may by reference adopt Washington state statutes and codes, including fire codes and ordinances relating to the construction of buildings, the installation of plumbing, the installation of electric wiring, health and sanitation, the slaughtering, processing and selling of meats and meat products for human consumption, the production, pasteurizing and sale of milk and milk products, or other subjects, may adopt by reference, any printed code or compilation, or portions thereof, together with amendments thereof or additions thereto, on the subject of the ordinance; and where publications of ordinances in a newspaper is required, such Washington state statutes or codes or other codes or compilations so adopted need not be published therein: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That not less than one copy of such statute, code or compilation and amendments and additions thereto adopted by reference shall be filed for use and examination by the public, in the office of the city or town clerk of said city, or town prior to adoption thereof. Any city or town ordinance heretofore adopting any state law or any such codes or compilations by reference are hereby ratified and validated. [1982 c 226 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.180. Prior: 1963 c 184 s 1; 1943 c 213 s 1; 1935 c 32 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9199-1.]

**Effective date—1982 c 226:** "This act shall take effect on July 1, 1982." [1982 c 226 s 8.]

**RCW 35.21.185 Ordinances—Information pooling.** (1) It is the purpose of this section to provide a means whereby all cities and towns may obtain, through a single source, information regarding ordinances of other cities and towns that may be of assistance to them in enacting appropriate local legislation.

(2) For the purposes of this section, (a) "clerk" means the city or town clerk or other person who is lawfully designated to perform the recordkeeping function of that office, and (b) "department" means the department of commerce.

(3) The clerk of every city and town is directed to provide to the department or its designee, promptly after adoption, a copy of each of its regulatory ordinances and such other ordinances or kinds of ordinances as may be described in a list or lists promulgated by the department or its designee from time to time, and may provide such copies without charge. The department may provide that information to the entity with which it contracts for the provision of municipal research and services, in order to provide a pool of information for all cities and towns in the state of Washington.

(4) This section is intended to be directory and not mandatory. [2010 c 271 s 705; 1995 c 21 s 1.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2010 c 271:** See notes following RCW 43.330.005.

**RCW 35.21.190 Parkways, park drives, and boulevards.** Any city or town council upon request of the board of park commissioners, shall have authority to designate such streets as they may see fit as parkways, park drives, and boulevards, and to transfer all care, maintenance and improvement of the surface thereof to the board of park commissioners, or to such authority of such city or town as may have the care and management of the parks, parkways, boulevards and park drives of the city.

Any city or town may acquire, either by gift, purchase or the right of eminent domain, the right to limit the class, character and extent of traffic that may be carried on such parkways, park drives and boulevards, and to prescribe that the improvement of the surface thereof shall be made wholly in accordance with plans of such board of park commissioners, but that the setting over of all such streets for such purposes shall not in any wise limit the right and authority of the city council to construct underneath the surface thereof any and all public utilities nor to deprive the council of the right to levy assessments for special benefits. In the construction of any such utilities, any damages done to the surface of such parkways, park drives or boulevards shall not be borne by any park funds of such city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.190. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 57; RRS s 9410.]

**RCW 35.21.192 Urban agriculture zone.** (1) A city or town may, by ordinance, establish an urban agriculture zone within the boundaries of the city or town.

(2) To establish an urban agriculture zone, the city or town must conduct at least one public hearing on the question of whether to establish the urban agriculture zone.

(3) An ordinance adopted pursuant to this section must not prohibit the use of structures that support agricultural activity including, without limitation, apiaries, toolsheds, greenhouses, produce stands, and instructional spaces. [2019 c 353 s 14.]

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 353:** See note following RCW 43.23.300.

**RCW 35.21.194 Community gardens.** A city or town may authorize, by ordinance, the use of vacant or blighted city land for the purpose of community gardening under the terms and conditions established for the use of the city land set forth by the ordinance. The ordinance may establish fees for the use of the city land, provide requirements for liability insurance, and provide requirements for a deposit to use the city land, which may be refunded. The ordinance must require that a portion of the community garden include habitat beneficial for the feeding, nesting, and reproduction of all pollinators, including honey bees. [2019 c 353 s 15.]

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 353:** See note following RCW 43.23.300.



**RCW 35.21.195 Statewide sexual assault kit tracking system—Participation by local law enforcement agencies.** Local law enforcement agencies shall participate in the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system established in RCW 43.43.545 for the purpose of tracking the status of all sexual assault kits in the custody of local law enforcement agencies and other entities contracting with local law enforcement agencies. Local law enforcement agencies shall begin full participation in the system according to the implementation schedule established by the Washington state patrol. [2016 c 173 s 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2016 c 173:** See note following RCW 43.43.545.

**RCW 35.21.200 Residence qualifications of appointive officials and employees.** Any city or town may by ordinance of its legislative authority determine whether there shall be any residential qualifications for any or all of its appointive officials or for preference in employment of its employees, but residence of an employee outside the limits of such city or town shall not be grounds for discharge of any regularly appointed civil service employee otherwise qualified: PROVIDED, That this section shall not authorize a city or town to change any residential qualifications prescribed in any city charter for any appointive official or employee: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That all employees appointed prior to the enactment of any ordinance establishing such residence qualifications as provided herein or who shall have been appointed or employed by such cities or towns having waived such residential requirements shall not be discharged by reason of such appointive officials or employees having established their residence outside the limits of such city or town: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That this section shall not authorize a city or town to change the residential requirements with respect to employees of private public utilities acquired by public utility districts or by the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.200. Prior: 1951 c 162 s 1; 1941 c 25 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9213-3.]

**RCW 35.21.203 Recall sufficiency hearing—Payment of defense expenses.** The necessary expenses of defending an elective city or town official in a judicial hearing to determine the sufficiency of a recall charge as provided in RCW 29A.56.140 shall be paid by the city or town if the official requests such defense and approval is granted by the city or town council. The expenses paid by the city or town may include costs associated with an appeal of the decision rendered by the superior court concerning the sufficiency of the recall charge. [2015 c 53 s 34; 1989 c 250 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.205 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** Each city or town may purchase liability insurance with such limits as it may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting its officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1973 c 125 s 2.]

*Police dogs—Immunity: RCW 4.24.410.*

**RCW 35.21.207 Liability insurance for officers and employees authorized.** See RCW 36.16.138.

**RCW 35.21.209 Insurance and workers' compensation for offenders performing community restitution.** The legislative authority of a city or town may purchase liability insurance in an amount it deems reasonable to protect the city or town, its officers, and employees against liability for the wrongful acts of offenders or injury or damage incurred by offenders in the course of court-ordered community restitution, and may elect to treat offenders as employees and/or workers under Title 51 RCW. [2002 c 175 s 30; 1984 c 24 s 1.]

**Effective date—2002 c 175:** See note following RCW 7.80.130.

*Workers' compensation coverage of offenders performing community restitution: RCW 51.12.045.*

**RCW 35.21.210 Sewerage, drainage, and water supply.** Any city or town shall have power to provide for the sewerage, drainage, and water supply thereof, and to establish, construct, and maintain a system or systems of sewers and drains and a system or systems of water supply, within or without the corporate limits of such city or town, and to control, regulate, and manage the same. In addition, any city or town may, as part of maintaining a system of sewers and drains or a system of water supply, or independently of such a system or systems, participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.210. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 3; RRS s 9354.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 327:** See note following RCW 39.34.190.

**RCW 35.21.215 Powers relative to systems of sewerage.** The legislative authority of any city or town may exercise all the powers relating to systems of sewerage authorized by RCW 35.67.010 and 35.67.020. [1997 c 447 s 14.]

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

**RCW 35.21.217 Utility services—Deposit—Tenants' delinquencies—Notice—Lien.** (1) Prior to furnishing utility services, a city or town may require a deposit to guarantee payment for services. However, failure to require a deposit does not affect the validity of any lien authorized by RCW 35.21.290 or 35.67.200. A city or town may determine how to apply partial payments on past due accounts.

(2) A city or town may provide a real property owner or the owner's designee with duplicates of tenant utility service bills, or may notify an owner or the owner's designee that a tenant's utility account is delinquent. However, if an owner or the owner's designee notifies the city or town in writing that a property served by the

city or town is a residential rental property, asks to be notified of a tenant's delinquency, and has provided, in writing, a complete and accurate mailing address, the city or town shall notify the owner or the owner's designee of a residential tenant's delinquency at the same time and in the same manner the city or town notifies the tenant of the tenant's delinquency or by mail, and the city or town is prohibited from collecting from the owner or the owner's designee any charges for electric light or power services more than four months past due. When a city or town provides a real property owner or the owner's designee with duplicates of residential tenant utility service bills or notice that a tenant's utility account is delinquent, the city or town shall notify the tenant that it is providing the duplicate bills or delinquency notice to the owner or the owner's designee.

(3) After August 1, 2010, if a city or town fails to notify the owner of a tenant's delinquency after receiving a written request to do so and after receiving the other information required by subsection (2) of this section, the city or town shall have no lien against the premises for the residential tenant's delinquent and unpaid charges and is prohibited from collecting the tenant's delinquent and unpaid charges for electric light or power services from the owner or the owner's designee.

(4) When a utility account is in a tenant's name, the owner or the owner's designee shall notify the city or town in writing within fourteen days of the termination of the rental agreement and vacation of the premises. If the owner or the owner's designee fails to provide this notice, a city or town providing electric light or power services is not limited to collecting only up to four months of a tenant's delinquent charges from the owner or the owner's designee, provided that the city or town has complied with the notification requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(5) (a) If an occupied multiple residential rental unit receives utility service through a single utility account, if the utility account's billing address is not the same as the service address of a residential rental property, or if the city or town has been notified that a tenant resides at the service address, the city or town shall make a good faith and reasonable effort to provide written notice to the service address of pending disconnection of electric power and light or water service for nonpayment at least seven calendar days prior to disconnection. The purpose of this notice is to provide any affected tenant an opportunity to resolve the delinquency with his or her landlord or to arrange for continued service. If requested, a city or town shall provide electric power and light or water services to an affected tenant on the same terms and conditions as other residential utility customers, without requiring that he or she pay delinquent amounts for services billed directly to the property owner or a previous tenant except as otherwise allowed by law and only where the city or town offers the opportunity for the affected tenant to set up a reasonable payment plan for the delinquent amounts legally due. If a landlord fails to pay for electric power and light or water services, any tenant who requests that the services be placed in his or her name may deduct from the rent due all reasonable charges paid by the tenant to the city or town for such services. A landlord may not take or threaten to take reprisals or retaliatory action as defined in RCW 59.18.240 against a tenant who deducts from his or her rent payments made to a city or town as provided in this subsection.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (5) affects the validity of any lien authorized by RCW 35.21.290 or 35.67.200. Furthermore, a city or town that provides electric power and light or water services to a residential tenant in these circumstances shall retain the right to collect from the property owner, previous tenant, or both, any delinquent amounts due for service previously provided to the service address if the city or town has complied with the notification requirements of subsection (2) of this section when applicable. [2011 c 151 s 5; 2010 c 135 s 1; 1998 c 285 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.220 Sidewalks—Regulation of use of.** Cities of several classes in this state shall be empowered to regulate the use of sidewalks within their limits, and may in their discretion and under such terms and conditions as they may determine permit a use of the same by abutting owners, provided such use does not in their judgment unduly and unreasonably impair passage thereon, to and fro, by the public. Such permission shall not be considered as establishing a prescriptive right, and the right may be revoked at any time by the authorities of such cities. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.220. Prior: 1927 c 261 s 1; RRS s 9213-1.]

**RCW 35.21.225 Transportation benefit districts.** The legislative authority of a city may establish a transportation benefit district subject to the provisions of chapter 36.73 RCW. [2005 c 336 s 22; 1989 c 53 s 2; 1987 c 327 s 3.]

**Effective date—2005 c 336:** See note following RCW 36.73.015.

**Severability—1989 c 53:** See note following RCW 36.73.020.

*Transportation benefit districts: Chapter 36.73 RCW.*

**RCW 35.21.228 Rail fixed guideway public transportation system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.** (1) Each city or town that owns or operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system as defined in RCW 81.104.015 shall submit a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan for that guideway to the state department of transportation by September 1, 1999, or at least one hundred eighty calendar days before beginning operations or instituting significant revisions to its plans. These plans must describe the city's procedures for (a) reporting and investigating any reportable incident, accident, or security breach and identifying and resolving hazards or security vulnerabilities discovered during planning, design, construction, testing, or operations, (b) developing and submitting corrective action plans and annual safety and security audit reports, (c) facilitating on-site safety and security reviews by the state department of transportation and the federal transit administration, and (d) addressing passenger and employee safety and security. The plans must, at a minimum, conform to the standards adopted by the state department of transportation as set forth in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such

subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. If required by the department, the city or town shall revise its plans to incorporate the department's review comments within sixty days after their receipt, and resubmit its revised plans for review.

(2) Each city or town shall implement and comply with its system safety program plan and system security and emergency preparedness plan. The city or town shall perform internal safety and security audits to evaluate its compliance with the plans, and submit its audit schedule to the department of transportation pursuant to the requirements in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. The city or town shall prepare an annual report for its internal safety and security audits undertaken in the prior year and submit it to the department no later than February 15th. The department shall establish the requirements for the annual report. The contents of the annual report must include, at a minimum, the dates the audits were conducted, the scope of the audit activity, the audit findings and recommendations, the status of any corrective actions taken as a result of the audit activity, and the results of each audit in terms of the adequacy and effectiveness of the plans.

(3) Each city or town shall notify the department of transportation, pursuant to the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section, any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The department may adopt rules further defining any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The city or town shall investigate any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability and provide a written investigation report to the department as described in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(4) The system security and emergency preparedness plan required in subsection (1) of this section is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. However, the system safety program plan as described in this section is not subject to this exemption. [2016 c 33 s 2; 2007 c 422 s 1; 2005 c 274 s 264; 1999 c 202 s 1.]

**Effective date—2016 c 33:** See note following RCW 81.104.115.

**Effective date—1999 c 202:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 7, 1999]." [1999 c 202 s 10.]

**RCW 35.21.230 Streets over tidelands declared public highways.**  
All streets in any incorporated city in this state, extending from high tide into the navigable waters of the state, are hereby declared

public highways. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.230. Prior: 1890 p 733 s 1; RRS s 9293.]

*Public highways: Title 47 RCW.*

**RCW 35.21.240 Streets over tidelands—Control of.** All streets declared public highways under the provisions of RCW 35.21.230 shall be under the control of the corporate authorities of the respective cities. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.240. Prior: 1890 p 733 s 2; RRS s 9294.]

**RCW 35.21.250 Streets and alleys over first-class tidelands—Control of.** All streets and alleys, which have been heretofore or may hereafter be established upon, or across tide and shore lands of the first class shall be under the supervision and control of the cities within whose corporate limits such tide and shore lands are situated, to the same extent as are all other streets and alleys of such cities. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.250. Prior: 1901 c 149 s 1; RRS s 9295.]

**RCW 35.21.260 Streets—Annual report to secretary of transportation.** The governing authority of each city and town on or before May 31st of each year shall submit such records and reports regarding street operations in the city or town to the secretary of transportation on forms furnished by him or her as are necessary to enable him or her to compile an annual report thereon. [2009 c 549 s 2042; 1999 c 204 s 1; 1984 c 7 s 19; 1977 c 75 s 29; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.260. Prior: 1943 c 82 s 12; 1937 c 187 s 64; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6450-64.]

**RCW 35.21.270 Streets—Records of funds received and used for construction, repair, maintenance.** The city engineer or the city clerk of each city or town shall maintain records of the receipt and expenditure of all moneys used for construction, repair, or maintenance of streets and arterial highways.

To assist in maintaining uniformity in such records, the state auditor, with the advice and assistance of the department of transportation, shall prescribe forms and types of records to be so maintained. [1995 c 301 s 35; 1984 c 7 s 20; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.270. Prior: 1949 c 164 s 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9300-5.]

**RCW 35.21.275 Street improvements—Provision of supplies or materials.** Any city or town may assist a street abutter in improving the street serving the abutter's premises by providing asphalt, concrete, or other supplies or materials. The furnishing of supplies or materials or paying to the abutter the cost thereof and the providing of municipal inspectors and other incidental personnel shall not render the street improvements a public work or improvement subject to competitive bidding. The legislative authority of such city or town shall approve any such assistance at a public meeting and shall maintain a public register of any such assistance setting forth the value, nature, purpose, date and location of the assistance and the name of the beneficiary. [1983 c 103 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.278 Contracts with community service organizations for public improvements—Limitations.** (1) Without regard to competitive bidding laws for public works, a county, city, town, school district, metropolitan park district, park and recreation district, port district, or park and recreation service area may contract with a chamber of commerce, a service organization, a community, youth, or athletic association, or other similar association located and providing service in the immediate neighborhood, for drawing design plans, making improvements to a park, school playground, public square, other public spaces, or port habitat site, installing equipment or artworks, or providing maintenance services for such a project, or for a facility or facilities as a community or neighborhood project, or for an environmental justice stewardship or sustainability project, and may reimburse the contracting association its expense. The contracting association may use volunteers to whom no wage or salary compensation is paid in the project and provide the volunteers with clothing or tools; meals or refreshments; accident/injury insurance coverage; and reimbursement of their expenses. The consideration to be received by the public entity through the value of the improvements, artworks, equipment, or maintenance shall have a value at least equal to two times that of the payment to the contracting association. All payments made by a public entity under the authority of this section for all such contracts in any one year shall not exceed \$75,000 or two dollars per resident within the boundaries of the public entity, whichever is greater.

(2) A county, city, town, school district, metropolitan park district, park and recreation district, or park and recreation service area may ratify an agreement, which qualifies under subsection (1) of this section and was made before June 9, 1988.

(3) Without regard to competitive bidding laws for public works, a school district, institution of higher education, or other governmental entity that includes training programs for students may contract with a community service organization, nonprofit organization, or other similar entity, to build tiny houses for low-income housing, if the students participating in the building of the tiny houses are in:

(a) Training in a community and technical college construction or construction management program;

(b) A career and technical education program;

(c) A state-recognized apprenticeship preparation program; or

(d) Training under a construction career exploration program for high school students administered by a nonprofit organization. [2023 c 238 s 2; 2019 c 352 s 7; 2012 c 218 s 1; 1988 c 233 s 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2023 c 238:** "The legislature finds that office of financial management forecasts are showing state population growth of more than 2.2 million people by the year 2050. In the face of this dramatic growth, the legislature finds that it is more important than ever to help preserve, maintain, and enhance local parks, trails, and open spaces that are key contributors to the state's quality of life.

The legislature further finds that local parks and recreation agencies confronted with this growth are still dealing with severe budget impacts brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and facing a pending economic slowdown, even as the utilization of parks, open spaces, and trails has spiked up dramatically.

The legislature finds that local parks agencies desperately need additional funding and tools to address the significant growth in use and to better empower nonprofit and service organizations to make a positive impact in their communities.

The legislature finds that community service organizations can help local agencies bring people together in a way that fosters an ethic of service, builds cohesion among residents, and provides more free and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities, particularly in underserved communities.

The legislature finds that increased use of volunteers, and agreements with community service organizations, can help smaller agencies stretch local dollars further and take on bigger projects than they otherwise would be able to.

The legislature finds that one way to incentivize these types of agreements with community service organizations is by modernizing the state laws around contracting with such organizations, which have not been updated since 1988.

The legislature further finds that years of inflation and growth should be taken into account in updating these state laws, which currently restrict many local agencies to a \$25,000 per year limit for all community service organization contracts.

Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to modernize the state laws around contracting with community service organizations in a manner that accounts for three and a half decades of growth and inflationary costs, so that local parks agencies can operate with more reasonable and up-to-date limits that are in keeping with today's budget and cost realities. Doing so will provide local agencies one additional tool to address maintenance backlogs, preserve quality open spaces, and better serve communities experiencing inequities and lacking access to parks and recreation facilities and programs that support healthy living. The legislature therefore intends to increase the dollar limit from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for smaller agencies. It is the intent of the legislature that this limit apply annually to all contracts entered into by an agency under RCW 35.21.278 in any one year, and that this limit not be interpreted to apply on a per contract basis so as to allow any number of individual contracts of up to \$75,000.

It is the intent of the legislature that this authority be used to provide additional opportunities for public service organizations to meaningfully participate in the betterment of their community, rather than as a way for local agencies to advantage nonprofits over other businesses in public contracting." [2023 c 238 s 1.]

**Finding—2019 c 352:** See note following RCW 58.17.040.

**RCW 35.21.280 Tax on admissions—Exceptions.** (1) Every city and town may levy and fix a tax of not more than one cent on twenty cents or fraction thereof to be paid by the person who pays an admission charge to any place: PROVIDED, No city or town shall impose such tax on persons paying an admission to any activity of any elementary or secondary school or any public facility of a public facility district under chapter 35.57 or 36.100 RCW for which a tax is imposed under RCW 35.57.100 or 36.100.210, except the city or town may impose a tax on persons paying an admission to any activity of such public facility if the city or town uses the admission tax revenue it collects on the



admission charges to that public facility for the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or enhancement of that public facility or to develop, support, operate, or enhance programs in that public facility.

(2) Tax authorization under this section includes a tax on persons who are admitted free of charge or at reduced rates to any place for which other persons pay a charge or a regular higher charge for the same privileges or accommodations. A city that is located in a county with a population of one million or more may not levy a tax on events in stadia constructed on or after January 1, 1995, that are owned by a public facilities district under chapter 36.100 RCW and that have seating capacities over forty thousand. The city or town may require anyone who receives payment for an admission charge to collect and remit the tax to the city or town.

(3) The term "admission charge" includes:

(a) A charge made for season tickets or subscriptions;

(b) A cover charge, or a charge made for use of seats and tables reserved or otherwise, and other similar accommodations;

(c) A charge made for food and refreshment in any place where free entertainment, recreation or amusement is provided;

(d) A charge made for rental or use of equipment or facilities for purposes of recreation or amusement; if the rental of the equipment or facilities is necessary to the enjoyment of a privilege for which a general admission is charged, the combined charges shall be considered as the admission charge;

(e) Automobile parking charges if the amount of the charge is determined according to the number of passengers in the automobile. [2002 c 363 s 5; 1999 c 165 s 19; 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 202; 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.280. Prior: 1957 c 126 s 1; 1951 c 35 s 1; 1943 c 80 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 8370-44a.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1995 3rd sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 82.14.0485.

**Severability—Effective dates—1995 1st sp.s. c 14:** See notes following RCW 36.100.010.

**RCW 35.21.290 Utility services—Lien for—Emergency declaration.**

(1) Except as provided in RCW 35.21.217(4) and in subsection (2) of this section, cities and towns owning their own waterworks, or electric light or power plants shall have a lien against the premises to which water, electric light, or power services were furnished for four months charges therefor due or to become due, but not for any charges more than four months past due.

(2) The lien provided for in subsection (1) of this section may apply to charges more than four months past due, if the city or town has been unable to pursue collection or a lien against the premises to which water, electric light, or power services were furnished due to an emergency declaration by the governor. A lien may be imposed after the expiration of the emergency declaration that prevented collection. The period in which the lien may be imposed is the later of:

(a) Three months from the expiration of the emergency declaration preventing collection or a lien; or

(b) Three months of the ratepayer's failure to abide by the terms of an agreed payment plan, if the payment plan for past due charges

would have allowed the ratepayer to repay the past due charges over a period of six months or more. [2021 c 296 s 15; 2010 c 135 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.290. Prior: 1933 c 135 s 1; 1909 c 161 s 1; RRS s 9471.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2021 c 296:** See notes following RCW 82.14.310.

**RCW 35.21.300 Utility services—Enforcement of lien—Limitations on termination of service for residential heating.** (1) The lien for charges for service by a city waterworks, or electric light or power plant may be enforced only by cutting off the service until the delinquent and unpaid charges are paid, except that until June 30, 1991, utility service for residential space heating may be terminated between November 15 and March 15 only as provided in subsections (2) and (4) of this section. In the event of a disputed account and tender by the owner of the premises of the amount the owner claims to be due before the service is cut off, the right to refuse service to any premises shall not accrue until suit has been entered by the city and judgment entered in the case.

(2) Utility service for residential space heating shall not be terminated between November 15 through March 15 if the customer:

(a) Notifies the utility of the inability to pay the bill, including a security deposit. This notice should be provided within five business days of receiving a payment overdue notice unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the customer fails to notify the utility within five business days and service is terminated, the customer can, by paying reconnection charges, if any, and fulfilling the requirements of this section, receive the protections of this chapter;

(b) Provides self-certification of household income for the prior twelve months to a grantee of the department of commerce which administers federally funded energy assistance programs. The grantee shall determine that the household income does not exceed the maximum allowed for eligibility under the state's plan for low-income energy assistance under 42 U.S.C. 8624 and shall provide a dollar figure that is seven percent of household income. The grantee may verify information in the self-certification;

(c) Has applied for home heating assistance from applicable government and private sector organizations and certifies that any assistance received will be applied to the current bill and future utility bills;

(d) Has applied for low-income weatherization assistance to the utility or other appropriate agency if such assistance is available for the dwelling;

(e) Agrees to a payment plan and agrees to maintain the payment plan. The plan will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the following October 15 and to pay for continued utility service. If the past due bill is not paid by the following October 15, the customer shall not be eligible for protections under this chapter until the past due bill is paid. The plan shall not require monthly payments in excess of seven percent of the customer's monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made and thereafter during November 15 through March 15. A customer may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but shall not be in default unless payment during this period is less than seven percent

of monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made and thereafter. If assistance payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the plan; and

(f) Agrees to pay the moneys owed even if he or she moves.

(3) The utility shall:

(a) Include in any notice that an account is delinquent and that service may be subject to termination, a description of the customer's duties in this section;

(b) Assist the customer in fulfilling the requirements under this section;

(c) Be authorized to transfer an account to a new residence when a customer who has established a plan under this section moves from one residence to another within the same utility service area;

(d) Be permitted to disconnect service if the customer fails to honor the payment program. Utilities may continue to disconnect service for those practices authorized by law other than for nonpayment as provided for in this section. Customers who qualify for payment plans under this section who default on their payment plans and are disconnected can be reconnected and maintain the protections afforded under this chapter by paying reconnection charges, if any, and by paying all amounts that would have been due and owing under the terms of the applicable payment plan, absent default, on the date on which service is reconnected; and

(e) Advise the customer in writing at the time it disconnects service that it will restore service if the customer contacts the utility and fulfills the other requirements of this section.

(4) All municipal utilities shall offer residential customers the option of a budget billing or equal payment plan. The budget billing or equal payment plan shall be offered low-income customers eligible under the state's plan for low-income energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1) without limiting availability to certain months of the year, without regard to the length of time the customer has occupied the premises, and without regard to whether the customer is the tenant or owner of the premises occupied.

(5) An agreement between the customer and the utility, whether oral or written, shall not waive the protections afforded under this chapter. [2023 c 470 s 2016; 1995 c 399 s 36; 1991 c 165 s 2; 1990 1st ex.s. c 1 s 1; 1987 c 356 s 1; 1986 c 245 s 1; 1985 c 6 s 3; 1984 c 251 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.300. Prior: 1909 c 161 s 2; RRS s 9472.]

**Explanatory statement—2023 c 470:** See note following RCW 10.99.030.

**Findings—1991 c 165:** "The legislature finds that the health and welfare of the people of the state of Washington require that all citizens receive essential levels of heat and electric service regardless of economic circumstance and that rising energy costs have had a negative effect on the affordability of housing for low-income citizens and have made it difficult for low-income citizens of the state to afford adequate fuel for residential space heat. The legislature further finds that level payment plans, the protection against winter heating shutoff, and house weatherization programs have all been beneficial to low-income persons." [1991 c 165 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.302 Utility services—Involuntary termination of service during heat-related alerts prohibited—Reconnection and repayment plan—Report.** (1) A city or town, including a code city, that owns or operates an electric or water utility may not effect, due to lack of payment, an involuntary termination of utility service to any residential user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the national weather service has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area in which the residential user's address is located.

(2) (a) A residential user at whose dwelling utility service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request that the utility reconnect service on any day for which the national weather service has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area in which the residential user's address is located. The utility shall inform all customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to make that request, including how to contact the utility.

(b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, the utility shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling. The utility, in connection with a request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, may require the residential user to enter into a payment plan prior to reconnecting service to the dwelling. If the utility requires the residential user to enter into a repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply with subsection (3) of this section.

(3) A repayment plan required by a utility pursuant to subsection (2) (b) of this section will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the following May 15th, or as soon as possible after May 15th if needed to maintain monthly payments that are no greater than six percent of the customer's monthly income, and to pay for continued utility service. The plan may not require monthly payments in excess of six percent of the customer's monthly income. A customer may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but will not be in default unless payment during this period is less than six percent of the customer's monthly income. If assistance payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the plan.

(4) On an annual basis, each city or town, including a code city, that owns or operates an electric or water utility with more than 25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must submit a report to the department of commerce that includes the total number of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the national weather service issued, or announced that it intended to issue, a heat-related alert. Utilities with fewer than 25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must provide similar information upon request by the department.

(a) Subject to availability, each utility must provide any other information related to utility disconnections that is requested by the department.

(b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department. [2023 c 105 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.305 Utility connection charges—Waiver for low-income persons.** A city or town, including a code city, that owns or operates an electric or gas utility may waive connection charges for properties purchased by low-income persons from organizations exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code as amended prior to July 23, 1995. Waivers of connection charges for the same class of electric or gas utility service must be uniformly applied to all qualified property. Nothing in this section authorizes the impairment of a contract. [1995 c 140 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.310 Removal of overhanging or obstructing vegetation—Removal, destroying debris.** Any city or town may by general ordinance require the owner of any property therein to remove or destroy all trees, plants, shrubs or vegetation, or parts thereof, which overhang any sidewalk or street or which are growing thereon in such manner as to obstruct or impair the free and full use of the sidewalk or street by the public; and may further so require the owner of any property therein to remove or destroy all grass, weeds, shrubs, bushes, trees or vegetation growing or which has grown and died, and to remove or destroy all debris, upon property owned or occupied by them and which are a fire hazard or a menace to public health, safety or welfare. The ordinance shall require the proceedings therefor to be initiated by a resolution of the governing body of the city or town, adopted after not less than five days' notice to the owner, which shall describe the property involved and the hazardous condition, and require the owner to make such removal or destruction after notice given as required by said ordinance. The ordinance may provide that if such removal or destruction is not made by the owner after notice given as required by the ordinance in any of the above cases, that the city or town will cause the removal or destruction thereof and may also provide that the cost to the city or town shall become a charge against the owner of the property and a lien against the property. Notice of the lien herein authorized shall as nearly as practicable be in substantially the same form, filed with the same officer within the same time and manner, and enforced and foreclosed as is provided by law for liens for labor and materials.

The provisions of this section are supplemental and additional to any other powers granted or held by any city or town on the same or a similar subject. [1969 c 20 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.310. Prior: 1949 c 113 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9213-10.]

*Weeds, duty of city or town, extermination areas: RCW 17.04.160.*

**RCW 35.21.315 Amateur radio antennas—Local regulation to conform with federal law.** No city or town shall enact or enforce an ordinance or regulation that fails to conform to the limited preemption entitled "Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FCC 2nd 952 (1985)" issued by the federal communications commission. An ordinance or regulation adopted by a city or town with respect to amateur radio

antennas shall conform to the limited federal preemption, that states local regulations that involve placement, screening, or height of antennas based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must be crafted to reasonably accommodate amateur communications, and to represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose. [1994 c 50 s 1.]

**Effective date—1994 c 50:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 23, 1994]." [1994 c 50 s 4.]

**RCW 35.21.320 Warrants—Interest rate—Payment.** All city and town warrants shall draw interest from and after their presentation to the treasurer, but no compound interest shall be paid on any warrant directly or indirectly. The city or town treasurer shall pay all warrants in the order of their number and date of issue whenever there are sufficient funds in the treasury applicable to the payment. If five hundred dollars (or any sum less than five hundred dollars as may be prescribed by ordinance) is accumulated in any fund having warrants outstanding against it, the city or town treasurer shall publish a call for warrants to that amount in the next issue of the official newspaper of the city or town. The notice shall describe the warrants so called by number and specifying the fund upon which they were drawn: PROVIDED, That no call need be made until the amount accumulated is equal to the amount due on the warrant longest outstanding: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no more than two calls shall be made in any one month.

Any city or town treasurer who knowingly fails to call for or pay any warrant in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars and conviction thereof shall be sufficient cause for removal from office. [1985 c 469 s 20; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.320. Prior: (i) 1893 c 48 s 1, part; RRS s 4116, part. (ii) 1895 c 152 s 2, part; RRS s 4119, part. (iii) 1895 c 152 s 1, part; RRS s 4118, part.]

**RCW 35.21.333 Chief of police or marshal—Eligibility requirements.** (1) A person seeking appointment to the office of chief of police or marshal, of a city or town, including a code city, with a population in excess of one thousand, is ineligible unless that person:

- (a) Is a citizen of the United States of America;
- (b) Has obtained a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate as provided in RCW 28B.50.536;
- (c) Has not been convicted under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States of a felony;
- (d) Has not been convicted of a gross misdemeanor or any crime involving moral turpitude within five years of the date of application;
- (e) Has received at least a general discharge under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed services for any military service if the person was in the military service;
- (f) Has completed at least two years of regular, uninterrupted, full-time commissioned law enforcement employment involving

enforcement responsibilities with a government law enforcement agency; and

(g) The person has been certified as a regular and commissioned enforcement officer through compliance with this state's basic training requirement or equivalency.

(2) A person seeking appointment to the office of chief of police or marshal, of a city or town, including a code city, with a population of one thousand or less, is ineligible unless that person conforms with the requirements of subsection (1) (a) through (e) of this section. A person so appointed as chief of police or marshal must successfully complete the state's basic training requirement or equivalency within nine months after such appointment, unless an extension has been granted by the criminal justice training commission.

(3) A person seeking appointment to the office of chief of police or marshal shall provide a sworn statement under penalty of perjury to the appointing authority stating that the person meets the requirements of this section. [2013 c 39 s 17; 1987 c 339 s 4.]

**Intent—1987 c 339:** "The intent of this act is to require certain qualifications for candidates for the office of chief of police or marshal, which position in whole or in part oversees law enforcement personnel or activities for a city or town.

The legislature finds that over the past century the field of law enforcement has become increasingly complex and many new techniques and resources have evolved both socially and technically. In addition the ever-changing requirements of law, both constitutional and statutory provisions protecting the individual and imposing responsibilities and legal liabilities of law enforcement officers and the government of which they represent, require an increased level of training and experience in the field of law enforcement.

The legislature, therefore finds that minimum requirements are reasonable and necessary to seek and hold the offices or office of chief of police or marshal, and that such requirements are in the public interest." [1987 c 339 s 3.]

**Severability—1987 c 339:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 339 s 8.]

**Effective date—1987 c 339:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1987." [1987 c 339 s 9.]

**RCW 35.21.334 Chief of police or marshal—Background investigation.** Before making an appointment in the office of chief of police or marshal, the appointing agency shall complete a thorough background investigation of the candidate. The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall develop advisory procedures which may be used by the appointing authority in completing its background investigation of candidates for the office of chief of police or marshal. [1987 c 339 s 5.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1987 c 339:** See notes following RCW 35.21.333.

**RCW 35.21.335 Chief of police or marshal—Vacancy.** In the case of a vacancy in the office of chief of police or marshal, all requirements and procedures of RCW 35.21.333 and 35.21.334 shall be followed in filling the vacancy. [1987 c 339 s 6.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1987 c 339:** See notes following RCW 35.21.333.

**RCW 35.21.340 Cemeteries and funeral facilities.** See chapter 68.52 RCW.

**RCW 35.21.350 Civil service in police and fire departments.** See Title 41 RCW.

**RCW 35.21.360 Eminent domain by cities and towns.** See chapter 8.12 RCW.

**RCW 35.21.370 Joint county and city hospitals.** See chapter 36.62 RCW.

**RCW 35.21.380 Joint county and city buildings.** See chapter 36.64 RCW.

**RCW 35.21.385 Counties with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more may contract with cities concerning buildings and related improvements.** See RCW 36.64.070.

**RCW 35.21.390 Public employment, civil service and pensions.** See Title 41 RCW.

**RCW 35.21.392 Contractors—Authority of city to verify registration and report violations.** A city that issues a business license to a person required to be registered under chapter 18.27 RCW may verify that the person is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW and report violations to the department of labor and industries. The department of revenue must conduct the verification for cities that participate in the business licensing system. [2013 c 144 s 36; 2011 c 298 s 22; 2009 c 432 s 2.]

**Purpose—Intent—Agency transfer—Contracting—Effective date—2011 c 298:** See notes following RCW 19.02.020.

**Report—2009 c 432:** See RCW 18.27.800.



**RCW 35.21.395 Historic preservation—Authorization to acquire property, borrow money, issue bonds, etc.** Any city or town may acquire title to or any interest in real and personal property for the purpose of historic preservation and may restore, improve, maintain, manage, and lease the property for public or private use and may enter into contracts, borrow money, and issue bonds and other obligations for such purposes. This authorization shall not expand the eminent domain powers of cities or towns. [1984 c 203 s 3.]

**Severability—1984 c 203:** See note following RCW 35.43.140.

**RCW 35.21.400 City may acquire property for parks, recreational, viewpoint, greenbelt, conservation, historic, scenic, or view purposes.** See RCW 36.34.340.

**RCW 35.21.403 Authority to establish lake and beach management districts.** Any city or town may establish lake and beach management districts within its boundaries as provided in chapter 36.61 RCW. When a city or town establishes a lake or beach management district pursuant to chapter 36.61 RCW, the term "county legislative authority" shall be deemed to mean the city or town governing body, the term "county" shall be deemed to mean the city or town, and the term "county treasurer" shall be deemed to mean the city or town treasurer or other fiscal officer. [2008 c 301 s 28; 1985 c 398 s 27.]

**RCW 35.21.404 Fish enhancement project—City's or town's liability.** A city or town is not liable for adverse impacts resulting from a fish enhancement project that meets the criteria of RCW 77.55.181 and has been permitted by the department of fish and wildlife. [2014 c 120 s 9; 2003 c 39 s 14; 1998 c 249 s 9.]

**Findings—Purpose—Report—Effective date—1998 c 249:** See notes following RCW 77.55.181.

**RCW 35.21.405 Moorage facilities—Regulations authorized—Port charges, delinquency—Abandoned vessels, public sale.** See RCW 53.08.310 and 53.08.320.

**RCW 35.21.407 Abandoned or derelict vessels.** Any city or town has the authority, subject to the processes and limitation outlined in chapter 79.100 RCW, to store, strip, use, auction, sell, salvage, scrap, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict vessel found on or above publicly or privately owned aquatic lands within the jurisdiction of the city or town. [2002 c 286 s 15.]

**Effective date—2002 c 286:** See RCW 79.100.901.

**RCW 35.21.408 Transfer of ownership of a city or town-owned vessel—Review of vessel's physical condition.** (1) Prior to transferring ownership of a city or town-owned vessel, the city or

town shall conduct a thorough review of the physical condition of the vessel, the vessel's operating capability, and any containers and other materials that are not fixed to the vessel.

(2) If the city or town determines the vessel is in a state of advanced deterioration or poses a reasonably imminent threat to human health or safety, including a threat of environmental contamination, the city or town may: (a) Not transfer the vessel until the conditions identified under this subsection have been corrected; or (b) permanently dispose of the vessel by landfill, deconstruction, or other related method.

(3) Vessels taken into custody under chapter 79.100 RCW are not subject to this section or RCW 35.21.409. [2013 c 291 s 15.]

**RCW 35.21.409 Transfer of ownership of a city or town-owned vessel—Further requirements.** (1) Following the inspection required under RCW 35.21.408 and prior to transferring ownership of a city or town-owned vessel, a city or town shall obtain the following from the transferee:

(a) The purposes for which the transferee intends to use the vessel; and

(b) Information demonstrating the prospective owner's intent to obtain legal moorage following the transfer, in the manner determined by the city or town.

(2) (a) The city or town shall remove any containers or other materials that are not fixed to the vessel and contain hazardous substances, as defined under RCW 70A.305.020.

(b) However, the city or town may transfer a vessel with:

(i) Those containers or materials described under (a) of this subsection where the transferee demonstrates to the city or town's satisfaction that the container's or material's presence is consistent with the anticipated use of the vessel; and

(ii) A reasonable amount of fuel as determined by the city or town, based on factors including the vessel's size, condition, and anticipated use of the vessel, including initial destination following transfer.

(c) The city or town may consult with the department of ecology in carrying out the requirements of this subsection.

(3) Prior to sale, and unless the vessel has a title or valid marine document, the city or town is required to apply for a certificate of title for the vessel under RCW 88.02.510 and register the vessel under RCW 88.02.550. [2020 c 20 s 1010; 2013 c 291 s 16.]

**RCW 35.21.410 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** See chapter 80.58 RCW.

**RCW 35.21.412 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts.** See RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.

**RCW 35.21.415 Electrical utilities—Civil immunity of officials and employees for good faith mistakes and errors of judgment.**

Officials and employees of cities and towns shall be immune from civil liability for mistakes and errors of judgment in the good faith performance of acts within the scope of their official duties involving the exercise of judgment and discretion which relate solely to their responsibilities for electrical utilities. This grant of immunity shall not be construed as modifying the liability of the city or town. [1983 1st ex.s. c 48 s 1.]

**Severability—1983 1st ex.s. c 48:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 1st ex.s. c 48 s 4.]

**RCW 35.21.417 Hydroelectric reservoir extending across international boundary—Agreement with Province of British Columbia.** To carry out a treaty between the United States of America and Canada, a city that maintains hydroelectric facilities with a reservoir which extends across the international boundary, may enter into an agreement with the Province of British Columbia for enhancing recreational opportunities and protecting environmental resources of the watershed of the river or rivers which forms the reservoir. The agreement may provide for establishment of and payments into an environmental endowment fund and establishment of an administering commission to implement the purpose of the treaty and the agreement. [1984 c 1 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.418 Hydroelectric reservoir extending across international boundary—Commission—Powers.** A commission, established by an agreement between a Washington municipality and the Province of British Columbia to carry out a treaty between the United States of America and Canada as authorized in RCW 35.21.417, shall be public and shall have all powers and capacity necessary and appropriate for the purposes of performing its functions under the agreement, including, but not limited to, the following powers and capacity: To acquire and dispose of real property other than by condemnation; to enter into contracts; to sue and be sued in either Canada or the United States; to establish an endowment fund in either or both the United States and Canada and to invest the endowment fund in either or both countries; to solicit, accept, and use donations, grants, bequests, or devises intended for furthering the functions of the endowment; to adopt such rules or procedures as it deems desirable for performing its functions; to engage advisors and consultants; to establish committees and subcommittees; to adopt rules for its governance; to enter into agreements with public and private entities; and to engage in activities necessary and appropriate for implementing the agreement and the treaty.

The endowment fund and commission may not be subject to state or local taxation. A commission, so established, may not be subject to statutes and laws governing Washington cities and municipalities in the conduct of its internal affairs: PROVIDED, That all commission members appointed by the municipality shall comply with chapter 42.52 RCW, and: PROVIDED FURTHER, That all commission meetings held within the state of Washington shall be held in compliance with chapter 42.30 RCW. All obligations or liabilities incurred by the commission shall

be satisfied exclusively from its own assets and insurance. [1994 c 154 s 309; 1984 c 1 s 2.]

**Effective date—1994 c 154:** See RCW 42.52.904.

**RCW 35.21.420 Utilities—City may support county in which generating plant located—Cities with a population greater than five hundred thousand responsible for impact payments and arrearages—**

**Arbitration.** (1) Any city owning and operating a public utility and having facilities for the generation of electricity located in a county other than that in which the city is located, may provide for the public peace, health, safety and welfare of such county as concerns the facilities and the personnel employed in connection therewith, by contributing to the support of the county government of any such county and enter into contracts with any such county therefor.

(2) (a) Any city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people owning and operating a public utility and having facilities for the generation of electricity located in a county other than that in which the city is located, must provide for the impacts of lost revenue and the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of such county as concerns the facilities and the personnel employed in connection therewith, by contributing to the support of the county, city, or town government and school district of any such county and enter into contracts with any such county therefor as specified in RCW 35.21.425.

(b) (i) In the event a contract entered into under this section between a county and the governing body of a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people authorized or required under this section expires prior to the adoption of a new contract between the parties, the city must continue to make compensatory payments calculated based on the payment terms set forth in the most recent expired compensation contract between the city and the county until such time as a new contract is entered into by the parties.

(ii) In the event a contract entered into under this section between a county and the governing body of a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people expired prior to June 10, 2010, the city shall be indebted to the county for any resulting arrearage accruing from the time of the expiration of the contract until such time as a new contract is entered into by the parties. The dollar amount of such arrearage shall be calculated retroactively by reference to the payment terms set forth in the most recent expired compensation contract between the city and the county.

(c) In the event a contract entered into under this section between a county and the governing body of a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people expires, or has expired prior to June 10, 2010, and the county and the city are unable to reach agreement on a new contract within six months of such expiration, then either the county or the city may initiate the arbitration procedures set forth in RCW 35.21.426 by serving a written notice of intent to arbitrate on the other. Arbitration must commence within sixty days of service of such notice, and must follow the arbitration procedures as provided in RCW 35.21.426. The city is responsible for the costs of arbitration, including compensation for the arbitrators' services, except that the city and the county shall

bear their own costs for attorneys' fees and their own costs of litigation. [2010 c 199 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.420. Prior: 1951 c 104 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.422 Utilities—Cities in a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more west of Cascades may support cities, towns, counties and taxing districts in which facilities located.** Any city, located within a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more west of the Cascades, owning and operating a public utility and having facilities for the distribution of electricity located outside its city limits, may provide for the support of cities, towns, counties and taxing districts in which such facilities are located, and enter into contracts with such county therefor. Such contribution shall be based upon the amount of retail sales of electricity, other than to governmental agencies, made by such city in the areas of such cities, towns, counties or taxing districts in which such facilities are located, and shall be divided among them on the same basis as taxes on real and personal property therein are divided. [1991 c 363 s 38; 1967 ex.s. c 52 s 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**RCW 35.21.425 City constructing generating facility in other county—Reimbursement of county or school district—Reimbursement by cities with a population greater than five hundred thousand.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, whenever after March 17, 1955, any city shall construct hydroelectric generating facilities or acquire land for the purpose of constructing the same in a county other than the county in which such city is located, and by reason of such construction or acquisition shall (1) cause loss of revenue and/or place a financial burden in providing for the public peace, health, safety, welfare, and added road maintenance in such county, in addition to road construction or relocation as set forth in RCW 90.28.010 and/or (2) shall cause any loss of revenues and/or increase the financial burden of any school district affected by the construction because of an increase in the number of pupils by reason of the construction or the operation of said generating facilities, the city shall enter into an agreement with said county and/or the particular school district or districts affected for the payment of moneys to recompense such losses or to provide for such increased financial burden, upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreeable to the city and the county and/or school district or districts.

(2) (a) Whenever after March 17, 1955, a municipal owned utility located in a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people constructs or operates hydroelectric generating facilities or acquires land for the purpose of constructing or operating the same in a county other than the county in which the city is located must enter into an agreement with the county affected for the annual payment of moneys to recompense such losses, as provided under subsection (1) of this section.

(b) (i) In the event an agreement entered into under this section between a county and the governing body of either a city with a

population greater than five hundred thousand people or a municipal utility owned by a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people expires prior to the adoption of a new agreement between the parties, the city or utility must continue to make compensatory payments calculated based on the payment terms set forth in the most recent expired compensation contract between the city and the county until such time as a new agreement is entered into by the parties.

(ii) In the event an agreement entered into under this section between a county and the governing body of either a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people or a municipal utility owned by a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people expired prior to June 10, 2010, the city shall be indebted to the county for any resulting arrearage accruing from the time of the expiration of the agreement until such time as a new agreement is entered into by the parties. The dollar amount of such arrearage shall be calculated retroactively by reference to the payment terms set forth in the most recent expired compensation agreement between the city and the county.

(c) In the event an agreement entered into under this section between a county and the governing body of either a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people or a municipal utility owned by a city with a population greater than five hundred thousand people expires, or has expired prior to June 10, 2010, and the county and the city are unable to reach agreement on a new agreement within six months of such expiration, then either the county or the city may initiate the arbitration procedures set forth in RCW 35.21.426 by serving a written notice of intent to arbitrate on the other. Arbitration must commence within sixty days of service of such notice, and must follow the arbitration procedures as provided in RCW 35.21.426. The city is responsible for the costs of arbitration, including compensation for the arbitrators' services, and the city and the county shall bear their own costs for attorneys' fees and their own costs of litigation. [2010 c 199 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.425. Prior: 1955 c 252 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.426 City constructing generating facility in other county—Notice of loss—Negotiations—Arbitration.** Whenever a county or school district affected by the project sustains such financial loss or is affected by an increased financial burden as above set forth or it appears that such a financial loss or burden will occur beginning not later than within the next three months, such county or school district shall immediately notify the city in writing setting forth the particular losses or increased burden and the city shall immediately enter into negotiations to effect a contract. In the event the city and the county or school district are unable to agree upon terms and conditions for such contract, then in that event, within sixty days after such notification, the matter shall be submitted to a board of three arbitrators, one of whom shall be appointed by the city council of the city concerned; one by the board of county commissioners for the county concerned or by the school board for the school district concerned, and one by the two arbitrators so appointed. In the event such arbitrators are unable to agree on a third arbitrator within ten days after their appointment then the third arbitrator shall be selected by the state auditor. The board of

arbitrators shall determine the loss of revenue and/or the cost of the increased financial burden placed upon the county or school district and its findings shall be binding upon such city and county or school district and the parties shall enter into a contract for reimbursement by the city in accordance with such findings, with the payment under such findings to be retroactive to the date when the city was first notified in writing. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.426. Prior: 1955 c 252 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.427 City constructing generating facility in other county—Additional findings—Renegotiation.** The findings provided for in RCW 35.21.426 may also provide for varying payments based on formulas to be stated in the findings, and for varying payments for different stated periods. The findings shall also state a future time at which the agreement shall be renegotiated or, in event of failure to agree on such renegotiation, be arbitrated as provided in RCW 35.21.426. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.427. Prior: 1955 c 252 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.430 Utilities—City may pay taxing districts involved after acquisition of private power facilities.** On and after January 1, 1951, whenever a city or town shall acquire electric generation, transmission and/or distribution properties which at the time of acquisition were in private ownership, the legislative body thereof may each year order payments made to all taxing districts within which any part of the acquired properties are located, in amounts not greater than the taxes, exclusive of excess levies voted by the people and/or levies made for the payment of bonded indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, section 2 of the Constitution of this state, as now or hereafter amended, and/or by statutory provision, imposed on such properties in the last tax year in which said properties were in private ownership. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.430. Prior: 1951 c 217 s 1.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:**  
See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.21.440 Utilities—Additional payments to school districts having bonded indebtedness.** In the event any portion of such property shall be situated in any school district which, at the time of acquisition, has an outstanding bonded indebtedness, the city or town may in addition to the payments authorized in RCW 35.21.430, make annual payments to such school district which shall be applied to the retirement of the principal and interest of such bonds. Such payments shall be computed in the proportion which the assessed valuation of utility property so acquired shall bear to the total assessed valuation of the district at the time of the acquisition. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.440. Prior: 1951 c 217 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.450 Utilities—Payment of taxes.** Annual payments shall be ordered by an ordinance or ordinances of the legislative body. The ordinance shall further order a designated officer to notify in writing the county assessor of each county in which any portion of such property is located, of the city's intention to make such

payments. The county assessor shall thereupon enter upon the tax rolls of the county the amount to which any taxing district of the county is entitled under the provisions of RCW 35.21.430 to 35.21.450, inclusive; and upon delivery of the tax rolls to the county treasurer as provided by law, the amount of the tax as hereinbefore authorized and determined shall become due and payable by the city or town the same as real property taxes. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.450. Prior: 1951 c 217 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.455 Locally regulated utilities—Attachments to poles.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Attachment" means the affixation or installation of any wire, cable or other physical material capable of carrying electronic impulses or light waves for the carrying of intelligence for telecommunications or television, including, but not limited to cable, and any related device, apparatus, or auxiliary equipment upon any pole owned or controlled in whole or in part by one or more locally regulated utilities where the installation has been made with the necessary consent.

(b) "Locally regulated utility" means a city owning and operating an electric utility not subject to rate or service regulation by the utilities and transportation commission.

(c) "Nondiscriminatory" means that pole owners may not arbitrarily differentiate among or between similar classes of persons approved for attachments.

(2) All rates, terms, and conditions made, demanded or received by a locally regulated utility for attachments to its poles must be just, reasonable, nondiscriminatory and sufficient. A locally regulated utility shall levy attachment space rental rates that are uniform for the same class of service within the locally regulated utility service area.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed or is intended to confer upon the utilities and transportation commission any authority to exercise jurisdiction over locally regulated utilities. [1996 c 32 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.465 Crop purchase contracts for dedicated energy crops.** In addition to any other authority provided by law, public development authorities are authorized to enter into crop purchase contracts for a dedicated energy crop for the purposes of producing, selling, and distributing biodiesel produced from Washington state feedstocks, cellulosic ethanol, and cellulosic ethanol blend fuels. [2007 c 348 s 208.]

**Findings—2007 c 348:** See RCW 43.325.005.

**RCW 35.21.470 Building construction projects—City or town prohibited from requiring state agencies or local governments to provide bond or other security as a condition for issuance of permit.** A city or town may not require any state agency or unit of local government to secure the performance of a permit requirement with a surety bond or other financial security device, including cash or



assigned account, as a condition of issuing a permit to that unit of local government for a building construction project.

As used in this section, "building construction project" includes, in addition to its usual meaning, associated landscaping, street alteration, pedestrian or vehicular access alteration, or other amenities or alterations necessarily associated with the project. [1993 c 439 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.475 Statement of restrictions applicable to real property.**

(1) A property owner may make a written request for a statement of restrictions applicable to a single parcel, tract, lot, or block of real property to the city or town in which the real property is located.

(2) Within thirty days of the receipt of the request, the city or town shall provide the owner with a statement of restrictions as described in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The statement of restrictions shall include the following:

(a) The zoning currently applicable to the real property;

(b) Pending zoning changes currently advertised for public hearing that would be applicable to the real property; and

(c) Any designations made by the city or town pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW of any portion of the real property as agricultural land, forestland, mineral resource land, wetland, an area with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, a fish and wildlife habitat conservation area, a frequently flooded area, and as a geological hazardous area.

(4) If a city or town fails to provide the statement of restrictions within thirty days after receipt of the written request, the owner shall be awarded recovery of all attorneys' fees and costs incurred in any successful application for a writ of mandamus to compel production of a statement.

(5) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Owner" means any vested owner or any person holding the buyer's interest under a recorded real estate contract in which the seller is the vested owner; and

(b) "Real property" means a parcel, tract, lot or block: (i) Containing a single-family residence that is occupied by the owner or a member of his or her family, or rented to another by the owner; or (ii) five acres or less in size.

(6) This section does not affect the vesting of permits or development rights.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to create any liability on the part of a city or town to pay damages for a violation of this section. [1996 c 206 s 6.]

**Effective date—1996 c 206 ss 6-8:** "Sections 6 through 8 of this act take effect January 1, 1997." [1996 c 206 s 13.]

**Findings—1996 c 206:** See note following RCW 43.05.030.

**RCW 35.21.500 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Scope of codification.** "Codification" means the editing, rearrangement and/or grouping of ordinances under appropriate

titles, parts, chapters and sections and includes but is not limited to the following:

(1) Editing ordinances to the extent deemed necessary or desirable, for the purpose of modernizing and clarifying the language of such ordinances, but without changing the meaning of any such ordinance.

(2) Substituting for the term "this ordinance," where necessary the term "section," "part," "code," "chapter," "title," or reference to specific section or chapter numbers, as the case may require.

(3) Correcting manifest errors in reference to other ordinances, laws and statutes, and manifest spelling, clerical or typographical errors, additions, or omissions.

(4) Dividing long sections into two or more sections and rearranging the order of sections to insure a logical arrangement of subject matter.

(5) Changing the wording of section captions, if any, and providing captions to new chapters and sections.

(6) Striking provisions manifestly obsolete and eliminating conflicts and inconsistencies so as to give effect to the legislative intent. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.500. Prior: 1957 c 97 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.510 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Authorized.** Any city or town may prepare or cause to be prepared a codification of its ordinances. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.510. Prior: 1957 c 97 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.520 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Adoption as official code of city.** Any city or town having heretofore prepared or caused to be prepared, or now preparing or causing to be prepared, or that hereafter prepares or causes to be prepared, a codification of its ordinances may adopt such codification by enacting an ordinance adopting such codification as the official code of the city, provided the procedure and requirements of RCW 35.21.500 through 35.21.570 are complied with. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.520. Prior: 1957 c 97 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.530 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Filing—Notice of hearing.** When a city or town codifies its ordinances, it shall file a typewritten or printed copy of the codification in the office of the city or town clerk. After the first reading of the title of the adopting ordinance and of the title of the code to be adopted thereby, the legislative body of the city or town shall schedule a public hearing thereon. Notice of the hearing shall be published once not more than fifteen nor less than ten days prior to the hearing in the official newspaper of the city, indicating that its ordinances have been compiled, or codified and that a copy of such compilation or codification is on file in the city or town clerk's office for inspection. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing. [1985 c 469 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.21.530. Prior: 1957 c 97 s 4.]

**RCW 35.21.540 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Legislative body may amend, adopt, or reject adopting ordinance—When official code.** After the hearing, the legislative body may amend, adopt, or reject the adopting ordinance in the same manner in which it is empowered to act in the case of other ordinances. Upon the enactment of such adopting ordinance, the codification shall be the official code of ordinances of the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.540. Prior: 1957 c 97 s 5.]

**RCW 35.21.550 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Copies as proof of ordinances.** Copies of such codes in published form shall be received without further proof as the ordinances of permanent and general effect of the city or town in all courts and administrative tribunals of this state. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.550. Prior: 1957 c 97 s 6.]

*Ordinances, admissibility as evidence: RCW 5.44.080.*

**RCW 35.21.560 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Adoption of new material.** New material shall be adopted by the city or town legislative body as separate ordinances prior to the inclusion thereof in such codification: PROVIDED, That any ordinance amending the codification shall set forth in full the section or sections, or subsection or subsections of the codification being amended, as the case may be, and this shall constitute a sufficient compliance with any statutory or charter requirement that no ordinance or any section thereof shall be revised or amended unless the new ordinance sets forth the revised ordinance or amended section in full. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.560. Prior: 1961 c 70 s 1; 1957 c 97 s 7.]

**RCW 35.21.570 Compilation, codification, revision of city or town ordinances—Codification satisfies single subject, title, and amendment requirements of statute or charter.** When a city or town shall make a codification of its ordinances in accordance with RCW 35.21.500 through 35.21.570 that shall constitute a sufficient compliance with any statutory or charter requirements that no ordinance shall contain more than one subject which shall be clearly expressed in its title and that no ordinance or any section thereof shall be revised or amended unless the new ordinance sets forth the revised ordinance or amended section in full. [1965 c 7 s 35.21.570. Prior: 1957 c 97 s 8.]

**RCW 35.21.590 Executory conditional sales contracts for purchase of property—Limit on indebtedness—Election, when.** See RCW 39.30.010.

**RCW 35.21.630 Youth agencies—Establishment authorized.** Any city, town, or county may establish a youth agency to investigate, advise and act on, within the powers of that municipality, problems relating to the youth of that community, including employment, educational, economic and recreational opportunities, juvenile delinquency and dependency, and other youth problems and activities as

that municipality may determine. Any city, town, or county may contract with any other city, town, or county to jointly establish such a youth agency. [1965 ex.s. c 84 s 5.]

**RCW 35.21.635 Juvenile curfews.** (1) Any city or town has the authority to enact an ordinance, for the purpose of preserving the public safety or reducing acts of violence by or against juveniles that are occurring at such rates as to be beyond the capacity of the police to assure public safety, establishing times and conditions under which juveniles may be present on the public streets, in the public parks, or in any other public place during specified hours.

(2) The ordinance shall not contain any criminal sanctions for a violation of the ordinance. [1994 sp.s. c 7 s 502.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**RCW 35.21.640 Conferences to study regional and governmental problems, counties and cities may establish.** See RCW 36.64.080.

**RCW 35.21.650 Prepayment of taxes or assessments authorized.** All moneys, assessments and taxes belonging to or collected for the use of any city or town, including any amounts representing estimates for future assessments and taxes, may be deposited by any taxpayer prior to the due date thereof with the treasurer or other legal depository for the benefit of the funds to which they belong to be credited against any future tax or assessment that may be levied or become due from the taxpayer: PROVIDED, That the taxpayer may with the concurrence of the treasurer designate a particular fund of such city or town against which such prepayment of tax or assessment is made. [1967 ex.s. c 66 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.660 Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act—Agreements with federal government—Scope of authority.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all cities shall have the power and authority to enter into agreements with the United States or any department or agency thereof, to carry out the purposes of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (PL 89-754; 80 Stat. 1255), and to plan, organize and administer programs provided for in such contracts. This power and authority shall include, but not be limited to, the power and authority to create public corporations, commissions and authorities to perform duties arising under and administer programs provided for in such contracts and to limit the liability of said public corporations, commissions, and authorities, in order to prevent recourse to such cities, their assets, or their credit. [1971 ex.s. c 177 s 5; 1970 ex.s. c 77 s 1.]

*Establishment of public corporations to administer federal grants and programs: RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755.*

**RCW 35.21.670 Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act—Powers and limitations of public corporations, commissions or authorities created.** Any public corporation, commission or authority created as provided in RCW 35.21.660, may be empowered to own and sell real and personal property; to contract with individuals, associations and corporations, and the state and the United States; to sue and be sued; to loan and borrow funds; to do anything a natural person may do; and to perform all manner and type of community services and activities in furtherance of an agreement by a city or by the public corporation, commission or authority with the United States to carry out the purposes of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966: PROVIDED, That

(1) All liabilities incurred by such public corporation, commission or authority shall be satisfied exclusively from the assets and credit of such public corporation, commission or authority; and no creditor or other person shall have any recourse to the assets, credit or services of the municipal corporation creating the same on account of any debts, obligations or liabilities of such public corporation, commission or authority;

(2) Such public corporation, commission or authority shall have no power of eminent domain nor any power to levy taxes or special assessments;

(3) The name, the organization, the purposes and scope of activities, the powers and duties of the officers, and the disposition of property upon dissolution of such public corporation, commission or authority shall be set forth in its charter of incorporation or organization, or in a general ordinance of the city or both. [1971 ex.s. c 177 s 7.]

**RCW 35.21.680 Participation in Economic Opportunity Act programs.** The legislative body of any city or town, is hereby authorized and empowered in its discretion by resolution or ordinance passed by a majority of the legislative body, to take whatever action it deems necessary to enable the city or town to participate in the programs set forth in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-452; 78 Stat. 508), as amended. Such participation may be engaged in as a sole city or town operation or in conjunction or cooperation with the state, any other city or town, county, or municipal corporation, or any private corporation qualified under said Economic Opportunity Act. [1971 ex.s. c 177 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.682 City or town may not limit number of unrelated persons occupying a household or dwelling unit—Exceptions.** Except for occupant limits on group living arrangements regulated under state law or on short-term rentals as defined in RCW 64.37.010 and any lawful limits on occupant load per square foot or generally applicable health and safety provisions as established by applicable building code or city ordinance, a city or town may not regulate or limit the number of unrelated persons that may occupy a household or dwelling unit. [2021 c 306 s 5.]

**RCW 35.21.683 Transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, indoor emergency shelters, and indoor emergency housing.** A

city shall not prohibit transitional housing or permanent supportive housing in any zones in which residential dwelling units or hotels are allowed. Effective September 30, 2021, a city shall not prohibit indoor emergency shelters and indoor emergency housing in any zones in which hotels are allowed, except in such cities that have adopted an ordinance authorizing indoor emergency shelters and indoor emergency housing in a majority of zones within a one-mile proximity to transit. Reasonable occupancy, spacing, and intensity of use requirements may be imposed by ordinance on permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, and indoor emergency shelters to protect public health and safety. Any such requirements on occupancy, spacing, and intensity of use may not prevent the siting of a sufficient number of permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters necessary to accommodate each city's projected need for such housing and shelter under RCW 36.70A.070(2)(a)(ii). [2021 c 254 s 4.]

**RCW 35.21.684 Authority to regulate placement or use of homes—Regulation of manufactured homes—Issuance of permits—Restrictions on location of manufactured/mobile homes and entry or removal of recreational vehicles used as primary residences.** (1) A city or town may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of discriminating against consumers' choices in the placement or use of a home in such a manner that is not equally applicable to all homes. Homes built to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 5401-5403 standards (as amended in 2000) must be regulated for the purposes of siting in the same manner as site built homes, factory built homes, or homes built to any other state construction or local design standard. However, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any city or town may require that:

- (a) A manufactured home be a new manufactured home;
- (b) The manufactured home be set upon a permanent foundation, as specified by the manufacturer, and that the space from the bottom of the home to the ground be enclosed by concrete or an approved concrete product which can be either load bearing or decorative;
- (c) The manufactured home comply with all local design standards applicable to all other homes within the neighborhood in which the manufactured home is to be located;
- (d) The home is thermally equivalent to the state energy code;

and

- (e) The manufactured home otherwise meets all other requirements for a designated manufactured home as defined in RCW 35.63.160.

A city with a population of one hundred thirty-five thousand or more may choose to designate its building official as the person responsible for issuing all permits, including department of labor and industries permits issued under chapter 43.22 RCW in accordance with an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW, for alterations, remodeling, or expansion of manufactured housing located within the city limits under this section.

(2)(a) A city or town may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of restricting the location of manufactured/mobile homes in manufactured/mobile home communities that were legally in existence before June 12, 2008, based exclusively on the age or dimensions of the manufactured/mobile home.

(b) A city or town may not prohibit the siting of a manufactured/mobile home on an existing lot based solely on lack of compliance with existing separation and setback requirements that regulate the distance between homes.

(c) A city or town is not precluded by (a) or (b) of this subsection from restricting the location of a manufactured/mobile home in manufactured/mobile home communities for any other reason including, but not limited to, failure to comply with fire, safety, or other local ordinances or state laws related to manufactured/mobile homes.

(3) Except as provided under subsection (4) of this section, a city or town may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of preventing the entry or requiring the removal of a recreational vehicle or tiny house with wheels as defined in RCW 35.21.686 used as a primary residence in manufactured/mobile home communities.

(4) Subsection (3) of this section does not apply to any local ordinance or state law that:

(a) Imposes fire, safety, or other regulations related to recreational vehicles;

(b) Requires utility hookups in manufactured/mobile home communities to meet state or federal building code standards for manufactured/mobile home communities; or

(c) Includes both of the following provisions:

(i) A recreational vehicle or tiny house with wheels as defined in RCW 35.21.686 must contain at least one internal toilet and at least one internal shower; and

(ii) If the requirement in (c)(i) of this subsection is not met, a manufactured/mobile home community must provide toilets and showers.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "manufactured/mobile home community" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030.

(6) This section does not override any legally recorded covenants or deed restrictions of record.

(7) This section does not affect the authority granted under chapter 43.22 RCW. [2019 c 390 s 14; 2019 c 352 s 3; 2009 c 79 s 1; 2008 c 117 s 1; 2004 c 256 s 2.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2019 c 352 s 3 and by 2019 c 390 s 14, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 390:** See note following RCW 59.21.005.

**Tax preference performance statement and expiration—2019 c 390:** See note following RCW 84.36.560.

**Finding—2019 c 352:** See note following RCW 58.17.040.

**Findings—Intent—2004 c 256:** "The legislature finds that: Congress has preempted the regulation by the states of manufactured housing construction standards through adoption of construction standards for manufactured housing (42 U.S.C. Sec. 5401-5403); and this federal regulation is equivalent to the state's uniform building code. The legislature also finds that congress has declared that: (1) Manufactured housing plays a vital role in meeting the housing needs of the nation; and (2) manufactured homes provide a significant

resource for affordable homeownership and rental housing accessible to all Americans (42 U.S.C. Sec. 5401-5403). The legislature intends to protect the consumers' rights to choose among a number of housing construction alternatives without restraint of trade or discrimination by local governments." [2004 c 256 s 1.]

**Effective date—2004 c 256:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2005." [2004 c 256 s 6.]

**RCW 35.21.685 Low-income housing—Loans and grants.** A city or town may assist in the development or preservation of publicly or privately owned housing for persons of low income by providing loans or grants of general municipal funds to the owners or developers of the housing. The loans or grants shall be authorized by the legislative authority of the city or town. They may be made to finance all or a portion of the cost of construction, reconstruction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of housing that will be occupied by a person or family of low income. As used in this section, "low income" means income that does not exceed eighty percent of the median income for the standard metropolitan statistical area in which the city or town is located. Housing constructed with loans or grants made under this section shall not be considered public works or improvements subject to competitive bidding or a purchase of services subject to the prohibition against advance payment for services: PROVIDED, That whenever feasible the borrower or grantee shall make every reasonable and practicable effort to utilize a competitive public bidding process. [1986 c 248 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.686 Tiny house communities.** (1) A city or town may adopt an ordinance to regulate the creation of tiny house communities. (2) The owner of the land upon which the community is built shall make reasonable accommodation for utility hookups for the provision of water, power, and sewerage services and comply with all other duties in chapter 59.20 RCW. (3) Tenants of tiny house communities are entitled to all rights and subject to all duties and penalties required under chapter 59.20 RCW. (4) For purposes of this section: (a) "Tiny house" and "tiny house with wheels" means a dwelling to be used as permanent housing with permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation built in accordance with the state building code. (b) "Tiny house communities" means real property rented or held out for rent to others for the placement of tiny houses with wheels or tiny houses utilizing the binding site plan process in RCW 58.17.035. [2019 c 352 s 5.]

**Finding—2019 c 352:** See note following RCW 58.17.040.

**RCW 35.21.688 Family day-care provider's home facility—City or town may not prohibit in residential or commercial area—Conditions.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, no city or town may enact, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, development



regulation, zoning regulation, or official control, policy, or administrative practice that prohibits the use of a residential dwelling, located in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, as a family day-care provider's facility serving twelve or fewer children.

(2) A city or town may require that the facility: (a) Comply with all building, fire, safety, health code, and business licensing requirements; (b) conform to lot size, building size, setbacks, and lot coverage standards applicable to the zoning district except if the structure is a legal nonconforming structure; (c) is certified by the department of children, youth, and families licensor as providing a safe passenger loading area; (d) include signage, if any, that conforms to applicable regulations; and (e) limit hours of operations to facilitate neighborhood compatibility, while also providing appropriate opportunity for persons who use family day-care who work a nonstandard work shift.

(3) A city or town may also require that the family day-care provider, before state licensing, require proof of written notification by the provider that the immediately adjoining property owners have been informed of the intent to locate and maintain such a facility. If a dispute arises between neighbors and the day-care provider over licensing requirements, the licensor may provide a forum to resolve the dispute.

(4) This section may not be construed to prohibit a city or town from imposing zoning conditions on the establishment and maintenance of a family day-care provider's home serving twelve or fewer children in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, if the conditions are no more restrictive than conditions imposed on other residential dwellings in the same zone and the establishment of such facilities is not precluded. As used in this section, "family day-care provider" is as defined in RCW 43.216.010. [2018 c 58 s 26; 2007 c 17 s 9; 2003 c 286 s 1.]

**Effective date—2018 c 58:** See note following RCW 28A.655.080.

**RCW 35.21.689 Permanent supportive housing—City may not prohibit where multifamily housing is permitted.** A city may not prohibit permanent supportive housing in areas where multifamily housing is permitted. [2019 c 348 s 9.]

**RCW 35.21.690 Authority to regulate auctioneers—Limitations.** A city or town shall not license auctioneers that are licensed by the state under chapter 18.11 RCW other than by requiring an auctioneer to obtain a general city or town business license and by subjecting an auctioneer to a city or town business and occupation tax. A city or town shall not require auctioneers that are licensed by the state under chapter 18.11 RCW to obtain bonding in addition to the bonding required by the state. [1984 c 189 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.692 Authority to regulate massage therapists—Limitations.** (1) A state licensed massage therapist seeking a city or town license to operate a massage business must provide verification of his or her state massage license as provided for in RCW 18.108.030.

(2) The city or town may charge a licensing or operating fee, but the fee charged a state licensed massage therapist shall not exceed the licensing or operating fee imposed on similar health care providers, such as physical therapists or occupational therapists, operating within the same city or town.

(3) A state licensed massage therapist is not subject to additional licensing requirements not currently imposed on similar health care providers, such as physical therapists or occupational therapists. [2016 c 41 s 23; 1991 c 182 s 1.]

**Effective date—2016 c 41:** See note following RCW 18.108.010.

**RCW 35.21.695 Authority to own and operate professional sports franchise.** (1) Any city, code city, or county, individually or collectively, may own and operate an existing professional sports franchise when the owners of such franchises announce their intention to sell or move a franchise.

(2) If a city, code city, or county purchases a professional sports franchise, a public corporation shall be created to manage and operate the franchise. The public corporation created under this section shall have all of the authorities granted by RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.757. [1987 c 32 s 2.]

**Legislative declaration—1987 c 32:** "The legislature hereby declares and finds that professional sports franchises are economic, cultural, and entertainment assets to the state and that unilateral actions by the owners of such franchises to move franchises to other locations result in a loss of direct and indirect employment and national visibility for the state. The legislature finds that the retention of professional sports franchises and the enabling authority created by RCW 35.21.695 are public purposes and that RCW 35.21.695 shall not be construed in any manner contrary to the provisions of Article VIII, section 7, of the Washington state Constitution." [1987 c 32 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.696 Newspaper carrier regulation.** A city or town, including a code city, may not license newspaper carriers under eighteen years of age for either regulatory or revenue-generating purposes. [1994 c 112 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.698 Regulation of financial transactions—Limitations.** A city, town, or governmental entity subject to this title may not regulate the terms, conditions, or disclosures of any lawful financial transaction between a consumer and (1) a business or professional under the jurisdiction of the department of financial institutions, or (2) any financial institution as defined under \*RCW 30.22.041. [2005 c 338 s 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 30.22.041 was recodified as RCW 30A.22.041 pursuant to 2014 c 37 s 4, effective January 5, 2015.

**Finding—Intent—2005 c 338:** "The legislature finds that consumers, financial services providers, and financial institutions need uniformity and certainty in their financial transactions. It is

the intent of the legislature to reserve the authority to regulate customer financial transactions involving consumers, financial services providers, and financial institutions." [2005 c 338 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.700 Tourist promotion.** Any city or town in this state acting through its council or other legislative body shall have power to expend moneys and conduct promotion of resources and facilities in the city or town, or general area, by advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information for the purpose of attracting visitors and encouraging tourist expansion. [1971 ex.s. c 61 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.703 Economic development programs.** It shall be in the public purpose for all cities to engage in economic development programs. In addition, cities may contract with nonprofit corporations in furtherance of this and other acts relating to economic development. [1985 c 92 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.706 Imposition or increase of business and occupation tax—Referendum procedure required—Exclusive procedure.** Every city and town first imposing a business and occupation tax or increasing the rate of the tax after April 22, 1983, shall provide for a referendum procedure to apply to an ordinance imposing the tax or increasing the rate of the tax. This referendum procedure shall specify that a referendum petition may be filed within seven days of passage of the ordinance with a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance. Within ten days, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from the designated local official. The petitioner shall have thirty days in which to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the city, as of the last municipal general election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, shall certify the referendum measure to the next election ballot within the city or at a special election ballot as provided pursuant to RCW 35.17.260(2).

This referendum procedure shall be exclusive in all instances for any city ordinance imposing a business and occupation tax or increasing the rate of the tax and shall supersede the procedures provided under chapters 35.17 and 35A.11 RCW and all other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum which might otherwise apply. [1983 c 99 s 6.]

**RCW 35.21.710 License fees or taxes on certain business activities—Uniform rate required—Maximum rate established.** Any city which imposes a license fee or tax upon business activities consisting of the making of retail sales of tangible personal property which are measured by gross receipts or gross income from such sales, shall impose such tax at a single uniform rate upon all such business activities. The taxing authority granted to cities for taxes upon

business activities measured by gross receipts or gross income from sales shall not exceed a rate of .0020; except that any city with an adopted ordinance at a higher rate, as of January 1, 1982 shall be limited to a maximum increase of ten percent of the January 1982 rate, not to exceed an annual incremental increase of two percent of current rate: PROVIDED, That any adopted ordinance which classifies according to different types of business or services shall be subject to both the ten percent and the two percent annual incremental increase limitation on each tax rate: PROVIDED FURTHER, That all surtaxes on business and occupation classifications in effect as of January 1, 1982, shall expire no later than December 31, 1982, or by expiration date established by local ordinance. Cities which impose a license fee or tax upon business activities consisting of the making of retail sales of tangible personal property which are measured by gross receipts or gross income from such sales shall be required to submit an annual report to the state auditor identifying the rate established and the revenues received from each fee or tax. This section shall not apply to any business activities subject to the tax imposed by chapter 82.16 RCW. For purposes of this section, the providing to consumers of competitive telephone service, as defined in RCW 82.04.065, or the providing of payphone service, shall be subject to tax at the same rate as business activities consisting of the making of retail sales of tangible personal property. As used in this section, "payphone service" means making telephone service available to the public on a fee-per-call basis, independent of any other commercial transaction, for the purpose of making telephone calls, when the telephone can only be activated by inserting coins, calling collect, using a calling card or credit card, or dialing a toll-free number, and the provider of the service owns or leases the telephone equipment but does not own the telephone line providing the service to that equipment and has no affiliation with the owner of the telephone line. [2002 c 179 s 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 s 33; 1983 c 99 s 7; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 7; 1981 c 144 s 6; 1972 ex.s. c 134 s 6.]

**Effective date—2002 c 179:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2002."  
[2002 c 179 s 5.]

**Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 2nd ex.s. c 3:**  
See notes following RCW 82.04.255.

**Intent—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** "The legislature hereby recognizes the concern of local governmental entities regarding the financing of vital services to residents of this state. The legislature finds that local governments are an efficient and responsive means of providing these vital services to the citizens of this state. It is the intent of the legislature that vital services such as public safety, public health, and fire protection be recognized by all local governmental entities in this state as top priorities of the citizens of Washington." [1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 1.]

**Construction—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** "Nothing in this act precludes the imposition of business and occupation taxes by cities and towns, or of sales and use taxes. However, nothing in this act authorizes the imposition of a business and occupation tax by any county." [1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 6.]

**Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately, except section 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1982." [1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 25.]

**Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** "County legislative authorities who levy optional taxes pursuant to this act shall fully consider funding for fire districts within their respective jurisdictions during the county budget process.

The local government committees of the legislature shall study fire district services and funding and shall report back to the Washington State Legislature by December 31, 1982." [1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 23.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1981 c 144:** See notes following RCW 82.16.010.

*License fees and taxes on financial institutions: Chapter 82.14A RCW.*

**RCW 35.21.711 License fees or taxes on certain business activities—Excess rates authorized by voters.** The qualified voters of any city or town may by majority vote approve rates in excess of the provisions of RCW 35.21.710. [1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 8.]

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

**RCW 35.21.712 License fees or taxes on telephone business to be at uniform rate.** Any city which imposes a license fee or tax upon the business activity of engaging in the telephone business, as defined in RCW 82.16.010, which is measured by gross receipts or gross income from the business shall impose the tax at a uniform rate on all persons engaged in the telephone business in the city.

This section does not apply to the providing of competitive telephone service as defined in RCW 82.04.065 or to the providing of payphone service as defined in RCW 35.21.710. [2007 c 6 s 1016; 2002 c 179 s 2; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 s 35; 1981 c 144 s 8.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.390.

**Effective date—2002 c 179:** See note following RCW 35.21.710.

**Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 2nd ex.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.04.255.

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1981 c 144:** See notes following RCW 82.16.010.

**RCW 35.21.714 License fees or taxes on telephone business—Imposition on certain gross revenues authorized—Limitations.** (1) Any city which imposes a license fee or tax upon the business activity of engaging in the telephone business which is measured by gross receipts or gross income may impose the fee or tax, if it desires, on one hundred percent of the total gross revenue derived from intrastate toll telephone services subject to the fee or tax: PROVIDED, That the city shall not impose the fee or tax on that portion of network telephone service which represents charges to another telecommunications company, as defined in RCW 80.04.010, for connecting fees, switching charges, or carrier access charges relating to intrastate toll telephone services, or for access to, or charges for, interstate services, or charges for network telephone service that is purchased for the purpose of resale, or charges for mobile telecommunications services provided to customers whose place of primary use is not within the city.

(2) Any city that imposes a license tax or fee under subsection (1) of this section has the authority, rights, and obligations of a taxing jurisdiction as provided in RCW 82.32.490 through 82.32.510.

(3) The definitions in RCW 82.04.065 and 82.16.010 apply to this section. [2007 c 6 s 1018; 2007 c 6 s 1017; 2002 c 67 s 9; 1989 c 103 s 1; 1986 c 70 s 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 s 37; 1981 c 144 s 10.]

**Contingent effective date—2007 c 6 ss 1003, 1006, 1014, and 1018:** See note following RCW 82.04.065.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.390.

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**Severability—1989 c 103:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1989 c 103 s 5.]

**Effective date—1986 c 70 ss 1, 2, 4, and 5:** "Sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 of this act shall take effect on January 1, 1987." [1986 c 70 s 8.]

**Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 2nd ex.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.04.255.

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1981 c 144:** See notes following RCW 82.16.010.

**RCW 35.21.715 Taxes on network telephone services.** Notwithstanding RCW 35.21.714 or 35A.82.060, any city or town which imposes a tax upon business activities measured by gross receipts or gross income from sales, may impose such tax on that portion of network telephone service, as defined in RCW 82.16.010, which represents charges to another telecommunications company, as defined

in RCW 80.04.010, for connecting fees, switching charges, or carrier access charges relating to intrastate toll services, or charges for network telephone service that is purchased for the purpose of resale. Such tax shall be levied at the same rate as is applicable to other competitive telephone service as defined in RCW 82.04.065. [2007 c 6 s 1019; 1989 c 103 s 2; 1986 c 70 s 2.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.390.

**Severability—1989 c 103:** See note following RCW 35.21.714.

**Effective date—1986 c 70 ss 1, 2, 4, and 5:** See note following RCW 35.21.714.

**RCW 35.21.717 Taxation of internet access—Moratorium.** A city or town may tax internet access providers under generally applicable business taxes or fees, at a rate not to exceed the rate applied to a general service classification. For the purposes of this section, "internet access" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.297. [2009 c 535 s 1101; 2004 c 154 s 1; 2002 c 181 s 1; 1999 c 307 s 1; 1997 c 304 s 2.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Findings—1997 c 304:** "The legislature finds that the newly emerging business of providing internet service is providing widespread benefits to all levels of society. The legislature further finds that this business is important to our state's continued growth in the high-technology sector of the economy and that, as this industry emerges, it should not be burdened by new taxes that might not be appropriate for the type of service being provided. The legislature further finds that there is no clear statutory guidance as to how internet services should be classified for tax purposes and intends to ratify the state's current treatment of such services." [1997 c 304 s 1.]

**Severability—1997 c 304:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1997 c 304 s 6.]

**Effective date—1997 c 304:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 9, 1997]." [1997 c 304 s 7.]

**RCW 35.21.718 State route No. 16—Tax on operation prohibited.** A city or town may not impose a tax on amounts received from operating state route number 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities constructed and operated under chapter 47.46 RCW. [1998 c 179 s 2.]

**Finding—1998 c 179:** "The legislature finds and declares that the people of the state may not enjoy the full benefits of public-private initiative for state route number 16 corridor improvements due to the many taxes that may apply to this project. Generally these taxes would not apply if the state built these projects through traditional financing and construction methods. These tax exemptions will reduce the cost of the project, allow lower tolls, and reduce the time for which tolls are charged." [1998 c 179 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.720 City contracts to obtain sheriff's office law enforcement services.** See RCW 41.14.250 through 41.14.280.

**RCW 35.21.730 Public corporations—Powers of cities, towns, and counties—Administration.** In order to improve the administration of authorized federal grants or programs, to improve governmental efficiency and services, or to improve the general living conditions in the urban areas of the state, any city, town, or county may by lawfully adopted ordinance or resolution:

(1) Transfer to any public corporation, commission, or authority created under this section, with or without consideration, any funds, real or personal property, property interests, or services;

(2) Organize and participate in joint operations or cooperative organizations funded by the federal government when acting solely as coordinators or agents of the federal government;

(3) Continue federally-assisted programs, projects, and activities after expiration of contractual term or after expending allocated federal funds as deemed appropriate to fulfill contracts made in connection with such agreements or as may be proper to permit an orderly readjustment by participating corporations, associations, or individuals;

(4) Enter into contracts with public corporations, commissions, and authorities for the purpose of exercising any powers of a community renewal agency under chapter 35.81 RCW; and

(5) Create public corporations, commissions, and authorities to: Administer and execute federal grants or programs; receive and administer private funds, goods, or services for any lawful public purpose; and perform any lawful public purpose or public function. The ordinance or resolution shall limit the liability of such public corporations, commissions, and authorities to the assets and properties of such public corporation, commission, or authority in order to prevent recourse to such cities, towns, or counties or their assets or credit. [2002 c 218 s 23; 1985 c 332 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 37 s 2.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.21.735 Public corporations—Declaration of public purpose—Power and authority to enter into agreements, receive and expend funds—Security—Special funds—Agreements to implement federal new markets tax credit program.** (1) The legislature hereby declares that carrying out the purposes of federal grants or programs is both a public purpose and an appropriate function for a city, town, county,



or public corporation. The provisions of RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755 and 35.21.660 and 35.21.670 and the enabling authority herein conferred to implement these provisions shall be construed to accomplish the purposes of RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755.

(2) All cities, towns, counties, and public corporations shall have the power and authority to enter into agreements with the United States or any agency or department thereof, or any agency of the state government or its political subdivisions, and pursuant to such agreements may receive and expend, or cause to be received and expended by a custodian or trustee, federal or private funds for any lawful public purpose. Pursuant to any such agreement, a city, town, county, or public corporation may issue bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness that are guaranteed or otherwise secured by funds or other instruments provided by or through the federal government or by the federal government or an agency or instrumentality thereof under section 108 of the housing and community development act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 5308), as amended, or its successor, and may agree to repay and reimburse for any liability thereon any guarantor of any such bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued by such jurisdiction or public corporation, or issued by any other public entity. For purposes of this subsection, federal housing mortgage insurance shall not constitute a federal guarantee or security.

(3) A city, town, county, or public corporation may pledge, as security for any such bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness or for its obligations to repay or reimburse any guarantor thereof, its right, title, and interest in and to any or all of the following: (a) Any federal grants or payments received or that may be received in the future; (b) any of the following that may be obtained directly or indirectly from the use of any federal or private funds received as authorized in this section: (i) Property and interests therein, and (ii) revenues; (c) any payments received or owing from any person resulting from the lending of any federal or private funds received as authorized in this section; (d) any proceeds under (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection and any securities or investments in which (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection or proceeds thereof may be invested; (e) any interest or other earnings on (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this subsection.

(4) A city, town, county, or public corporation may establish one or more special funds relating to any or all of the sources listed in subsection (3)(a) through (e) of this section and pay or cause to be paid from such fund the principal, interest, premium if any, and other amounts payable on any bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness authorized under this section, and pay or cause to be paid any amounts owing on any obligations for repayment or reimbursement of guarantors of any such bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness. A city, town, county, or public corporation may contract with a financial institution either to act as trustee or custodian to receive, administer, and expend any federal or private funds, or to collect, administer, and make payments from any special fund as authorized under this section, or both, and to perform other duties and functions in connection with the transactions authorized under this section. If the bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness and related agreements comply with subsection (6) of this section, then any such funds held by any such trustee or custodian, or by a public corporation, shall not constitute public moneys or funds

of any city, town, or county and at all times shall be kept segregated and set apart from other funds.

(5) For purposes of this section, "lawful public purpose" includes, without limitation, any use of funds, including loans thereof to public or private parties, authorized by the agreements with the United States or any department or agency thereof under which federal or private funds are obtained, or authorized under the federal laws and regulations pertinent to such agreements.

(6) If any such federal or private funds are loaned or granted to any private party or used to guarantee any obligations of any private party, then any bonds, notes, other evidences of indebtedness issued or entered into for the purpose of receiving or causing the receipt of such federal or private funds, and any agreements to repay or reimburse guarantors, shall not be obligations of any city, town, or county and shall be payable only from a special fund as authorized in this section or from any of the security pledged pursuant to the authority of this section, or both. Any bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness to which this subsection applies shall contain a recital to the effect that they are not obligations of the city, town, or county or the state of Washington and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the state or any municipal corporation or subdivision of the state or any agency of any of the foregoing, is pledged to the payment of principal, interest, or premium, if any, thereon. Any bonds, notes, other evidences of indebtedness, or other obligations to which this subsection applies shall not be included in any computation for purposes of limitations on indebtedness. To the extent expressly agreed in writing by a city, town, county, or public corporation, this subsection shall not apply to bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued for, or obligations incurred for, the necessary support of the poor and infirm by that city, town, county, or public corporation.

(7) Any bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued by, or reimbursement obligations incurred by, a city, town, county, or public corporation consistent with the provisions of this section but prior to May 3, 1995, and any loans or pledges made by a city, town, or county in connection therewith substantially consistent with the provisions of this section but prior to May 3, 1995, are deemed authorized and shall not be held void, voidable, or invalid due to any lack of authority under the laws of this state.

(8) All cities, towns, counties, public corporations, and port districts may create partnerships and limited liability companies and enter into agreements with public or private entities, including partnership agreements and limited liability company agreements, to implement within their boundaries the federal new markets tax credit program established by the community renewal tax relief act of 2000 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 45D) or its successor statute. [2007 c 230 s 2; 1995 c 212 s 2; 1985 c 332 s 3; 1974 ex.s. c 37 s 3.]

**Purpose—2007 c 230:** "The purpose of this act is to assist community and economic development by clarifying how cities, towns, counties, public corporations, and port districts may fully participate in the federal new markets tax credit program." [2007 c 230 s 1.]

**Construction—2007 c 230:** "The authority granted by this act is additional and supplemental to any other authority of any city, town,

county, public corporation, or port district. This act may not be construed to imply that any of the power or authority granted in this act was not available to any city, town, county, public corporation, or port district under prior law. Any previous actions consistent with this act are ratified and confirmed." [2007 c 230 s 3.]

**Severability—2007 c 230:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2007 c 230 s 4.]

**Purpose—1995 c 212:** "The purpose of this act is to assist community and economic development by clarifying the authority of all cities, towns, counties, and public corporations to engage in federally guaranteed "conduit financings" and to specify procedures that may be used for such conduit financings. Generally, in such a conduit financing a municipality borrows funds from the federal government or from private sources with the help of federal guarantees, without pledging the credit or tax revenues of the municipality, and then lends the proceeds for private projects that both fulfill public purposes, such as community and economic development, and provide the revenues to retire the municipal borrowings. Such conduit financings include issuance by municipalities of federally guaranteed notes under section 108 of the housing and community development act of 1974, as amended, to finance projects eligible under federal community development block grant regulations." [1995 c 212 s 1.]

**Severability—1995 c 212:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1995 c 212 s 3.]

**Construction—1995 c 212:** "The authority granted by this act is additional and supplemental to any other authority of any city, town, county, or public corporation. Nothing in this act may be construed to imply that any of the power or authority granted hereby was not available to any city, town, county, or public corporation under prior law. Any previous actions consistent with the provisions of this act are ratified and confirmed." [1995 c 212 s 4.]

**Effective date—1995 c 212:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 3, 1995]." [1995 c 212 s 5.]

**RCW 35.21.740 Public corporations—Exercise of powers, authorities, or rights—Territorial jurisdiction.** Powers, authorities, or rights expressly or impliedly granted to any city, town, or county or their agents under any provision of RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755 shall not be operable or applicable, or have any effect beyond the limits of the incorporated area of any city or town implementing RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755, unless so provided by contract between the city and another city or county. [1985 c 332 s 4; 1974 ex.s. c 37 s 4.]

**RCW 35.21.745 Public corporations—Provision for, control over—Powers.** (1) Any city, town, or county which shall create a public corporation, commission, or authority pursuant to RCW 35.21.730 or 35.21.660, shall provide for its organization and operations and shall control and oversee its operation and funds in order to correct any deficiency and to assure that the purposes of each program undertaken are reasonably accomplished.

(2) Any public corporation, commission, or authority created as provided in RCW 35.21.730 may be empowered to own and sell real and personal property; to contract with a city, town, or county to conduct community renewal activities under chapter 35.81 RCW; to contract with individuals, associations, and corporations, and the state and the United States; to sue and be sued; to loan and borrow funds and issue bonds and other instruments evidencing indebtedness; transfer any funds, real or personal property, property interests, or services; to do anything a natural person may do; and to perform all manner and type of community services. However, the public corporation, commission, or authority shall have no power of eminent domain nor any power to levy taxes or special assessments. [2002 c 218 s 24; 1985 c 332 s 2; 1974 ex.s. c 37 s 5.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.21.747 Public corporations—Real property transferred by city, town, or county—Restrictions, notice, public meeting.** (1) In transferring real property to a public corporation, commission, or authority under RCW 35.21.730, the city, town, or county creating such public corporation, commission, or authority shall impose appropriate deed restrictions necessary to ensure the continued use of such property for the public purpose or purposes for which such property is transferred.

(2) The city, town, or county that creates a public corporation, commission, or authority under RCW 35.21.730 shall require of such public corporation, commission, or authority thirty days' advance written notice of any proposed sale or encumbrance of any real property transferred by such city, town, or county to such public corporation, commission, or authority pursuant to RCW 35.21.730(1). At a minimum, such notice shall be provided by such public corporation, commission, or authority to the chief executive or administrative officer of such city, town, or county, and to all members of its legislative body, and to each local newspaper of general circulation, and to each local radio or television station or other news medium which has on file with such corporation, commission, or authority a written request to be notified.

(3) Any property transferred by the city, town, or county that created such public corporation, commission, or authority may be sold or encumbered by such public corporation, commission, or authority only after approval of such sale or encumbrance by the governing body of the public corporation, commission, or authority at a public meeting of which notice was provided pursuant to RCW 42.30.080. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the governing body of the public corporation, commission, or authority from holding an executive session during a regular or special meeting in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(c). In addition, the public corporation,

commission, or authority shall advertise notice of the meeting in a local newspaper of general circulation at least twice no less than seven days and no more than two weeks before the public meeting.  
[1990 c 189 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.750 Public corporations—Insolvency or dissolution.**

In the event of the insolvency or dissolution of a public corporation, commission, or authority, the superior court of the county in which the public corporation, commission, or authority is or was operating shall have jurisdiction and authority to appoint trustees or receivers of corporate property and assets and supervise such trusteeship or receivership: PROVIDED, That all liabilities incurred by such public corporation, commission, or authority shall be satisfied exclusively from the assets and properties of such public corporation, commission, or authority and no creditor or other person shall have any right of action against the city, town, or county creating such corporation, commission or authority on account of any debts, obligations, or liabilities of such public corporation, commission, or authority.  
[1974 ex.s. c 37 s 6.]

**RCW 35.21.755 Public corporations—Exemption or immunity from taxation—In lieu excise tax.** (1) A public corporation, commission, or authority created pursuant to RCW 35.21.730, 35.21.660, or 81.112.320 shall receive the same immunity or exemption from taxation as that of the city, town, or county creating the same: PROVIDED, That, except for (a) any property within a special review district established by ordinance prior to January 1, 1976, or listed on or which is within a district listed on any federal or state register of historical sites or (b) any property owned, operated, or controlled by a public corporation that is used primarily for low-income housing, or that is used as a convention center, performing arts center, public assembly hall, public meeting place, public esplanade, street, public way, public open space, park, public utility corridor, or view corridor for the general public or (c) any blighted property owned, operated, or controlled by a public corporation that was acquired for the purpose of remediation and redevelopment of the property in accordance with an agreement or plan approved by the city, town, or county in which the property is located, or (d) any property owned, operated, or controlled by a public corporation created under RCW 81.112.320, any such public corporation, commission, or authority shall pay to the county treasurer an annual excise tax equal to the amounts which would be paid upon real property and personal property devoted to the purposes of such public corporation, commission, or authority were it in private ownership, and such real property and personal property is acquired and/or operated under RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755, and the proceeds of such excise tax shall be allocated by the county treasurer to the various taxing authorities in which such property is situated, in the same manner as though the property were in private ownership: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of chapter 82.29A RCW shall not apply to property within a special review district established by ordinance prior to January 1, 1976, or listed on or which is within a district listed on any federal or state register of historical sites and which is controlled by a public corporation, commission, or authority created pursuant to RCW

35.21.730 or 35.21.660, which was in existence prior to January 1, 1987: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That property within a special review district established by ordinance prior to January 1, 1976, or property which is listed on any federal or state register of historical sites and controlled by a public corporation, commission, or authority created pursuant to RCW 35.21.730 or 35.21.660, which was in existence prior to January 1, 1976, shall receive the same immunity or exemption from taxation as if such property had been within a district listed on any such federal or state register of historical sites as of January 1, 1976, and controlled by a public corporation, commission, or authority created pursuant to RCW 35.21.730 or 35.21.660 which was in existence prior to January 1, 1976.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Low-income" means a total annual income, adjusted for family size, not exceeding fifty percent of the area median income.

(b) "Area median income" means:

(i) For an area within a standard metropolitan statistical area, the area median income reported by the United States department of housing and urban development for that standard metropolitan statistical area; or

(ii) For an area not within a standard metropolitan statistical area, the county median income reported by the department of commerce.

(c) "Blighted property" means property that is contaminated with hazardous substances as defined under RCW 70A.305.020. [2020 c 20 s 1011; 2007 c 104 s 16; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 29; 1999 c 266 s 1; 1995 c 399 s 38; 1993 c 220 s 1; 1990 c 131 s 1; 1987 c 282 s 1; 1985 c 332 s 5; 1984 c 116 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 196 s 9; 1977 ex.s. c 35 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 37 s 7.]

**Application—Construction—2007 c 104:** See RCW 64.70.015.

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 ss 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**Effective date—1979 ex.s. c 196:** See note following RCW 82.04.240.

**Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 35:** "This 1977 amendatory act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1977." [1977 ex.s. c 35 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.756 Tax exemption—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.** A city or town may not impose taxes on amounts received as lease payments paid by a seller/lessee to a lessor under a sale/leaseback agreement under RCW 81.112.300 in respect to tangible personal property used by the seller/lessee, or to the purchase amount paid by the lessee under an option to purchase at the end of the lease term. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 28.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 ss 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**RCW 35.21.757 Public corporations—Statutes to be construed consistent with state Constitution.** Nothing in RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755 shall be construed in any manner contrary to the provisions of Article VIII, section 7, of the Washington state Constitution. [1985 c 332 s 6.]

**RCW 35.21.759 Public corporations, commissions, and authorities—Applicability of general laws. (Effective until January 1, 2026.)** A public corporation, commission, or authority created under this chapter, and officers and multimember governing body thereof, are subject to general laws regulating local governments, multimember governing bodies, and local governmental officials, including, but not limited to, the requirement to be audited by the state auditor and various accounting requirements provided under chapter 43.09 RCW, the open public record requirements of chapter 42.56 RCW, the prohibition on using its facilities for campaign purposes under RCW 42.17A.555, the open public meetings law of chapter 42.30 RCW, the code of ethics for municipal officers under chapter 42.23 RCW, and the local government whistleblower law under chapter 42.41 RCW. [2011 c 60 s 16; 2005 c 274 s 265; 1999 c 246 s 1.]

**Effective date—2011 c 60:** See RCW 42.17A.919.

**RCW 35.21.759 Public corporations, commissions, and authorities—Applicability of general laws. (Effective January 1, 2026.)** A public corporation, commission, or authority created under this chapter, and officers and multimember governing body thereof, are subject to general laws regulating local governments, multimember governing bodies, and local governmental officials, including, but not limited to, the requirement to be audited by the state auditor and various accounting requirements provided under chapter 43.09 RCW, the open public record requirements of chapter 42.56 RCW, the prohibition on using its facilities for campaign purposes under RCW 29B.45.010, the open public meetings law of chapter 42.30 RCW, the code of ethics for municipal officers under chapter 42.23 RCW, and the local government whistleblower law under chapter 42.41 RCW. [2024 c 164 s 510; 2011 c 60 s 16; 2005 c 274 s 265; 1999 c 246 s 1.]

**Intent—Construction—Rules remain valid—Effective date—2024 c 164:** See notes following RCW 29B.10.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 60:** See note following RCW 29B.20.030.

**RCW 35.21.760 Legal interns—Employment authorized.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the city attorney, corporation counsel, or other chief legal officer of any city or town may employ legal interns as otherwise authorized by statute or court rule. [1974 ex.s. c 7 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.762 Urban emergency medical service districts—Creation authorized in city or town with territory in two counties.** The council of a city or town that has territory included in two

counties may adopt an ordinance creating an urban emergency medical service district in all of the portion of the city or town that is located in one of the two counties if: (1) The county in which the urban emergency medical service district is located does not impose an emergency medical service levy authorized under RCW 84.52.069; and (2) the other county in which the city or town is located does impose an emergency medical service levy authorized under RCW 84.52.069. The ordinance creating the district may only be adopted after a public hearing has been held on the creation of the district and the council makes a finding that it is in the public interest to create the district. The members of the city or town council, acting in an ex officio capacity and independently, shall compose the governing body of the urban emergency medical service district. The voters of an urban emergency medical service district shall be all registered voters residing within the urban emergency medical service district.

An urban emergency medical service district shall be a quasi-municipal corporation and an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution. Urban emergency medical service districts shall also be "taxing districts" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

An urban emergency medical service district shall have the authority to contract under chapter 39.34 RCW with a county, city, town, fire protection district, public hospital district, or emergency medical service district to have emergency medical services provided within its boundaries.

Territory located in the same county as an urban emergency medical service district that is annexed by the city or town must automatically be annexed to the urban emergency medical service district. [1994 c 79 s 1.]

*Levy for emergency medical care and services: RCW 84.52.069.*

**RCW 35.21.765 Fire protection, ambulance or other emergency services provided by municipal corporation within county—Financial and other assistance by county authorized.** See RCW 36.32.470.

**RCW 35.21.766 Ambulance services—Establishment authorized.** (1) Whenever a regional fire protection service authority determines that the fire protection jurisdictions that are members of the authority are not adequately served by existing private ambulance service, the governing board of the authority may by resolution provide for the establishment of a system of ambulance service to be operated by the authority as a public utility or operated by contract after a call for bids.

(2) The legislative authority of any city or town may establish an ambulance service to be operated as a public utility. However, the legislative authority of the city or town shall not provide for the establishment of an ambulance service utility that would compete with any existing private ambulance service, unless the legislative authority of the city or town determines that the city or town, or a substantial portion of the city or town, is not adequately served by an existing private ambulance service. In determining the adequacy of an existing private ambulance service, the legislative authority of



the city or town shall take into consideration objective generally accepted medical standards and reasonable levels of service which shall be published by the city or town legislative authority. The decision of the city council or legislative body shall be a discretionary, legislative act. When it is preliminarily concluded that the private ambulance service is inadequate, before issuing a call for bids or before the city or town establishes an ambulance service utility, the legislative authority of the city or town shall allow a minimum of sixty days for the private ambulance service to meet the generally accepted medical standards and reasonable levels of service. In the event of a second preliminary conclusion of inadequacy within a twenty-four month period, the legislative authority of the city or town may immediately issue a call for bids or establish an ambulance service utility and is not required to afford the private ambulance service another sixty-day period to meet the generally accepted medical standards and reasonable levels of service. Nothing in chapter 482, Laws of 2005 is intended to supersede requirements and standards adopted by the department of health. A private ambulance service which is not licensed by the department of health or whose license is denied, suspended, or revoked shall not be entitled to a sixty-day period within which to demonstrate adequacy and the legislative authority may immediately issue a call for bids or establish an ambulance service utility.

(3) The city or town legislative authority is authorized to set and collect rates and charges in an amount sufficient to regulate, operate, and maintain an ambulance utility. Prior to setting such rates and charges, the legislative authority must determine, through a cost-of-service study, the total cost necessary to regulate, operate, and maintain the ambulance utility. Total costs shall not include capital cost for the construction, major renovation, or major repair of the physical plant. Once the legislative authority determines the total costs, the legislative authority shall then identify that portion of the total costs that are attributable to the availability of the ambulance service and that portion of the total costs that are attributable to the demand placed on the ambulance utility.

(a) Availability costs are those costs attributable to the basic infrastructure needed to respond to a single call for service within the utility's response criteria. Availability costs may include costs for dispatch, labor, training of personnel, equipment, patient care supplies, and maintenance of equipment.

(b) Demand costs are those costs that are attributable to the burden placed on the ambulance service by individual calls for ambulance service. Demand costs shall include costs related to frequency of calls, distances from hospitals, and other factors identified in the cost-of-service study conducted to assess burdens imposed on the ambulance utility.

(4) A city or town legislative authority is authorized to set and collect rates and charges as follows:

(a) The rate attributable to costs for availability described under subsection (3)(a) of this section shall be uniformly applied across user classifications within the utility;

(b) The rate attributable to costs for demand described under subsection (3)(b) of this section shall be established and billed to each utility user classification based on each user classification's burden on the utility;

(c) The fee charged by the utility shall reflect a combination of the availability cost and the demand cost;

(d) (i) Except as provided in (d) (ii) of this subsection, the combined rates charged shall reflect an exemption for persons who are medicaid eligible and who reside in a nursing facility, assisted living facility, adult family home, or receive in-home services. The combined rates charged may reflect an exemption or reduction for designated classes consistent with Article VIII, section 7 of the state Constitution. The amounts of exemption or reduction shall be a general expense of the utility, and designated as an availability cost, to be spread uniformly across the utility user classifications.

(ii) For cities with a population less than two thousand five hundred that established an ambulance utility before May 6, 2004, the combined rates charged may reflect an exemption or reduction for persons who are medicaid eligible, and for designated classes consistent with Article VIII, section 7 of the state Constitution;

(e) (i) Except as provided in (e) (ii) of this subsection (4), the legislative authority must continue to allocate at least seventy percent of the total amount of general fund revenues expended, as of May 5, 2004, toward the total costs necessary to regulate, operate, and maintain the ambulance service utility. However, cities or towns that operated an ambulance service before May 6, 2004, and commingled general fund dollars and ambulance service dollars, may reasonably estimate that portion of general fund dollars that were, as of May 5, 2004, applied toward the operation of the ambulance service, and at least seventy percent of such estimated amount must then continue to be applied toward the total cost necessary to regulate, operate, and maintain the ambulance utility. Cities and towns which first established an ambulance service utility after May 6, 2004, must allocate, from the general fund or emergency medical service levy funds, or a combination of both, at least an amount equal to seventy percent of the total costs necessary to regulate, operate, and maintain the ambulance service utility as of May 5, 2004, or the date that the utility is established.

(ii) After January 1, 2012, the legislative authority may allocate general fund revenues toward the total costs necessary to regulate, operate, and maintain the ambulance service utility in an amount less than required by (e) (i) of this subsection (4). However, before making any reduction to the general fund allocation, the legislative authority must hold a public hearing, preceded by at least thirty days' notice provided in each ratepayer's utility bill, at which the legislative authority must allow for public comment and present:

- (A) The utility's most recent cost of service study;
- (B) A summary of the utility's current revenue sources;
- (C) A proposed budget reflecting the reduced allocation of general fund revenues;
- (D) Any proposed change to utility rates; and
- (E) Any anticipated impact to the utility's level of service;
- (f) The legislative authority must allocate available emergency medical service levy funds, in an amount proportionate to the percentage of the ambulance service costs to the total combined operating costs for emergency medical services and ambulance services, towards the total costs necessary to regulate, operate, and maintain the ambulance utility;

(g) The legislative authority must allocate all revenues received through direct billing to the individual user of the ambulance service to the demand-related costs under subsection (3) (b) of this section;

(h) The total revenue generated by the rates and charges shall not exceed the total costs necessary to regulate, operate, and maintain an ambulance utility; and

(i) Revenues generated by the rates and charges must be deposited in a separate fund or funds and be used only for the purpose of paying for the cost of regulating, maintaining, and operating the ambulance utility.

(5) Ambulance service rates charged pursuant to this section do not constitute taxes or charges under RCW 82.02.050 through 82.02.090, or 35.21.768, or charges otherwise prohibited by law. [2012 c 10 s 39; 2011 c 139 s 1; 2005 c 482 s 2; 2004 c 129 s 34; 1975 1st ex.s. c 24 s 1.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Finding—Intent—2005 c 482:** "The legislature finds that ambulance and emergency medical services are essential services and the availability of these services is vital to preserving and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of people in local communities throughout the state. All persons, businesses, and industries benefit from the availability of ambulance and emergency medical services, and survival rates can be increased when these services are available, adequately funded, and appropriately regulated. It is the legislature's intent to explicitly recognize local jurisdictions' ability and authority to collect utility service charges to fund ambulance and emergency medical service systems that are based, at least in some part, upon a charge for the availability of these services." [2005 c 482 s 1.]

*Ambulance services by counties authorized: RCW 36.01.100.*

**RCW 35.21.7661 Study and review of ambulance utilities.** The joint legislative audit and review committee shall study and review ambulance utilities established and operated by cities under chapter 482, Laws of 2005. The committee shall examine, but not be limited to, the following factors: The number and operational status of utilities established under chapter 482, Laws of 2005; whether the utility rate structures and user classifications used by cities were established in accordance with generally accepted utility rate-making practices; and rates charged by the utility to the user classifications. The committee shall provide a final report on this review by December 2007. [2005 c 482 s 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2005 c 482:** See note following RCW 35.21.766.

**RCW 35.21.768 Ambulance services—Excise taxes authorized—Use of proceeds.** The legislative authority of any city or town is authorized to adopt ordinances for the levy and collection of excise taxes and/or for the imposition of an additional tax for the act or privilege of engaging in the ambulance business. Such business and occupation tax shall be imposed in such amounts as fixed and determined by the legislative authority.

The excise taxes other than the business and occupation tax authorized by this section shall be levied and collected from all

persons, businesses, and industries who are served and billed for said ambulance service owned and operated or contracted for by the city or town in such amounts as shall be fixed and determined by the legislative authority of the city or town.

All taxes authorized pursuant to this section shall be construed to be taxes other than a retail sales tax defined in chapter 82.08 RCW and a use tax defined in chapter 82.12 RCW, and the city or town shall appropriate and use the proceeds derived from all taxes authorized by this section only for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of its municipally owned, operated, leased or contracted for ambulance service. [1975 1st ex.s. c 24 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.769 Levy for emergency medical care and services.** See RCW 84.52.069.

**RCW 35.21.770 Members of legislative bodies authorized to serve as volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance personnel, or reserve law enforcement officers.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of any city or town, by resolution adopted by a two-thirds vote of the full legislative body, may authorize any of its members to serve as volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance personnel, or reserve law enforcement officers, or two or more of such positions, and to receive the same compensation, insurance, and other benefits as are applicable to other volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance personnel, or reserve law enforcement officers employed by the city or town. [1997 c 65 s 1; 1993 c 303 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 60 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.772 Fire department volunteers—Holding public office—Definitions.** (1) Except as otherwise prohibited by law, a volunteer member of any fire department who does not serve as fire chief for the department may be:

(a) A candidate for elective public office and serve in that public office if elected; or

(b) Appointed to any public office and serve in that public office if appointed.

(2) For purposes of this section, "volunteer" means a member of any fire department who performs voluntarily any assigned or authorized duties on behalf of or at the direction of the fire department without receiving compensation or consideration for performing such duties.

(3) For purposes of this section, "compensation" and "consideration" do not include any benefits the volunteer may have accrued or is accruing under chapter 41.24 RCW. [2006 c 211 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.775 Provision of fire protection services to state-owned facilities.** Subject to the provisions of RCW 35.21.779, whenever a city or town has located within its territorial limits facilities, except those leased to a nontax-exempt person or organization, owned by the state or an agency or institution of the state, the state or agency or institution owning such facilities and the city or town may contract for an equitable share of fire

protection services for the protection and safety of personnel and property, pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the state, or any state agency or institution, to contract for services which are performed by the staff and equipment of such an entity or by a fire protection district pursuant to RCW 52.30.020. [1992 c 117 s 4; 1985 c 6 s 4; 1984 c 230 s 82; 1983 c 146 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 102 s 1.]

**Findings—1992 c 117:** "The legislature finds that certain state-owned facilities and institutions impose a financial burden on the cities and towns responsible for providing fire protection services to those state facilities. The legislature endeavors pursuant to chapter 117, Laws of 1992, to establish a process whereby cities and towns that have a significant share of their total assessed valuation taken up by state-owned facilities can enter into fire protection contracts with state agencies or institutions to provide a share of the jurisdiction's fire protection funding." [1992 c 117 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.778 Existing contracts for fire protection services and equipment not abrogated.** Nothing in chapter 117, Laws of 1992, shall be interpreted to abrogate existing contracts for fire protection services and equipment, nor be deemed to authorize cities and towns to negotiate additional contractual provisions to apply prior to the expiration of such existing contracts. Upon expiration of contracts negotiated prior to March 31, 1992, future contracts between such cities and towns and state agencies and institutions shall be governed by the provisions of RCW 35.21.775 and 35.21.779. [1992 c 117 s 5.]

**Findings—1992 c 117:** See note following RCW 35.21.775.

**RCW 35.21.779 Fire protection services for state-owned facilities—Contracts with the department of commerce—Consolidation of negotiations with multiple state agencies—Arbitration.** (1) In cities or towns where the estimated value of state-owned facilities constitutes ten percent or more of the total assessed valuation, the state agency or institution owning the facilities shall contract with the city or town to pay an equitable share for fire protection services. The contract shall be negotiated as provided in subsections (2) through (6) of this section and shall provide for payment by the agency or institution to the city or town.

(2) A city or town seeking to enter into fire protection contract negotiations shall provide written notification to the department of commerce and the state agencies or institutions that own property within the jurisdiction, of its intent to contract for fire protection services. Where there are multiple state agencies located within a single jurisdiction, a city may choose to notify only the department of commerce, which in turn shall notify the agencies or institution that own property within the jurisdiction of the city's intent to contract for fire protection services. Any such notification shall be based on the valuation procedures, based on commonly accepted standards, adopted by the department of commerce in consultation with the department of enterprise services and the association of Washington cities.

(3) The department of commerce shall review any such notification to ensure that the valuation procedures and results are accurate. The department will notify each affected city or town and state agency or institution of the results of their review within thirty days of receipt of notification.

(4) The parties negotiating fire protection contracts under this section shall conduct those negotiations in good faith. Whenever there are multiple state agencies located within a single jurisdiction, every effort shall be made by the state to consolidate negotiations on behalf of all affected agencies.

(5) In the event of notification by one of the parties that an agreement cannot be reached on the terms and conditions of a fire protection contract, the director of the department of commerce shall mediate a resolution of the disagreement. In the event of a continued impasse, the director of the department of commerce shall recommend a resolution.

(6) If the parties reject the recommendation of the director and an impasse continues, the director shall direct the parties to arbitration. The parties shall agree on a neutral arbitrator, and the fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be shared equally between the parties. The arbitration shall be a final offer, total arbitration, with the arbitrator empowered only to pick the final offer of one of the parties or the recommended resolution by the director of the department of commerce. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final, binding, and nonappealable on the parties.

(7) The provisions of this section shall not apply if a city or town and a state agency or institution have contracted pursuant to RCW 35.21.775.

(8) The provisions of this section do not apply to cities and towns not meeting the conditions in subsection (1) of this section. Cities and towns not meeting the conditions of subsection (1) of this section may enter into contracts pursuant to RCW 35.21.775. [2015 c 225 s 29; 1995 c 399 s 39; 1992 c 117 s 6.]

**Findings—1992 c 117:** See note following RCW 35.21.775.

**RCW 35.21.780 Laws, rules and regulations applicable to cities five hundred thousand or over deemed applicable to cities four hundred thousand or over.** On and after June 12, 1975, every law and rule or regulation of the state or any agency thereof which immediately prior to June 12, 1975 related to cities of five hundred thousand population or over shall be deemed to be applicable to cities of four hundred thousand population or over. [1975 c 33 s 1.]

**Severability—1975 c 33:** "If any provision of this 1975 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975 c 33 s 7.]

**RCW 35.21.790 Revision of corporate boundary within street, road, or highway right-of-way by substituting right-of-way line—Not subject to review.** (1) The governing bodies of a county and any city or town located therein may by agreement revise any part of the

corporate boundary of the city or town which coincides with the centerline, edge, or any portion of a public street, road or highway right-of-way by substituting therefor a right-of-way line of the same public street, road or highway so as fully to include or fully to exclude that segment of the public street, road or highway from the corporate limits of the city or town.

(2) The revision of a corporate boundary as authorized by this section shall become effective when approved by ordinance of the city or town council or commission and by ordinance or resolution of the county legislative authority. Such a boundary revision is not subject to potential review by a boundary review board. [1989 c 84 s 10; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 17.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 220:** See note following RCW 35.02.170.

*Boundary line adjustment: RCW 35.13.300 through 35.13.330.*

*Use of right-of-way line as corporate boundary in incorporation proceeding—When right-of-way may be included in territory to be incorporated: RCW 35.02.170.*

*When right-of-way may be included in territory to be incorporated—Use of right-of-way line as corporate boundary in annexation: RCW 35.13.290.*

**RCW 35.21.800 Foreign trade zones—Legislative finding, intent.** It is the finding of the legislature that foreign trade zones serve an important public purpose by the creation of employment opportunities within the state and that the establishment of zones designed to accomplish this purpose is to be encouraged. It is the further intent of the legislature that the department of trade and economic development provide assistance to entities planning to apply to the United States for permission to establish such zones. [1985 c 466 s 43; 1977 ex.s. c 196 s 3.]

**Effective date—Severability—1985 c 466:** See notes following RCW 43.31.125.

**Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 196:** See note following RCW 24.46.010.

**RCW 35.21.805 Foreign trade zones—Authority to apply for permission to establish, operate and maintain.** A city or town, as zone sponsor, may apply to the United States for permission to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent these zones from being operated and financed by a private corporation(s) on behalf of a city or town acting as zone sponsor. [1977 ex.s. c 196 s 4.]

**Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 196:** See note following RCW 24.46.010.

**RCW 35.21.810 Hydroplane races—Providing for restrooms and other services in public parks for spectators—Admission fees—Authorized.** Any city or town may provide restrooms and other services in its public parks to be used by spectators of any hydroplane race held on a lake or river which is located adjacent to or within the city or town, and in addition any city or town may charge admission fees for persons to observe a hydroplane race from public park property which is sufficient to defray the costs of the city or town accommodating spectators, cleaning up after the race, and other costs related to the hydroplane race. Any city or town may authorize the organization which sponsors a hydroplane race to provide restroom and other services for the public on park property and may authorize the organization to collect any admission fees charged by the city or town. [1979 c 26 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.815 Hydroplane races—Levying of admission charges declared public park purpose—Reversion prohibited.** It is hereby declared to be a legitimate public park purpose for any city or town to levy an admission charge for spectators to view hydroplane races from park property. Property which has been conveyed to a city or town by the state for exclusive use in the city's or town's public park system or exclusively for public park, parkway, and boulevard purposes shall not revert to the state upon the levying of admission fees authorized in RCW 35.21.810. [1979 c 26 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.820 Acquisition and disposal of vehicles for commuter ride sharing by city employees.** The power of any city, town, county, other municipal corporation, or quasi municipal corporation to acquire, hold, use, possess, and dispose of motor vehicles for official business shall include, but not be limited to, the power to acquire, hold, use, possess, and dispose of motor vehicles for commuter ride sharing by its employees, so long as such use is economical and advantageous to the city, town, county, other municipal corporation. [1979 c 111 s 11.]

**Severability—1979 c 111:** See note following RCW 46.74.010.

*Ride sharing: Chapter 46.74 RCW.*

**RCW 35.21.830 Controls on rent for residential structures—Prohibited—Exceptions.** The imposition of controls on rent is of statewide significance and is preempted by the state. No city or town of any class may enact, maintain, or enforce ordinances or other provisions which regulate the amount of rent to be charged for single-family or multiple-unit residential rental structures or sites other than properties in public ownership, under public management, or properties providing low-income rental housing under joint public-private agreements for the financing or provision of such low-income rental housing. This section shall not be construed as prohibiting any city or town from entering into agreements with private persons which regulate or control the amount of rent to be charged for rental properties. [1981 c 75 s 1.]



**Applicability to floating home moorage sites—1981 c 75:** "Nothing in this act shall be construed to preempt local ordinances that relate to the control of rents or other relationships at floating home moorage sites." [1981 c 75 s 3.]

**Severability—1981 c 75:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1981 c 75 s 4.]

**RCW 35.21.840 Taxation of motor carriers of freight for hire—Allocation of gross receipts.** The following principles shall allocate gross receipts of a motor carrier of freight for hire (called the "motor carrier" in this section) to prevent multiple taxation by two or more municipalities. They shall apply when two or more municipalities in this state impose a license fee or tax for the act or privilege of engaging in business activities; each municipality has a basis in local activity for imposing its tax; and the gross receipts measured by all taxing municipalities, added together, exceed the motor carrier's gross receipts.

(1) No municipality shall be entitled to an allocation of the gross receipts of a motor carrier on account of the use of its streets or highways when no pickup or delivery occurs therein.

(2) Gross receipts of a motor carrier derived within a municipality, where it solicits orders and engages in business activities that are a significant factor in holding the market but where it maintains no office or terminal, shall be allocated equally between the municipality providing the local market and the municipality where the motor carrier's office or terminal is located. Where no such local solicitation and business activity occurs, all the gross receipts shall be allocated to the municipality where the office or terminal is located irrespective of the place of pickup or delivery. The word "terminal" means a location at which any three of the following four occur: Dispatching takes place, from which trucks operate or are serviced, personnel report and receive assignments, and orders are regularly received from the public.

(3) Gross receipts of a motor carrier that are not attributable to transportation services, such as investment income, truck repair, and rental of equipment, shall be allocated to the office or terminal conducting such activities.

(4) Gross receipts of a motor carrier with an office or terminal in two or more municipalities in this state shall be allocated to the office or terminal at which the transportation services commenced. [1982 c 169 s 1.]

**Applicability—1982 c 169:** "This act applies to motor carriers of freight for hire only. Nothing in this act applies to a person engaged in the business of making sales at retail or wholesale or of providing storage services for tangible personal property." [1982 c 169 s 4.]

*Motor freight carriers: Chapter 81.80 RCW.*

*Municipal business and occupation tax authorized: RCW 35.95.040.*

**RCW 35.21.845 Taxation of motor carriers of freight for hire—Tax allocation formula.** A motor carrier of freight for hire whose gross receipts are subject to multiple taxation by two or more municipalities in this state may request and thereupon shall be given a joint audit of the taxpayer's books and records by all of the taxing authorities seeking to tax all or part of such gross receipts. Such taxing authorities shall agree upon and establish a tax allocation formula which shall be binding upon the taxpayer and the taxing authorities participating in the audit or receiving a copy of such request from the taxpayer. Payment by the taxpayer of the taxes to each taxing authority in accordance with such tax allocation formula shall be a complete defense in any action by any taxing authority to recover additional taxes, interest, and/or penalties. A taxing municipality, whether or not a party to such joint audit, may seek a revision of the formula by giving written notice to each other taxing municipality concerned and the taxpayer. Any such revision as may be agreed upon by the taxing municipalities, or as may be decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction in an action initiated by one or more taxing authorities, shall apply only to gross receipts of the taxpayer received after the date of any such agreed revision or effective date of the judgment or order of any such court. [1982 c 169 s 2.]

**Applicability—1982 c 169:** See note following RCW 35.21.840.

**RCW 35.21.850 Taxation of motor carriers of freight for hire—Limitation—Exceptions.** No demand for a fee or tax or penalty shall be made by a city or town against a motor carrier of freight for hire on gross income derived from providing transportation services more than four years after the close of the year in which the same accrued except (1) against a taxpayer who has been guilty of fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact; or (2) where a taxpayer has executed a written waiver of such limitations; or (3) against a taxpayer who has not registered as required by the ordinance of the city or town imposing such tax or fee, provided this subsection shall not apply to a taxpayer who has registered in any city or town where the taxpayer maintains an office or terminal, or in the case of a taxpayer who has paid a license fee or tax based on such gross receipts to any city or town levying same which may reasonably be construed to be the principal market of the taxpayer but in which he or she maintains no office or terminal. [2009 c 549 s 2043; 1982 c 169 s 3.]

**Applicability—1982 c 169:** See note following RCW 35.21.840.

**RCW 35.21.851 Taxation of chamber of commerce, similar business for operation of parking/business improvement area.** (1) A city shall not impose a gross receipts tax on amounts received by a chamber of commerce or other similar business association for administering the operation of a parking and business improvement area within the meaning of RCW 35.87A.110.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Gross receipts tax" means a tax measured by gross proceeds of sales, gross income of the business, or value proceeding or accruing.

(b) "City" includes cities, code cities, and towns. [2005 c 476 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.855 Taxation of intellectual property creating activities—Gross receipts tax prohibited—Exceptions.** (1) A city may not impose a gross receipts tax on intellectual property creating activities.

(2) A city may impose a gross receipts tax measured by gross receipts from royalties only on taxpayers domiciled in the city. For the purposes of this section, "royalties" does not include gross receipts from casual or isolated sales as defined in RCW 82.04.040, grants, capital contributions, donations, or endowments.

(3) This section does not prohibit a city from imposing a gross receipts tax measured by the value of products manufactured in the city merely because intellectual property creating activities are involved in the design or manufacturing of the products. An intellectual property creating activity shall not constitute an activity defined within the meaning of the term "to manufacture" under chapter 82.04 RCW.

(4) This section does not prohibit a city from imposing a gross receipts tax measured by the gross proceeds of sales made in the city merely because intellectual property creating activities are involved in creation of the articles sold.

(5) This section does not prohibit a city from imposing a gross receipts tax measured by the gross income received for services rendered in the city merely because intellectual property creating activities are some part of services rendered.

(6) A tax in effect on January 1, 2002, is not subject to this section until January 1, 2004.

(7) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section.

(a) "Gross receipts tax" means a tax measured by gross proceeds of sales, gross income of the business, or value proceeding or accruing.

(b) "City" includes cities, code cities, and towns.

(c) "Domicile" means the principal place from which the trade or business of the taxpayer is directed and managed. A taxpayer has only one domicile.

(d) "Intellectual property creating activity" means research, development, authorship, creation, or general or specific inventive activity without regard to whether the intellectual property creating activity actually results in the creation of patents, trademarks, trade secrets, subject matter subject to copyright, or other intellectual property.

(e) "Manufacture," "gross proceeds of sales," "gross income of the business," "value proceeding or accruing," and "royalties" have the same meanings as under chapter 82.04 RCW.

(f) "Value of products" means the value of products as determined under RCW 82.04.450. [2003 c 69 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.860 Electricity, telephone, or natural gas business, service provider—Franchise fees prohibited—Exceptions.** (1) No city

or town may impose a franchise fee or any other fee or charge of whatever nature or description upon the light and power, or gas distribution businesses, as defined in RCW 82.16.010, or telephone business, as defined in RCW 82.16.010, or service provider for use of the right-of-way, except:

(a) A tax authorized by RCW 35.21.865 may be imposed;

(b) A fee may be charged to such businesses or service providers that recovers actual administrative expenses incurred by a city or town that are directly related to receiving and approving a permit, license, and franchise, to inspecting plans and construction, or to the preparation of a detailed statement pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW;

(c) Taxes permitted by state law on service providers;

(d) Franchise requirements and fees for cable television services as allowed by federal law; and

(e) A site-specific charge pursuant to an agreement between the city or town and a service provider of personal wireless services acceptable to the parties for:

(i) The placement of new structures in the right-of-way regardless of height, unless the new structure is the result of a mandated relocation in which case no charge will be imposed if the previous location was not charged;

(ii) The placement of replacement structures when the replacement is necessary for the installation or attachment of wireless facilities, the replacement structure is higher than the replaced structure, and the overall height of the replacement structure and the wireless facility is more than sixty feet; or

(iii) The placement of personal wireless facilities on structures owned by the city or town located in the right-of-way. However, a site-specific charge shall not apply to the placement of personal wireless facilities on existing structures, unless the structure is owned by the city or town.

A city or town is not required to approve the use permit for the placement of a facility for personal wireless services that meets one of the criteria in this subsection absent such an agreement. If the parties are unable to agree on the amount of the charge, the service provider may submit the amount of the charge to binding arbitration by serving notice on the city or town. Within thirty days of receipt of the initial notice, each party shall furnish a list of acceptable arbitrators. The parties shall select an arbitrator; failing to agree on an arbitrator, each party shall select one arbitrator and the two arbitrators shall select a third arbitrator for an arbitration panel. The arbitrator or arbitrators shall determine the charge based on comparable siting agreements involving public land and rights-of-way. The arbitrator or arbitrators shall not decide any other disputed issues, including but not limited to size, location, and zoning requirements. Costs of the arbitration, including compensation for the arbitrator's services, must be borne equally by the parties participating in the arbitration and each party shall bear its own costs and expenses, including legal fees and witness expenses, in connection with the arbitration proceeding.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not prohibit franchise fees imposed on an electrical energy, natural gas, or telephone business, by contract existing on April 20, 1982, with a city or town, for the duration of the contract, but the franchise fees shall be considered taxes for the purposes of the limitations established in RCW 35.21.865 and 35.21.870 to the extent the fees exceed the costs

allowable under subsection (1) of this section. [2014 c 118 s 2; 2007 c 6 s 1020; 2000 c 83 s 8; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 s 39; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 2.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.390.

**Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 2nd ex.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.04.255.

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

*"Service provider" defined: RCW 35.99.010.*

**RCW 35.21.865 Electricity, telephone, or natural gas business—Limitations on tax rate changes.** No city or town may change the rate of tax it imposes on the privilege of conducting an electrical energy, natural gas, or telephone business which change applies to business activities occurring before the effective date of the change, and no rate change may take effect before the expiration of sixty days following the enactment of the ordinance establishing the change except as provided in RCW 35.21.870. [1983 c 99 s 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 3.]

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

**RCW 35.21.870 Electricity, telephone, natural gas, or steam energy business—Tax limited to six percent—Exception.** (1) No city or town may impose a tax on the privilege of conducting an electrical energy, natural gas, steam energy, or telephone business at a rate which exceeds six percent unless the rate is first approved by a majority of the voters of the city or town voting on such a proposition.

(2) (a) If a city or town is imposing a rate of tax under subsection (1) of this section in excess of six percent on April 20, 1982, the city or town must decrease the rate to a rate of six percent or less by reducing the rate each year on or before November 1st by ordinances to be effective on January 1st of the succeeding year, by an amount equal to one-tenth the difference between the tax rate on April 20, 1982, and six percent.

(b) Nothing in this subsection prohibits a city or town from reducing its rates by amounts greater than the amounts required in this subsection.

(3) Voter approved rate increases under subsection (1) of this section may not be included in the computations under this subsection.

(4) No city or town may impose a tax on the privilege of conducting a natural gas business with respect to sales that are exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 82.16 RCW as provided in RCW 82.16.310 at a rate higher than its business and occupation tax rate on the sale of tangible personal property or, if the city or town does

not impose a business and occupation tax on the sale of tangible personal property, at a rate greater than .002. [2014 c 216 s 306; 1984 c 225 s 6; 1983 c 99 s 5; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 s 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Tax preference performance statement—2014 c 216:** See notes following RCW 82.38.030.

**Rules—1984 c 225:** "The department of revenue shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this act." [1984 c 225 s 7.]

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

**RCW 35.21.871 Tax on telephone business—Deferral of rate reduction.** A city or town required by RCW 35.21.870(2) to reduce its rate of taxation on telephone business may defer for one year the required reduction in rates for the year 1987. If the delay in rate reductions authorized by the preceding sentence is inadequate for a city or town to offset the impact of revenue reductions arising from the removal of revenues from connecting fees, switching charges, or carrier access charges under the provisions of RCW 35.21.714, then the legislative body of such city or town may reimpose for 1987 the rates that such city or town had in effect upon telephone business during 1985. In each succeeding year, the city or town shall reduce the rate by one-tenth of the difference between the tax rate on April 20, 1982, and six percent. [1986 c 70 s 3.]

**RCW 35.21.873 Procedure to correct erroneous mobile telecommunications service tax.** If a customer believes that an amount of city tax or an assignment of place of primary use or taxing jurisdiction included on a billing for mobile telecommunications services is erroneous, the customer shall notify the home service provider in writing. The customer shall include in this written notification the street address for the customer's place of primary use, the account name and number for which the customer seeks a correction, and a description of the error asserted by the customer. Within sixty days of receiving a notice under this section, the home service provider shall review its records and the electronic database or enhanced zip code used pursuant to RCW 82.32.490 and 82.32.495 to determine the customer's taxing jurisdiction. The home service provider shall notify the customer in writing of the results of its review.

The procedures in this section shall be the first remedy available to customers seeking correction of assignment of place of primary use or taxing jurisdiction, or a refund of or other compensation for taxes, charges, and fees erroneously collected by the home service provider, and no cause of action based upon a dispute arising from such taxes, charges, or fees shall accrue to the extent otherwise permitted by law until a customer has reasonably exercised the rights and procedures set forth in this section. [2002 c 67 s 16.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**RCW 35.21.875 Designation of official newspaper.** Each city and town shall designate an official newspaper by resolution. The newspaper shall be of general circulation in the city or town and have the qualifications prescribed by chapter 65.16 RCW. [1985 c 469 s 99.]

**RCW 35.21.880 Right-of-way donations—Credit against required improvements.** Where the zoning and planning provisions of a city or town require landscaping, parking, or other improvements as a condition to granting permits for commercial or industrial developments, the city or town may credit donations of right-of-way in excess of that required for traffic improvement against such landscaping, parking, or other requirements. [1987 c 267 s 7.]

*Right-of-way donations: Chapter 47.14 RCW.*

**RCW 35.21.890 Boundary changes—Providing factual information—Notice to boundary review board.** A city or town may provide factual information on the effects of a proposed boundary change on the city or town and the area potentially affected by the boundary change. A statement that the city or town has such information available, and copies of any printed materials or information available to be provided to the public shall be filed [filed] with the boundary review board for the board's information. [1989 c 84 s 70.]

**RCW 35.21.895 Regulation of automatic number or location identification—Prohibited.** No city or town may enact or enforce an ordinance or regulation mandating automatic number identification or automatic location identification for a private telecommunications system or for a provider of private shared telecommunications services. [1995 c 243 s 6.]

**Findings—Severability—1995 c 243:** See notes following RCW 80.36.555.

**RCW 35.21.897 Mobile home, manufactured home, or park model moving or installing—Copies of permits—Definitions.** (1) A city or town shall transmit a copy of any permit issued to a tenant or the tenant's agent for a mobile home, manufactured home, or park model installation in a mobile home park to the landlord.

(2) A city or town shall transmit a copy of any permit issued to a person engaged in the business of moving or installing a mobile home, manufactured home, or park model in a mobile home park to the tenant and the landlord.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Landlord" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030;

(b) "Mobile home park" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030;

(c) "Mobile or manufactured home installation" has the same meaning as in \*RCW 43.63B.010; and

(d) "Tenant" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030. [1999 c 359 s 18.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 43.63B.010 was recodified as RCW 43.22A.010 pursuant to 2007 c 432 s 13.

**Effective date—1999 c 359:** See RCW 59.20.901.

**RCW 35.21.900 Authority to transfer real property.** Cities are authorized to transfer real property pursuant to RCW 43.83.400 and 43.83.410. [2015 1st sp.s. c 4 s 27; 2006 c 35 s 10.]

**Findings—2006 c 35:** See note following RCW 43.83.400.

**RCW 35.21.905 Consultation with public utilities for water-sewer facility relocation projects.** Cities shall, in the predesign phase of construction projects involving relocation of sewer and/or water facilities, consult with public utilities operating water/sewer systems in order to coordinate design. [2007 c 31 s 5.]

**RCW 35.21.910 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination prohibited.** The antidiscrimination provisions of RCW 49.60.500 apply to community athletics programs and facilities operated, conducted, or administered by a city or town. [2009 c 467 s 4.]

**Findings—Declarations—2009 c 467:** See note following RCW 49.60.500.

**RCW 35.21.913 Comprehensive cancer care collaborative arrangements—Prohibition on regulation as state agency.** No city or town may enact, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, regulation, or rule that regulates or otherwise treats a comprehensive cancer center participating in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930 as a state agency. Such a comprehensive cancer center is still subject to ordinances, regulations, and rules that are generally applicable in nature. [2022 c 71 s 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2022 c 71:** See note following RCW 28B.10.930.

**RCW 35.21.915 Hosting the homeless by religious organizations—When authorized—Requirements—Prohibitions on local actions.** (1) A religious organization may host the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization whether within buildings located on the property or elsewhere on the property outside of buildings.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, a city or town may not enact an ordinance or regulation or take any other action that:

(a) Imposes conditions other than those necessary to protect public health and safety and that do not substantially burden the decisions or actions of a religious organization regarding the location of housing or shelter, such as an outdoor encampment, indoor



overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking, for homeless persons on property owned or controlled by the religious organization;

(b) Requires a religious organization to obtain insurance pertaining to the liability of a municipality with respect to homeless persons housed on property owned by a religious organization or otherwise requires the religious organization to indemnify the municipality against such liability;

(c) Imposes permit fees in excess of the actual costs associated with the review and approval of permit applications. A city or town has discretion to reduce or waive permit fees for a religious organization that is hosting the homeless;

(d) Specifically limits a religious organization's availability to host an outdoor encampment on its property or property controlled by the religious organization to fewer than six months during any calendar year. However, a city or town may enact an ordinance or regulation that requires a separation of time of no more than three months between subsequent or established outdoor encampments at a particular site;

(e) Specifically limits a religious organization's outdoor encampment hosting term to fewer than four consecutive months;

(f) Limits the number of simultaneous religious organization outdoor encampment hostings within the same municipality during any given period of time. Simultaneous and adjacent hostings of outdoor encampments by religious organizations may be limited if located within one thousand feet of another outdoor encampment concurrently hosted by a religious organization;

(g) Limits a religious organization's availability to host safe parking efforts at its on-site parking lot, including limitations on any other congregationally sponsored uses and the parking available to support such uses during the hosting, except for limitations that are in accord with the following criteria that would govern if enacted by local ordinance or memorandum of understanding between the host religious organization and the jurisdiction:

(i) No less than one space may be devoted to safe parking per ten on-site parking spaces;

(ii) Restroom access must be provided either within the buildings on the property or through use of portable facilities, with the provision for proper disposal of waste if recreational vehicles are hosted; and

(iii) Religious organizations providing spaces for safe parking must continue to abide by any existing on-site parking minimum requirement so that the provision of safe parking spaces does not reduce the total number of available parking spaces below the minimum number of spaces required by the city or town, but a city or town may enter into a memorandum of understanding with a religious organization that reduces the minimum number of on-site parking spaces required;

(h) Limits a religious organization's availability to host an indoor overnight shelter in spaces with at least two accessible exits due to lack of sprinklers or other fire-related concerns, except that:

(i) If a city or town fire official finds that fire-related concerns associated with an indoor overnight shelter pose an imminent danger to persons within the shelter, the city or town may take action to limit the religious organization's availability to host the indoor overnight shelter; and

(ii) A city or town may require a host religious organization to enter into a memorandum of understanding for fire safety that includes

local fire district inspections, an outline for appropriate emergency procedures, a determination of the most viable means to evacuate occupants from inside the host site with appropriate illuminated exit signage, panic bar exit doors, and a completed fire watch agreement indicating:

(A) Posted safe means of egress;

(B) Operable smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors as necessary, and fire extinguishers;

(C) A plan for monitors who spend the night awake and are familiar with emergency protocols, who have suitable communication devices, and who know how to contact the local fire department; or

(i) Limits a religious organization's ability to host temporary small houses on land owned or controlled by the religious organization, except for recommendations that are in accord with the following criteria:

(i) A renewable one-year duration agreed to by the host religious organization and local jurisdiction via a memorandum of understanding;

(ii) Maintaining a maximum unit square footage of one hundred twenty square feet, with units set at least six feet apart;

(iii) Electricity and heat, if provided, must be inspected by the local jurisdiction;

(iv) Space heaters, if provided, must be approved by the local fire authority;

(v) Doors and windows must be included and be lockable, with a recommendation that the managing agency and host religious organization also possess keys;

(vi) Each unit must have a fire extinguisher;

(vii) Adequate restrooms must be provided, including restrooms solely for families if present, along with handwashing and potable running water to be available if not provided within the individual units, including accommodating black water;

(viii) A recommendation for the host religious organization to partner with regional homeless service providers to develop pathways to permanent housing.

(3) (a) A city or town may enact an ordinance or regulation or take any other action that requires a host religious organization and a distinct managing agency using the religious organization's property, owned or controlled by the religious organization, for hostings to include outdoor encampments, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelters, or vehicle resident safe parking to enter into a memorandum of understanding to protect the public health and safety of both the residents of the particular hosting and the residents of the city or town.

(b) At a minimum, the agreement must include information regarding: The right of a resident in an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, temporary small house on-site, or indoor overnight shelter to seek public health and safety assistance, the resident's ability to access social services on-site, and the resident's ability to directly interact with the host religious organization, including the ability to express any concerns regarding the managing agency to the religious organization; a written code of conduct agreed to by the managing agency, if any, host religious organization, and all volunteers working with residents of the outdoor encampment, temporary small house on-site, indoor overnight shelter, or vehicle resident safe parking; and when a publicly funded managing agency exists, the ability for the host religious organization to interact with residents of the outdoor encampment, indoor overnight

shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking using a release of information.

(4) If required to do so by a city or town, any host religious organization performing any hosting of an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, or indoor overnight shelter, or the host religious organization's managing agency, must ensure that the city or town or local law enforcement agency has completed sex offender checks of all adult residents and guests. The host religious organization retains the authority to allow such offenders to remain on the property. A host religious organization or host religious organization's managing agency performing any hosting of vehicle resident safe parking must inform vehicle residents how to comply with laws regarding the legal status of vehicles and drivers, and provide a written code of conduct consistent with area standards.

(5) Any host religious organization performing any hosting of an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, temporary small house on-site, or indoor overnight shelter, with a publicly funded managing agency, must work with the city or town to utilize Washington's homeless client management information system, as provided for in RCW 43.185C.180. When the religious organization does not partner with a managing agency, the religious organization is encouraged to partner with a local homeless services provider using the Washington homeless client managing information system. Any managing agency receiving any funding from local continuum of care programs must utilize the homeless client management information system. Temporary, overnight, extreme weather shelter provided in religious organization buildings does not need to meet this requirement.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Managing agency" means an organization such as a religious organization or other organized entity that has the capacity to organize and manage a homeless outdoor encampment, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelter, and a vehicle resident safe parking program.

(b) "Outdoor encampment" means any temporary tent or structure encampment, or both.

(c) "Religious organization" means the federally protected practice of a recognized religious assembly, school, or institution that owns or controls real property.

(d) "Temporary" means not affixed to land permanently and not using underground utilities.

(7) (a) Subsection (2) of this section does not affect a city or town policy, ordinance, memorandum of understanding, or applicable consent decree that regulates religious organizations' hosting of the homeless if such policies, ordinances, memoranda of understanding, or consent decrees:

(i) Exist prior to June 11, 2020;

(ii) Do not categorically prohibit the hosting of the homeless by religious organizations; and

(iii) Have not been previously ruled by a court to violate the religious land use and institutionalized persons act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000cc.

(b) If such policies, ordinances, memoranda of understanding, and consent decrees are amended after June 11, 2020, those amendments are not affected by subsection (2) of this section if those amendments satisfy (a) (ii) and (iii) of this subsection.

(8) An appointed or elected public official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470 is immune from civil liability for (a) damages arising from the permitting decisions for a temporary encampment for the homeless as provided in this section and (b) any conduct or unlawful activity that may occur as a result of the temporary encampment for the homeless as provided in this section.

(9) A religious organization hosting outdoor encampments, vehicle resident safe parking, or indoor overnight shelters for the homeless that receives funds from any government agency may not refuse to host any resident or prospective resident because of age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, as these terms are defined in RCW 49.60.040.

(10)(a) Prior to the opening of an outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking, a religious organization hosting the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization must host a meeting open to the public for the purpose of providing a forum for discussion of related neighborhood concerns, unless the use is in response to a declared emergency. The religious organization must provide written notice of the meeting to the city or town legislative authority at least one week if possible but no later than ninety-six hours prior to the meeting. The notice must specify the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

(b) A city or town must provide community notice of the meeting described in (a) of this subsection by taking at least two of the following actions at any time prior to the time of the meeting:

(i) Delivering to each local newspaper of general circulation and local radio or television station that has on file with the governing body a written request to be notified of special meetings;

(ii) Posting on the city or town's website. A city or town is not required to post a special meeting notice on its website if it: (A) Does not have a website; (B) employs fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees; or (C) does not employ personnel whose duty, as defined by a job description or existing contract, is to maintain or update the website;

(iii) Prominently displaying, on signage at least two feet in height and two feet in width, one or more meeting notices that can be placed on or adjacent to the main arterials in proximity to the location of the meeting; or

(iv) Prominently displaying the notice at the meeting site.

[2020 c 223 s 3; 2010 c 175 s 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2020 c 223:** See note following RCW 36.01.290.

**Findings—Intent—Construction—Prior consent decrees and negotiated settlements for temporary encampments for the homeless not superseded—2010 c 175:** See notes following RCW 36.01.290.

**RCW 35.21.920 State and federal background checks of license applicants and licensees of occupations under local licensing authority.** (1) For the purpose of receiving criminal history record information by city or town officials, cities or towns may:

(a) By ordinance, require a state and federal background investigation of license applicants or licensees in occupations specified by ordinance;

(b) By ordinance, require a federal background investigation of city or town employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the city or town, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults;

(c) Require a state criminal background investigation of city or town employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the city or town, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults; and

(d) Require a criminal background investigation conducted through a private organization of city or town employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the city or town, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults.

(2) The investigation conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section shall consist of a background check as allowed through the Washington state criminal records privacy act under RCW 10.97.050, the Washington state patrol criminal identification system under RCW 43.43.832 through 43.43.834, and the federal bureau of investigation.

(3) The background checks conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section must be done through the Washington state patrol identification and criminal history section and may include a national check from the federal bureau of investigation, which shall be through the submission of fingerprints. The Washington state patrol shall serve as the sole source for receipt of fingerprint submissions and the responses to the submissions from the federal bureau of investigation, which must be disseminated to the city or town.

(4) For a criminal background check conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section, the city or town shall transmit appropriate fees for a state and national criminal history check to the Washington state patrol, unless alternately arranged. The cost of investigations conducted under this section shall be borne by the city or town.

(5) The authority for background checks outlined in this section is in addition to any other authority for such checks provided by law. [2017 c 332 s 1; 2010 c 47 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.925 Supplemental transportation improvements.** In addition to any other power and authority conferred to a city that is located in a county having a population of more than one million five hundred thousand, a city legislative authority may provide or contract for supplemental transportation improvements to meet mobility needs within the city's boundaries. For purposes of this section, a "supplemental transportation improvement" or "supplemental improvement" means any project, work, or undertaking to provide or contract for public transportation service in addition to any existing or planned public transportation service provided by public transportation agencies and systems serving the city. The supplemental

authority provided to the city legislative authority under this section is subject to the following requirements:

(1) Prior to taking any action to provide or contract for supplemental transportation improvements permitted under this section, the legislative authority of the city shall conduct a public hearing at the time and place specified in a notice published at least once, not less than ten days before the hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed district. The notice must specify the supplemental facilities or services to be provided or contracted for by the city, and must include estimated capital, operating, and maintenance costs. The legislative authority of the city shall hear objections from any person affected by the proposed supplemental improvements.

(2) Following the hearing held pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, if the city legislative authority finds that the proposed supplemental transportation improvements are in the public interest, the legislative authority shall adopt an ordinance providing for the supplemental improvements and provide or contract for the supplemental improvements.

(3) For purposes of providing or contracting for the proposed supplemental transportation improvements, the legislative authority of the city may contract with private providers and nonprofit organizations, and may form public-private partnerships. Such contracts and partnerships must require that public transportation services be coordinated with other public transportation agencies and systems serving the area and border jurisdictions.

(4) The legislative authorities of cities that are participating jurisdictions in a transportation benefit district, as provided under chapter 36.73 RCW, may petition the transportation benefit district for partial or full funding of supplemental transportation improvements as prescribed under RCW 36.73.180.

(5) Supplemental transportation improvements must be consistent with the city's comprehensive plan under chapter 36.70A RCW. [2010 c 251 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.930 Community assistance referral and education services program.**

(1) Any fire department may develop a community assistance referral and education services program to provide community outreach and assistance to residents of its jurisdiction in order to improve population health and advance injury and illness prevention within its community. The program should identify members of the community who use the 911 system or emergency department for low acuity assistance calls (calls that are nonemergency or nonurgent) and connect them to their primary care providers, other health care professionals, low-cost medication programs, and other social services. The program may partner with hospitals to reduce readmissions. The program may also provide nonemergency contact information in order to provide an alternative resource to the 911 system. The program may hire or contract with health care professionals as needed to provide these services, including emergency medical technicians certified under chapter 18.73 RCW and advanced emergency medical technicians and paramedics certified under chapter 18.71 RCW. The services provided by emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, and paramedics must be under the responsible supervision and direction of an approved medical program director. Nothing in this section authorizes an emergency

medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic to perform medical procedures they are not trained and certified to perform.

(2) In order to support its community assistance referral and education services program, a participating fire department may seek grant opportunities and private gifts, and, by resolution or ordinance, establish and collect reasonable charges for these services.

(3) In developing a community assistance referral and education services program, a fire department may consult with the health workforce council to identify health care professionals capable of working in a nontraditional setting and providing assistance, referral, and education services.

(4) Community assistance referral and education services programs implemented under this section must, at least annually, measure any reduction of repeated use of the 911 emergency system and any reduction in avoidable emergency room trips attributable to implementation of the program. Results of findings under this subsection must be reportable to the legislature or other local governments upon request. Findings should include estimated amounts of medicaid dollars that would have been spent on emergency room visits had the program not been in existence.

(5) For purposes of this section, "fire department" includes city and town fire departments, fire protection districts organized under Title 52 RCW, regional fire protection service authorities organized under chapter 52.26 RCW, providers of emergency medical services eligible to levy a tax under RCW 84.52.069, and federally recognized Indian tribes. [2017 c 273 s 2; 2015 c 93 s 1; 2013 c 247 s 1.]

#### **RCW 35.21.935 Warrant officers—Training requirements—Authority.**

(1) Any city or town may establish the position of warrant officer.

(2) If any city or town establishes the position of warrant officer, the position shall be maintained by the city or town within the city or town police department. The number and qualifications of warrant officers shall be fixed by ordinance and their compensation shall be paid by the city or town. The chief of police of the city or town must establish training requirements consistent with the job description of warrant officer established in that city or town. Training requirements must be approved by the criminal justice training commission.

(3) Warrant officers shall be vested only with the special authority identified in ordinance, which may include the authority to make arrests authorized by warrants and other authority related to service of civil and criminal process.

(4) Process issuing from any court that is directed to a police department in which a warrant officer position is maintained may be served or enforced by the warrant officer, if within the warrant officer's authority as identified in ordinance.

(5) Warrant officers shall not be entitled to death, disability, or retirement benefits pursuant to chapter 41.26 RCW on the basis of service as a warrant officer as described in this section. [2015 c 288 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.940 Failing septic systems—Connection to public sewer systems—Appeals process.** (1) A city with an ordinance or resolution requiring, upon the failure of an on-site septic system, connection to a public sewer system must, in accordance with this section, provide an administrative appeals process to consider denials of permit applications to repair or replace the septic system. The administrative appeals process required by this section applies only to requests to repair or replace existing, failing on-site septic systems that:

- (a) Were made for a single-family residence by its owner or owners;
  - (b) Were denied solely because of a law, regulation, or ordinance requiring connection to a public sewer system; and
  - (c) Absent the applicable law, regulation, or ordinance requiring connection to a public sewer system upon which the denial was based, would be approved.
- (2) If the city has an administrative appeals process, the city may, subject to the requirements of this section, use that process. The administrative appeals process required by this section, however, must be presided over by the legislative body of the city or by an administrative hearings officer.
- (3) The administrative appeals process required by this section must, at a minimum, consider whether:

- (a) It is cost-prohibitive to require the property owner to connect to the public sewer system. In complying with this subsection (3)(a), the city must consider the estimated cost to repair or replace the on-site septic system compared to the estimated cost to connect to the public sewer system;
- (b) There are public health or environmental considerations related to allowing the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system. In complying with this subsection (3)(b), the city must consider whether the repaired or replaced on-site septic system contributes to the pollution of surface waters or groundwater;
- (c) There are public sewer system performance or financing considerations related to allowing the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system; and
- (d) There are financial assistance programs or latecomer agreements offered by the city or state that may impact a decision of the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system.

(4) If the city, following the appeals process required by this section, determines that the property owner must connect the residence to the public sewer system, the property owner may, in complying with the determination and subject to approval of appropriate permits, select and hire contractors at his or her own expense to perform the work necessary to connect the residence to the public sewer system.

(5) Unless otherwise required by law, a city determination requiring the owner of a single-family residence with a failing on-site septic system to connect a residence to a public sewer system is not subject to appeal.

(6) For purposes of this section, "city" means a city or town.  
[2015 c 297 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.945 Water storage asset management services—Procurement.** (1) Any municipality may elect to contract for asset management service of its water storage assets in accordance with this



section. If a municipality elects to contract under this subsection for all, some, or one component of water storage asset management services for its water storage assets, each municipality shall publish notice of its requirements to procure asset management service of its water storage assets. The announcement must concisely state the scope and nature of the water storage asset management service for which a contract is required and encourage firms to submit proposals to meet these requirements. If a municipality chooses to negotiate a water storage asset management service contract under this section, no otherwise applicable statutory procurement requirement applies.

(2) The municipality may negotiate a fair and reasonable water storage asset management service contract with the firm that submits the best proposal based on criteria that is established by the municipality.

(3) If the municipality is unable to negotiate a satisfactory water storage asset management service contract with the firm that submits the best proposal, negotiations with that firm must formally be terminated and the municipality may select another firm in accordance with this section and continue negotiation until a water storage asset management service contract is reached or the selection process is terminated.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Water storage asset management services" means the financing, designing, improving, operating, maintaining, repairing, testing, inspecting, cleaning, administering, or managing, or any combination thereof, of a water storage asset.

(b) "Water storage asset" means water storage structures and associated distribution systems, such as the water tank, tower, well, meter, or water filter. [2015 c 187 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.950 Final determination on state highway project permits.** A city or town must comply with the requirements of RCW 47.01.485 in making a final determination on a permit as part of a project on a state highway as defined in RCW 46.04.560. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 15 s 3.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—2015 3rd sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 47.01.485.

**RCW 35.21.955 Nuisance abatement—Special assessment—Notice requirements.** (1) A city or town that exercises its authority under chapter 7.48 RCW, RCW 35.22.280, 35.23.440, or 35.27.410, or other applicable law to abate a nuisance which threatens health or safety must provide prior notice to the property owner that abatement is pending and a special assessment may be levied on the property for the expense of abatement. Such special assessment authority is supplemental to any existing authority of a city or town to levy an assessment or obtain a lien for costs of abatement. The notice must be sent by regular mail.

(2) A city or town that exercises its authority under chapter 7.48 RCW, RCW 35.22.280, 35.23.440, or 35.27.410, or other applicable law to declare a nuisance, abate a nuisance, or impose fines or costs upon persons who create, continue, or maintain a nuisance may levy a special assessment on the land or premises where the nuisance is

situated to reimburse the city or town for the expense of abatement. A city or town must, before levying a special assessment, notify the property owner and any identifiable mortgage holder that a special assessment will be levied on the property and provide the estimated amount of the special assessment. The notice must be sent by regular mail.

(3) The special assessment authorized by this section constitutes a lien against the property, and is binding upon successors in title only from the date the lien is recorded in the county where the affected real property is located. Up to two thousand dollars of the recorded lien is of equal rank with state, county, and municipal taxes.

(4) A city or town levying a special assessment under this section may contract with the county treasurer to collect the special assessment in accordance with RCW 84.56.035. [2016 c 100 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.960 Removal of restrictive covenants—Hearing, notice.**

Any city, town, or municipal corporation must hold a public hearing upon a proposal to remove, vacate, or extinguish a restrictive covenant from property owned by the city, town, or municipal corporation before the action is finalized. The public hearing must allow individuals to provide testimony regarding the proposed action. The city, town, or municipal corporation must provide notice of the public hearing at least ten days before the hearing at its usual place of business and issue a press release to local media providing the date, time, location, and reason for the public hearing. The notice must be posted on the city, town, or municipal corporation's website if it is updated for any reason before the hearing date. The notice must also identify the property and provide a brief explanation of the restrictive covenant to be removed, vacated, or extinguished. Any member of the public, in person or by counsel, may submit testimony at the public hearing. [2017 c 119 s 3.]

**Short title—2017 c 119:** "This act may be known and cited as the land covenant preservation and transparency act." [2017 c 119 s 1.]

**Finding—2017 c 119:** "The legislature finds that many pieces of property are provided to government agencies as part of agreements in which the land includes restrictive covenants. There is a desire that government agencies become more transparent when they want to change the use of property that has covenants that restrict what can be done with property, especially if the property was a gift to be used for parks, open space, habitat, or environmental mitigation and conservation. The legislature declares that any local government agency that intends to remove restrictive covenants from real property owned by the agency must do so through an open process in which citizens are made aware of the agency's intent to remove or modify the restrictive covenant before the legal action occurs." [2017 c 119 s 2.]

**RCW 35.21.965 Voluntary change to electoral system.** The legislative authority of a city or town may authorize a change to its electoral system pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040. [2018 c 113 s 206.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 113:** See RCW 29A.92.005 and 29A.92.900.

**RCW 35.21.970 Assessment and mitigation of negative impact on parking when constructing or operating a public facility in certain neighborhoods.** (1) A city with a population of more than five hundred fifty thousand that permits a public facility to be constructed or operated by another local government agency, transit authority, or public facility district in a neighborhood with a high poverty level and a high rate of ethnic diversity shall formally request that the entity that is constructing or is operating the public facility assess and mitigate the negative impacts that the facility has had on parking in the surrounding neighborhood. The entity operating or constructing the facility must consider the potential or actual disparate racial, social, and economic impacts of the public facility on residents nearby and develop a mitigation plan, which keeps the residents of the impacted neighborhood whole for the costs of the mitigation strategy, including paying for the costs of any residential parking zone necessitated by the facility causing the impact. The entity operating or constructing the facility may negotiate with other political subdivisions who have a direct interest in having created the negative impacts, but the residents must be held harmless.

(2) For purposes of this section, neighborhood boundaries are defined by the boundaries of community reporting areas, as established in the most recent United States census.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Public facility" means a project that was completed by December 31, 2014.

(b) A neighborhood has a high poverty level if twelve percent or more of the population is below the poverty level according to the most recent American community survey's five-year estimate.

(c) A neighborhood has a high rate of ethnic diversity if forty percent or more of the population identifies as persons of color according to the most recent American community survey's five-year estimate. [2019 c 375 s 1.]

**RCW 35.21.980 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 s 78.]

**RCW 35.21.990 New housing in existing buildings—Prohibitions on local regulation.** (1) (a) Cities must adopt or amend by ordinance, and incorporate into their development regulations, zoning regulations, and other official controls the requirements of subsection (2) of this section for buildings that are zoned for commercial or mixed use no later than six months after its next periodic comprehensive plan update required under RCW 36.70A.130.

(b) The requirements of subsection (2) of this section apply and take effect in any city that has not adopted or amended ordinances, regulations, or other official controls as required under this section by the timeline in (a) of this subsection and supersede, preempt, and invalidate any conflicting local development regulations.

(2) Through ordinances, development regulations, zoning regulations, or other official controls as required under subsection (1) of this section, cities may not:

(a) Impose a restriction on housing unit density that prevents the addition of housing units at a density up to 50 percent more than what is allowed in the underlying zone if constructed entirely within an existing building envelope in a building located within a zone that permits multifamily housing, provided that generally applicable health and safety standards, including but not limited to building code standards and fire and life safety standards, can be met within the building;

(b) Impose parking requirements on the addition of dwelling units or living units added within an existing building, however, cities may require the retention of existing parking that is required to satisfy existing residential parking requirements under local laws and for nonresidential uses that remain after the new units are added;

(c) With the exception of emergency housing and transitional housing uses, impose permitting requirements on the use of an existing building for residential purposes beyond those requirements generally applicable to all residential development within the building's zone;

(d) Impose design standard requirements, including setbacks, lot coverage, and floor area ratio requirements, on the use of an existing building for residential purposes beyond those requirements generally applicable to all residential development within the building's zone;

(e) Impose exterior design or architectural requirements on the residential use of an existing building beyond those necessary for health and safety of the use of the interior of the building or to preserve character-defining streetscapes, unless the building is a designated landmark or is within a historic district established through a local preservation ordinance;

(f) Prohibit the addition of housing units in any specific part of a building except ground floor commercial or retail that is along a major pedestrian corridor as defined by each city, unless the addition of the units would violate applicable building codes or health and safety standards;

(g) Require unchanged portions of an existing building used for residential purposes to meet the current energy code solely because of the addition of new dwelling units within the building, however, if any portion of an existing building is converted to new dwelling units, each of those new units must meet the requirements of the current energy code;

(h) Deny a building permit application for the addition of housing units within an existing building due to nonconformity regarding parking, height, setbacks, elevator size for gurney

transport, or modulation, unless the city official with decision-making authority makes written findings that the nonconformity is causing a significant detriment to the surrounding area; or

(i) Require a transportation concurrency study under RCW 36.70A.070 or an environmental study under chapter 43.21C RCW based on the addition of residential units within an existing building.

(3) Nothing in this section requires a city to approve a building permit application for the addition of housing units constructed entirely within an existing building envelope in a building located within a zone that permits multifamily housing in cases in which the building cannot satisfy life safety standards.

(4) For the purpose of this section, "existing building" means a building that received a certificate of occupancy at least three years prior to the permit application to add housing units. [2023 c 285 s 2.]

**Chapter 35.22 RCW**  
**FIRST-CLASS CITIES**

**Sections**

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- 35.22.020 Mode of exercising powers, functions and duties.
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*Accident claims against: RCW 35.31.020.*

*Actions against  
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*Actions by in corporate name: RCW 4.08.110.*

*Advancement in classification: RCW 35.06.010.*

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*Bond issues by proxy: Chapter 35.36 RCW.*

*Charters  
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*Classification as: RCW 35.01.010.*

*Discrimination, administrative remedies authorized: RCW 49.60.330.*

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*Harbor improvements, joint planning authorized: RCW 88.32.240,  
88.32.250.*

*Inhabitants at time of organization: RCW 35.01.010.*

*Judgment against local governmental entity, enforcement: RCW 6.17.080.*

*Limitations on indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments  
55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW  
84.52.050.*

*Local improvement  
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bonds, collection of assessments: RCW 35.49.010.  
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*Lost and found property: Chapter 63.21 RCW.*

*Municipal transportation systems, budget by transportation commission:  
RCW 35.32A.010.*

*Officers  
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Constitution Art. 11 s 8 (Amendment 57).  
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*Organization under general laws required: State Constitution Art. 11 s  
10 (Amendment 40).*

*Parking, off-street facilities: Chapter 35.86 RCW.*



*Police*

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*Streets and alleys, grades at high elevation, drainage impractical on private abutting land, effect: Chapter 35.73 RCW.*

*Subways, authority to construct: RCW 35.85.050.*

*Taxes, collection by county treasurer: RCW 36.29.100, 36.29.110.*

*Tunnels, authority to construct: RCW 35.85.050.*

*Unclaimed property in hands of city police: Chapter 63.32 RCW.*

*Viaducts, authority to construct: RCW 35.85.010.*

*Vital statistics: Chapter 70.58A RCW.*

**RCW 35.22.010 Laws governing.** Cities of the first class shall be organized and governed according to the law providing for the government of cities having a population of ten thousand or more inhabitants that have adopted a charter in accordance with Article XI, section 10 of the state Constitution. [1997 c 361 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.010. Prior: 1890 p 143 s 23; RRS s 8947.]

*First-class city, defined: RCW 35.01.010.*

**RCW 35.22.020 Mode of exercising powers, functions and duties.** The form of the organization and the manner and mode in which cities of the first class shall exercise the powers, functions and duties conferred upon them by law, with respect to their own government, shall be as provided in the charters thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.020. Prior: 1911 c 17 s 1; RRS s 8948.]

**RCW 35.22.030 Cities having ten thousand or more population may frame charter for own government.** Any city with a population of ten thousand or more inhabitants may frame a charter for its own government. [1965 ex.s. c 47 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.030. Prior: 1890 p 215 s 1; RRS s 8951.]

*Cities of ten thousand or more  
may frame charters without change in classification: RCW  
35.22.195.  
permitted to frame charters: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10  
(Amendment 40).*

**RCW 35.22.050 Election of freeholders to frame charter.** Whenever the population of a city is ten thousand or more, the legislative authority thereof shall provide by ordinance for an election to be held therein for the purpose of electing fifteen freeholders for the purpose of framing a charter for the city. The members of the board of freeholders must be qualified electors and must have been residents of the city for a period of at least two years prior to their election. [1965 ex.s. c 47 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.050. Prior: 1890 p 216 s 3, part; RRS s 8953, part.]

**RCW 35.22.055 Election of freeholders in cities of three hundred thousand or more population—Designation of positions.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever the population of a city is three hundred thousand persons or more, not less than ten days before the time for filing declarations of candidacy for election of freeholders under Article XI, section 10 (Amendment 40), of the state Constitution, the city clerk shall designate the positions to be filled by consecutive number, commencing with one. The positions to be designated shall be dealt with as separate offices for all election purposes, and each candidate shall file for one, but only one, of the positions so designated.

In the printing of ballots, the positions of the names of candidates for each numbered position shall be in accordance with RCW 29A.36.121. [2015 c 53 s 35; 1974 ex.s. c 1 s 1.]

**Severability—1974 ex.s. c 1:** "If any provision of this 1974 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1974 ex.s. c 1 s 3.]

**RCW 35.22.060 Submission of charter—Publication.** The board of freeholders shall convene within ten days after their election and frame a charter for the city and within thirty days thereafter, they, or a majority of them, shall submit the charter to the legislative authority of the city, which, within five days thereafter, shall cause it to be published in the newspaper having the largest general circulation within the city at least once each week for four weeks next preceding the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval. [1985 c 469 s 22; 1965 ex.s. c 47 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.060. Prior: 1890 p 216 s 3, part; RRS s 8953, part.]

*Submission of proposed charter, publication: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).*

**RCW 35.22.070 Election on adoption of charter—Notice.** Within five days after the filing with the city clerk of affidavits of publication, which affidavits shall be filed immediately after the last publication, the legislative authority of the city shall initiate the proceedings for the submission of the proposed charter to the qualified voters of the city for their adoption or rejection at either a general or special election. At this election the first officers to serve under the provisions of the proposed charter shall also be elected. In electing from wards, the division into wards as specified in the proposed charter shall govern; in all other respects the then existing laws relating to such election shall govern. The notice shall specify the objects for which the election is held, and shall be given as required by law. [1965 ex.s. c 47 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.070. Prior: (i) 1890 p 216 s 3, part; RRS s 8953, part. (ii) 1890 p 223 s 6, part; RRS s 8977, part.]

*Election on adoption of charter, notice: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).*

**RCW 35.22.080 Conduct of elections.** The election of the members of the board of freeholders and that upon the proposition of adopting or rejecting the proposed charter and the officers to be elected thereunder, the returns of both elections, the canvassing thereof and the declaration of the result shall be governed by the laws regulating and controlling elections in the city. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.080. Prior: (i) 1890 p 216 s 3, part; RRS s 8953, part. (ii) 1890 p 223 s 6, part; RRS s 8977, part. (iii) 1890 p 217 s 4, part; RRS s 8954, part.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.22.090 Form of ballot.** The form of ballot in the election for the adoption or rejection of the proposed charter shall be: "For the proposed charter," "Against the proposed charter." In submitting the proposed charter or amendments thereto, any alternate article or proposition may be presented for the choice of the voters and may be voted on separately without prejudice to others. In submitting such amendment, article or proposition, the form of the ballot shall be: "For article No. . . . of the charter," "Against article No. . . . of the charter." [1965 c 7 s 35.22.090. Prior: 1890 p 216 s 3, part; RRS s 8953, part.]

**RCW 35.22.100 Certificates of election to officers.** If a majority of the votes cast at the election upon the adoption of the proposed charter favor it, certificates of election shall be issued to each officer elected at that election. Within ten days after the issuance of the certificates of election, the newly elected officers shall qualify as provided in the charter, and on the tenth day thereafter at twelve o'clock noon of that day, the officers so elected and qualified shall enter upon the duties of the offices to which they

were elected and at such time the charter shall be authenticated, recorded, attested and go into effect. When so authenticated, recorded and attested, the charter shall become the organic law of the city and supersede any existing charter and amendments thereto and all special laws inconsistent therewith. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.100. Prior: (i) 1890 p 223 s 6, part; RRS s 8977, part. (ii) 1890 p 217 s 4, part; RRS s 8954, part.]

**RCW 35.22.110 Authentication of charter.** The authentication of the charter shall be by certificate of the mayor in substance as follows:

"I . . . . ., mayor of the city of . . . . . do hereby certify that in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and statutes of the State of Washington, the city of . . . . . caused fifteen freeholders to be elected on the . . . . day of . . . . . (year) . . . . to prepare a charter for the city; that due notice of that election was given in the manner provided by law and that the following persons were declared elected to prepare and propose a charter for the city, to wit: . . . . .

That thereafter on the . . . . day of . . . . . (year) . . . . the board of freeholders returned a proposed charter for the city of . . . . . signed by the following members thereof: . . . . .

That thereafter the proposed charter was published in (Indicate name of newspaper in which published) for at least once each week for four weeks next preceding the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval. (Indicate dates of publication)

That thereafter on the . . . . day of . . . . . (year) . . . . , at an election duly called and held, the proposed charter was submitted to the qualified electors thereof, and the returns canvassed resulting as follows: For the proposed charter, . . . . votes; against the proposed charter, . . . . votes; majority for the proposed charter, . . . . votes; whereupon the charter was declared adopted by a majority of the qualified electors voting at the election.

I further certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of the proposed charter so voted upon and adopted as aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the corporate seal of said city at my office this . . . . day of . . . . . (year) . . . .

Attest:

.....  
Mayor of the city of

Clerk of the city of . . . . . (Corporate Seal)."

Immediately after authentication, the authenticated charter shall be recorded by the city clerk in a book provided for that purpose known as the charter book of the city of . . . . . and when so recorded shall be attested by the clerk and mayor under the corporate seal of the city. All amendments shall be in like manner recorded and attested.

All courts shall take judicial notice of a charter and all amendments thereto when recorded and attested as required in this section. [2016 c 202 s 26; 1965 ex.s. c 47 s 10; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.110. Prior: 1890 p 217 s 4, part; RRS s 8954, part.]

**RCW 35.22.120 Petition for submission of charter amendment.** On petition of a number (equal to fifteen percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general state election) of qualified voters of any municipality having adopted a charter under the laws of this state, asking the adoption of a specified charter amendment, providing for any matter within the realm of local affairs, or municipal business, the said amendment shall be submitted to the voters at the next regular municipal election, occurring thirty days or more after said petition is filed, and if approved by a majority of the local electors of the municipality voting upon it, such amendment shall become a part of the charter organic law governing such municipality. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.120. Prior: 1949 c 233 s 1; 1903 c 186 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 8963.]

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.22.130 Requisites of petition—Effect of favorable vote.** A petition containing the demand for the submission of the proposed charter amendment or for an election to be held for the purpose of electing a board of freeholders for the purpose of preparing a new charter for the city as provided in RCW 35.22.140 shall be filed with the city clerk and each signer shall write his or her place of residence after his or her signature. This and RCW 35.22.120 do not deprive city councils of the right to submit proposed charter amendments but affords a concurrent and additional method of submission. [2009 c 549 s 2044; 1967 c 123 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.130. Prior: (i) 1903 c 186 s 2; RRS s 8964. (ii) 1903 c 186 s 3; RRS s 8965.]

**RCW 35.22.140 New or revised charter—Petition—Freeholders.** On the petition of a number of registered voters of a city equal to twenty-five percent of the total votes cast at the last preceding city election, the city council of a charter city shall, or without such petition may, cause an election to be held for the purpose of electing a board of fifteen freeholders for the purpose of preparing a new charter for the city by altering, revising, adding to or repealing the existing charter including all amendments thereto. The members of the board of freeholders must be qualified electors and must have been residents in the city for a period of at least two years prior to their election. At such election the proposition of whether or not a board of freeholders shall be created at all shall be separately stated on the ballots and unless a majority of the votes cast upon that proposition favor it, no further steps shall be taken in the proceedings. [1965 ex.s. c 47 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.140. Prior: 1945 c 55 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 137 s 1, part; 1895 c 27 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8955, part.]

*Amendment of charter: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).*

**RCW 35.22.150 Submission of new charter.** Within ten days after the results of the election have been determined, if a majority of the votes cast favor the proceeding, the members of the board of freeholders elected thereat shall convene and prepare a new charter by

altering, revising, adding to, or repealing the existing charter including all amendments thereto and within one year thereafter file it with the city clerk. [1974 ex.s. c 1 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.150. Prior: 1945 c 55 s 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 137 s 1, part; 1895 c 27 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 8955, part.]

**Severability—1974 ex.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 35.22.055.

**RCW 35.22.160 Election on adoption of new charter.** Upon the filing of the proposed new, altered, changed or revised charter with the city clerk, it shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the city at an election to be called therefor pursuant to the provisions of law applicable to the holding of elections in such city. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.160. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 137 s 2, part; 1895 c 27 s 2, part; RRS s 8956, part.]

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.22.170 Publication of proposed charter.** The proposed new, altered or revised charter shall be published in the newspaper having the largest general circulation within the city at least once each week for four weeks next preceding the day of submitting the same to the electors for their approval. [1985 c 469 s 23; 1965 ex.s. c 47 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.170. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 137 s 3; 1895 c 27 s 3; RRS s 8957.]

*Publication of amendments to charter: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).*

**RCW 35.22.180 Conduct of elections.** The election of the board of freeholders and that upon the proposition of adopting the proposed new, altered or revised charter, may be general or special elections and except as herein provided, said elections, the returns, the canvassing thereof and the declaration of the result shall be governed by the laws regulating and controlling elections in the city. In both cases the notice specifying the object of the election must be given at least ten days before the day of election. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.180. Prior: (i) 1895 c 27 s 4; RRS s 8958. (ii) 1895 c 27 s 5; RRS s 8959.]

*Election on amendment to charter: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).*

**RCW 35.22.190 Effect of favorable vote.** If a majority of the voters voting upon the adoption of the proposed new, altered or revised charter favor it, it shall become the charter of the city and the organic law thereof, superseding any existing charter. All bodies or offices abolished or dispensed with by the new, altered or revised charter, together with the emoluments thereof shall immediately cease to exist, and any new offices created shall be filled by appointment of the mayor until the next general election subject to such approval by the city council as may be required by the new, altered or revised charter. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.190. Prior: (i) 1925 ex.s. c 137 s 2,

part; 1895 c 27 s 2, part; RRS s 8956, part. (ii) 1895 c 27 s 6; RRS s 8962.]

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.22.195 Powers of cities adopting charters.** Any city adopting a charter under Article XI, section 10 of the Constitution of the state of Washington, as amended by amendment 40, shall have all of the powers which are conferred upon incorporated cities and towns by Title 35 RCW, or other laws of the state, and all such powers as are usually exercised by municipal corporations of like character and degree. [1965 ex.s. c 47 s 2. Formerly RCW 35.21.620.]

*Legislative powers of charter city: RCW 35.22.200.*

**RCW 35.22.200 Legislative powers of charter city—Where vested—Direct legislation.** The legislative powers of a charter city shall be vested in a mayor and a city council, to consist of such number of members and to have such powers as may be provided for in its charter. The charter may provide for direct legislation by the people through the initiative and referendum upon any matter within the scope of the powers, functions, or duties of the city. The mayor and council and such other elective officers as may be provided for in such charter shall be elected at such times and in such manner as provided in Title 29A RCW, and for such terms and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed in the charter, and shall receive compensation in accordance with the process or standards of a charter provision or ordinance which conforms with RCW 35.21.015. [2015 c 53 s 36; 2001 c 73 s 2; 1965 ex.s. c 47 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.200. Prior: (i) 1890 p 223 s 6, part; RRS s 8977, part. (ii) 1927 c 52 s 1; 1911 c 17 s 2; RRS s 8949.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2001 c 73:** See notes following RCW 35.21.015.

*Powers of cities adopting charters: RCW 35.22.195.*

**RCW 35.22.205 Compensation and hours of mayor and elected officials.** The compensation and the time to be devoted to the performance of the duties of the mayor and elected officials of all cities of the first class shall be as fixed by ordinance of said city irrespective of any city charter provisions. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.205. Prior: 1957 c 113 s 1; 1955 c 354 s 1.]

**RCW 35.22.210 Separate designation of councilmembers in certain first-class cities.** Any city of the first class having a population less than one hundred thousand by the last federal census and having a charter providing that each of its councilmembers shall be the commissioner of an administrative department of such city, may by ordinance provide for the separate designation of such councilmembers as officers, in accordance with such administrative departments, and for their filing for and election to office under such separate

designations. [2009 c 549 s 2045; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.210. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 61 s 1; RRS s 8948-1.]

**RCW 35.22.220 Repeal of separate designation.** Whenever any such city shall have passed such an ordinance providing for such separate designations and for filing for and election to office in accordance therewith, such city shall have no power to repeal the same except by ordinance passed by the council of such city and submitted to the voters thereof at a general or special election and ratified by a majority of the voters voting thereon. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.220. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 61 s 2; RRS s 8948-2.]

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.22.235 First-class mayor-council cities—Twelve councilmembers.** All regular elections in first-class cities having a mayor-council form of government whose charters provide for twelve councilmembers elected for a term of two years, two being elected from each of six wards, and for the election of a mayor, treasurer, and comptroller for terms of two years, shall be held biennially as provided in RCW 29A.04.330. The term of each councilmember, mayor, treasurer, and comptroller shall be four years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. The terms of the councilmembers shall be so staggered that six councilmembers shall be elected to office at each regular election. [2015 c 53 s 37; 2003 c 111 s 2301. Prior: 1981 c 213 s 3; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 11; 1965 c 9 s 29.13.023; prior: 1963 c 200 s 2; 1957 c 168 s 1. Formerly RCW 29.13.023.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.22.245 First-class mayor-council cities—Seven councilmembers.** All regular elections in first-class cities having a mayor-council form of government whose charters provide for seven councilmembers, one to be elected from each of six wards and one at large, for a term of two years, and for the election of a mayor, comptroller, treasurer and attorney for two year terms, shall be held biennially as provided in RCW 29A.04.330. The terms of the six councilmembers to be elected by wards shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified and the term of the councilmember to be elected at large shall be two years and until their successors are elected and qualified. The terms of the councilmembers shall be so staggered that three ward councilmembers and the councilmember at large shall be elected at each regular election. The term of the mayor, attorney, treasurer, and comptroller shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. [2015 c 53 s 38; 2003 c 111 s 2302. Prior: 1981 c 213 s 4; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 12; 1965 c 9 s 29.13.024; prior: 1963 c 200 s 3; 1957 c 168 s 2. Formerly RCW 29.13.024.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).



**RCW 35.22.280 Specific powers enumerated.** Any city of the first class shall have power:

(1) To provide for general and special elections, for questions to be voted upon, and for the election of officers;

(2) To provide for levying and collecting taxes on real and personal property for its corporate uses and purposes, and to provide for the payment of the debts and expenses of the corporation;

(3) To control the finances and property of the corporation, and to acquire, by purchase or otherwise, such lands and other property as may be necessary for any part of the corporate uses provided for by its charter, and to dispose of any such property as the interests of the corporation may, from time to time, require;

(4) To borrow money for corporate purposes on the credit of the corporation, and to issue negotiable bonds therefor, on such conditions and in such manner as shall be prescribed in its charter; but no city shall, in any manner or for any purpose, become indebted to an amount in the aggregate to exceed the limitation of indebtedness prescribed by chapter 39.36 RCW as now or hereafter amended;

(5) To issue bonds in place of or to supply means to meet maturing bonds or other indebtedness, or for the consolidation or funding of the same;

(6) To purchase or appropriate private property within or without its corporate limits, for its corporate uses, upon making just compensation to the owners thereof, and to institute and maintain such proceedings as may be authorized by the general laws of the state for the appropriation of private property for public use;

(7) To lay out, establish, open, alter, widen, extend, grade, pave, plank, establish grades, or otherwise improve streets, alleys, avenues, sidewalks, wharves, parks, and other public grounds, and to regulate and control the use thereof, and to vacate the same, and to authorize or prohibit the use of electricity at, in, or upon any of said streets, or for other purposes, and to prescribe the terms and conditions upon which the same may be so used, and to regulate the use thereof;

(8) To change the grade of any street, highway, or alley within its corporate limits, and to provide for the payment of damages to any abutting owner or owners who shall have built or made other improvements upon such street, highway, or alley at any point opposite to the point where such change shall be made with reference to the grade of such street, highway, or alley as the same existed prior to such change;

(9) To authorize or prohibit the locating and constructing of any railroad or street railroad in any street, alley, or public place in such city, and to prescribe the terms and conditions upon which any such railroad or street railroad shall be located or constructed; to provide for the alteration, change of grade, or removal thereof; to regulate the moving and operation of railroad and street railroad trains, cars, and locomotives within the corporate limits of said city; and to provide by ordinance for the protection of all persons and property against injury in the use of such railroads or street railroads;

(10) To provide for making local improvements, and to levy and collect special assessments on property benefited thereby, and for paying for the same or any portion thereof;

(11) To acquire, by purchase or otherwise, lands for public parks within or without the limits of such city, and to improve the same. When the language of any instrument by which any property is so

acquired limits the use of said property to park purposes and contains a reservation of interest in favor of the grantor or any other person, and where it is found that the property so acquired is not needed for park purposes and that an exchange thereof for other property to be dedicated for park purposes is in the public interest, the city may, with the consent of the grantor or such other person, his or her heirs, successors, or assigns, exchange such property for other property to be dedicated for park purposes, and may make, execute, and deliver proper conveyances to effect the exchange. In any case where, owing to death or lapse of time, there is neither donor, heir, successor, or assignee to give consent, this consent may be executed by the city and filed for record with an affidavit setting forth all efforts made to locate people entitled to give such consent together with the facts which establish that no consent by such persons is attainable. Title to property so conveyed by the city shall vest in the grantee free and clear of any trust in favor of the public arising out of any prior dedication for park purposes, but the right of the public shall be transferred and preserved with like force and effect to the property received by the city in such exchange;

(12) To construct and keep in repair bridges, viaducts, and tunnels, and to regulate the use thereof;

(13) To determine what work shall be done or improvements made at the expense, in whole or in part, of the owners of the adjoining contiguous, or proximate property, or others specially benefited thereby; and to provide for the manner of making and collecting assessments therefor;

(14) To provide for erecting, purchasing, or otherwise acquiring waterworks, within or without the corporate limits of said city, to supply said city and its inhabitants with water, or authorize the construction of same by others when deemed for the best interests of such city and its inhabitants, and to regulate and control the use and price of the water so supplied;

(15) To provide for lighting the streets and all public places, and for furnishing the inhabitants thereof with gas or other lights, and to erect, or otherwise acquire, and to maintain the same, or to authorize the erection and maintenance of such works as may be necessary and convenient therefor, and to regulate and control the use thereof;

(16) To establish and regulate markets, and to provide for the weighing, measuring, and inspection of all articles of food and drink offered for sale thereat, or at any other place within its limits, by proper penalties, and to enforce the keeping of proper legal weights and measures by all vendors in such city, and to provide for the inspection thereof. Whenever the words "public markets" are used in this chapter, and the public market is managed in whole or in part by a public corporation created by a city, the words shall be construed to include all real or personal property located in a district or area designated by a city as a public market and traditionally devoted to providing farmers, crafts vendors and other merchants with retail space to market their wares to the public. Property located in such a district or area need not be exclusively or primarily used for such traditional public market retail activities and may include property used for other public purposes including, but not limited to, the provision of human services and low-income or moderate-income housing;

(17) To erect and establish hospitals and pesthouses, and to control and regulate the same;

(18) To provide for establishing and maintaining reform schools for juvenile offenders;

(19) To provide for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries, and to appropriate, annually, such percent of all moneys collected for fines, penalties, and licenses as shall be prescribed by its charter, for the support of a city library, which shall, under such regulations as shall be prescribed by ordinance, be open for use by the public;

(20) To regulate the burial of the dead, and to establish and regulate cemeteries within or without the corporate limits, and to acquire land therefor by purchase or otherwise; to cause cemeteries to be removed beyond the limits of the corporation, and to prohibit their establishment within two miles of the boundaries thereof;

(21) To direct the location and construction of all buildings in which any trade or occupation offensive to the senses or deleterious to public health or safety shall be carried on, and to regulate the management thereof; and to prohibit the erection or maintenance of such buildings or structures, or the carrying on of such trade or occupation within the limits of such corporation, or within the distance of two miles beyond the boundaries thereof;

(22) To provide for the prevention and extinguishment of fires and to regulate or prohibit the transportation, keeping, or storage of all combustible or explosive materials within its corporate limits, and to regulate and restrain the use of fireworks;

(23) To establish fire limits and to make all such regulations for the erection and maintenance of buildings or other structures within its corporate limits as the safety of persons or property may require, and to cause all such buildings and places as may from any cause be in a dangerous state to be put in safe condition;

(24) To regulate the manner in which stone, brick, and other buildings, party walls, and partition fences shall be constructed and maintained;

(25) To deepen, widen, dock, cover, wall, alter, or change the channels of waterways and courses, and to provide for the construction and maintenance of all such works as may be required for the accommodation of commerce, including canals, slips, public landing places, wharves, docks, and levees, and to control and regulate the use thereof;

(26) To control, regulate, or prohibit the anchorage, moorage, and landing of all watercrafts and their cargoes within the jurisdiction of the corporation;

(27) To fix the rates of wharfage and dockage, and to provide for the collection thereof, and to provide for the imposition and collection of such harbor fees as may be consistent with the laws of the United States;

(28) To license, regulate, control, or restrain wharf boats, tugs, and other boats used about the harbor or within such jurisdiction;

(29) To require the owners of public halls or other buildings to provide suitable means of exit; to provide for the prevention and abatement of nuisances, for the cleaning and purification of watercourses and canals, for the drainage and filling up of ponds on private property within its limits, when the same shall be offensive to the senses or dangerous to health; to regulate and control, and to prevent and punish, the defilement or pollution of all streams running through or into its corporate limits, and for the distance of five miles beyond its corporate limits, and on any stream or lake from

which the water supply of said city is taken, for a distance of five miles beyond its source of supply; to provide for the cleaning of areas, vaults, and other places within its corporate limits which may be so kept as to become offensive to the senses or dangerous to health, and to make all such quarantine or other regulations as may be necessary for the preservation of the public health, and to remove all persons afflicted with any infectious or contagious disease to some suitable place to be provided for that purpose;

(30) To declare what shall be a nuisance, and to abate the same, and to impose fines upon parties who may create, continue, or suffer nuisances to exist;

(31) To regulate the selling or giving away of intoxicating, malt, vinous, mixed, or fermented liquors as authorized by the general laws of the state: PROVIDED, That no license shall be granted to any person or persons who shall not first comply with the general laws of the state in force at the time the same is granted;

(32) To grant licenses for any lawful purpose, and to fix by ordinance the amount to be paid therefor, and to provide for revoking the same. However, no license shall be granted to continue for longer than one year from the date thereof. A city may not require a business to be licensed based solely upon registration under or compliance with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement;

(33) To regulate the carrying on within its corporate limits of all occupations which are of such a nature as to affect the public health or the good order of said city, or to disturb the public peace, and which are not prohibited by law, and to provide for the punishment of all persons violating such regulations, and of all persons who knowingly permit the same to be violated in any building or upon any premises owned or controlled by them;

(34) To restrain and provide for the punishment of vagrants, mendicants, prostitutes, and other disorderly persons;

(35) To provide for the punishment of all disorderly conduct, and of all practices dangerous to public health or safety, and to make all regulations necessary for the preservation of public morality, health, peace, and good order within its limits, and to provide for the arrest, trial, and punishment of all persons charged with violating any of the ordinances of said city. The punishment shall not exceed a fine of five thousand dollars or imprisonment in the city jail for three hundred sixty-four days, or both such fine and imprisonment. The punishment for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment provided in state law for the same crime. Such cities alternatively may provide that violations of ordinances constitute a civil violation subject to monetary penalties, but no act which is a state crime may be made a civil violation;

(36) To project or extend its streets over and across any tidelands within its corporate limits, and along or across the harbor areas of such city, in such manner as will best promote the interests of commerce;

(37) To provide in their respective charters for a method to propose and adopt amendments thereto. [2011 c 96 s 25; 2009 c 549 s 2046; 2008 c 129 s 1; 1993 c 83 s 4; 1990 c 189 s 3; 1986 c 278 s 3; 1984 c 258 s 802; 1977 ex.s. c 316 s 20; 1971 ex.s. c 16 s 1; 1965 ex.s. c 116 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.280. Prior: 1890 p 218 s 5; RRS s 8966.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**Effective date—1993 c 83:** See note following RCW 35.21.163.

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 316:** See note following RCW 70.48.020.

**RCW 35.22.282 City and town license fees and taxes on financial institutions.** See chapter 82.14A RCW.

**RCW 35.22.283 City license fees or taxes on certain business activities to be at a single uniform rate.** See RCW 35.21.710.

**RCW 35.22.284 Association of sheriffs and police chiefs.** See chapter 36.28A RCW.

**RCW 35.22.285 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** See chapter 80.58 RCW.

**RCW 35.22.287 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts.** See RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.

**RCW 35.22.288 Publication of ordinances or summary—Public notice of hearings and meeting agendas.** Promptly after adoption, the text of each ordinance or a summary of the content of each ordinance shall be published at least once in the official newspaper of the city. For purposes of this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly describes the main points of the ordinance. Publication of the title of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall constitute publication of a summary of that ordinance. When the city publishes a summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.

An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the text or a summary of the content of an ordinance shall not render the ordinance invalid.

In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or a summary of the content of each adopted ordinance, every city shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas, or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent of this requirement. [1994 c 273 s 7; 1988 c 168 s 1; 1985 c 469 s 100.]

**RCW 35.22.290 Additional powers—Auditoriums, art museums.**

Every city of the first class may lease, purchase, or construct, and maintain public auditoriums and art museums and may use and let them for such public and private purposes for such compensation and rental and upon such conditions as shall be prescribed by ordinance; it may issue negotiable bonds for the purchase and construction thereof on such conditions and in such manner as shall be prescribed by its charter and by general law for the borrowing of money for corporate purposes. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.290. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 81 s 1; 1923 c 179 s 1; RRS s 8981-2.]

**RCW 35.22.300 Leasing of land for auditoriums, etc.** If a city of the first class has acquired title to land for public auditoriums or art museums, it may let it or any part thereof, together with the structures and improvements constructed or to be constructed thereon for such term as may be deemed proper and may raise the needed funds for financing the project, in whole or in part, by transferring or pledging the use and income thereof in such manner as the corporate authorities deem proper.

Any lessee under any such lease may mortgage the leasehold interest and may issue bonds to be secured by the mortgage and may pledge the rent and income of the property to accrue during the term of the lease or any part thereof for the due financing of the project: PROVIDED, That the corporate authorities may specify in any such lease such provisions and restrictions relating thereto as they shall deem proper. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.300. Prior: 1925 c 12 s 1; RRS s 8981-3.]

**RCW 35.22.302 Conveyance or lease of space above real property or structures or improvements.** The legislative authority of every city of the first and second class owning real property, not limited by dedication or trust to a particular public use, may convey or lease for public or private use any estate, right or interest in the areas above the surface of the ground of such real property or structures or improvements thereon: PROVIDED, That the estate, right or interest so created and conveyed and the use authorized in connection therewith will not in the judgment of said legislative authority be needed for or be inconsistent with the public purposes for which such property was acquired, is being used, or to which it is to be devoted: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the legislative authority may impose conditions and restrictions on the use to be made of the estate, right or interest conveyed or leased, in the same manner and to the same extent as may be done by any vendor or lessor of real estate.

No conveyance or lease authorized by this section shall permit, authorize or suffer the lessee or grantee to encumber that portion of the real estate devoted to or needed for public purposes. [1967 ex.s. c 99 s 1.]

**RCW 35.22.305 Department for administration, etc., of property incident to civic center—Creation authorized—Supervision—Authority.** The legislative authority of any city of the first class of more than four hundred thousand population shall have, notwithstanding any charter or statutory provision to the contrary, authority by ordinance to create a separate department of municipal government for the

administration, management and control of any multiple use city property, including improvements thereon, devoted to educational, cultural, recreational, entertainment, athletic, convention and such other uses as shall be declared by ordinance to be incident to a civic center. The supervision of said department shall be by a manager, board or commission to be appointed in the manner, receive such compensation and perform such duties as may be prescribed by ordinance which may include authority to enter into leases, concessions and other agreements on behalf of the city, appoint and remove employees subject to applicable civil service provisions, advertise events and publicize and otherwise promote the use of such civic center facilities, and operate, manage and control municipal off-street parking and public transportation facilities heretofore or hereafter erected primarily to serve such civic center. All expenditures, purchases and improvements made or performed by or under the direction of said department shall be subject to applicable charter provisions and statutes. [1965 c 132 s 1.]

**RCW 35.22.310 Cesspools, filling of—Removal of debris, etc.**

Every city of the first class is empowered to provide for the filling and closing of cesspools and for the removing of garbage, debris, grass, weeds, and brush on property in the city. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.310. Prior: 1907 c 89 s 1; RRS s 8972.]

**RCW 35.22.320 Collection of cost of filling cesspools, etc.**

Every city of the first class by general ordinance may prescribe the mode and manner of assessing, levying and collecting assessments upon property for filling and closing cesspools thereon and removing garbage, debris, grass, weeds, and brush and provide that the charges therefor shall be a lien on the property upon which such work is done and collected in such manner as is prescribed in the ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.320. Prior: 1907 c 89 s 2; RRS s 8973.]

**RCW 35.22.330 Radio communication.** Every city of the first class maintaining a harbor department may install, maintain, and operate in connection therewith wireless telegraph stations for the handling of official and commercial messages and for communicating with wireless land and shore stations under such regulations as the corporate authorities may prescribe and in accordance with the statutes and regulations of the federal government. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.330. Prior: 1923 c 92 s 1; RRS s 8981-1.]

**RCW 35.22.340 Streets—Railroad franchises in, along, over, and across.** Every city of the first class may by ordinance authorize the location, construction, and operation of railroads in, along, over, and across any highway, street, alley, or public place in the city for such term of years and upon such conditions as the city council may by ordinance prescribe notwithstanding any provisions of the city charter limiting the length of terms of franchises or requiring franchises to contain a provision granting the city the right to appropriate by purchase the property of any corporation receiving a franchise, license, privilege, or authority: PROVIDED, That this does not apply

to street railroads nor to railroads operated in connection with street railroads in and along the streets of such city. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.340. Prior: 1907 c 41 s 1; RRS s 8971.]

**RCW 35.22.350 Utilities—Collective bargaining with employees.**

Every city of the first class which owns and operates a waterworks system, a light and power system, a street railway or other public utility, shall have power, through its proper officers, to deal with and to enter into contracts for periods not exceeding one year with its employees engaged in the construction, maintenance, or operation thereof through the accredited representatives of the employees including any labor organization or organizations authorized to act for them concerning wages, hours and conditions of labor in such employment, and every city having not less than one hundred forty thousand nor more than one hundred and seventy thousand population is empowered and authorized to immediately place in effect any adjustment or change in such wages, hours and conditions of labor of such employees as may be required to conform to the provisions of any such contract, irrespective of the provisions of any annual budget or act relating thereto: PROVIDED, That not more than one such contract not in conformity with any annual budget shall be made during any budget year, nor shall any such adjustment or change be made which would result in an excess of expenditures over revenues of such public utility. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.350. Prior: 1955 c 145 s 1; 1951 c 21 s 1; 1935 c 37 s 1; RRS s 8966-5.]

*Labor regulations: Title 49 RCW.*

**RCW 35.22.360 Utilities—Wage adjustments.** Notwithstanding any annual budget or statute relating thereto, any city of the first class owning and operating a public utility, or the city's public utility department, may make an adjustment or change of the rate of daily wages of employees of any such public utility if such adjustment or change is accompanied by or is approximately coincidental with a shortening of the workweek of the employees and if the adjustment or change will not result in any increase in pay per week, or excess of expenditures of the public utility over its revenues. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.360. Prior: 1937 c 16 s 1; RRS s 9000-22a.]

**RCW 35.22.362 Nuclear thermal power facilities—Joint development with public utility districts and electrical companies.** See chapter 54.44 RCW.

**RCW 35.22.365 Public transportation systems in municipalities—Financing.** See chapter 35.95 RCW.

**RCW 35.22.370 Wards—Division of city.** Notwithstanding that the charter of a city of the first class may forbid the city council from redividing the city into wards except at stated periods, if the city has failed to redivide the city into wards during any such period, the city council by ordinance may do so at any time thereafter: PROVIDED,



That there shall not be more than one redivision into wards during any one period specified in the charter unless pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040 or 29A.92.110. [2019 c 454 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.370. Prior: 1903 c 141 s 1; RRS s 8970.]

**Retroactive application—Effective date—2019 c 454:** See notes following RCW 29A.92.050.

**RCW 35.22.410 Wharves—City may let wharves or privileges thereon.** Every city of the first class may let the whole or any part of a wharf, or the privileges thereon owned by the city, for periods not to exceed one year in such manner, and upon such terms, as may be prescribed by a general ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.410. Prior: 1911 c 67 s 1; RRS s 8967.]

**RCW 35.22.415 Municipal airport located in unincorporated area—Subject to county comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances.** Whenever a first-class city owns and operates a municipal airport which is located in an unincorporated area of a county, the airport shall be subject to the county's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances in the same manner as if the airport were privately owned and operated. [1979 ex.s. c 124 s 10.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124:** See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

**RCW 35.22.425 Criminal code repeals by city operating municipal court—Agreement covering costs of handling resulting criminal cases—Arbitration.** A city of the first class operating a municipal court may not repeal in its entirety that portion of its municipal code defining crimes or repeal a provision of its municipal code which defines a crime equivalent to an offense listed in RCW 46.63.020 unless the municipality has reached an agreement with the appropriate county under chapter 39.34 RCW under which the county is to be paid a reasonable amount for costs associated with prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing in criminal cases filed in district court as a result of the repeal. The agreement shall include provisions for periodic review and renewal of the terms of the agreement. If the municipality and the county are unable to agree on the terms for renewal of the agreement, they shall be deemed to have entered into an agreement to submit the issue to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. Pending conclusion of the arbitration proceeding, the terms of the agreement shall remain in effect. The municipality and the county have the same rights and are subject to the same duties as other parties who have agreed to submit to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. [2005 c 433 s 38; 1984 c 258 s 204.]

**Application—Captions not law—Savings—Effective date—2005 c 433:** See RCW 7.04A.290 through 7.04A.310 and 7.04A.900.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**RCW 35.22.570 Omnibus grant of powers to first-class cities.**

Any city adopting a charter under the provisions of this chapter shall have all the powers which are conferred upon incorporated cities and towns by this title or other laws of the state, and all such powers as are usually exercised by municipal corporations of like character and degree. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.570. Prior: 1890 p 224 s 7; RRS s 8981.]

**RCW 35.22.580 Diversion of local improvement moneys prohibited—Refund of excess.**

Whenever any city of the first class shall levy and collect moneys by sale of bonds or otherwise for any local improvement by special assessment therefor, the same shall be carried in a special fund to be used for said purpose, and no part thereof shall be transferred or diverted to any other fund or use: PROVIDED, That any funds remaining after the payment of the whole cost and expense of such improvement, in excess of the total sum required to defray all the expenditures by the city on account thereof, shall be refunded on demand to the amount of such overpayment: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section shall not be deemed to require the refunding of any balance in any local improvement fund after the payment of all outstanding obligations issued against such fund, where such balance accrues from any saving in interest or from penalties collected upon delinquent assessments, but any such balance may be turned into the general fund or otherwise disposed of, as the legislative authority of such city may direct by ordinance. The provisions of this section relating to the refund of excess local improvement district funds shall not apply to any district whose obligations are guaranteed by the local improvement guaranty fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.580. Prior: 1917 c 58 s 1; 1915 c 17 s 1; RRS s 8983. Formerly RCW 35.45.100.]

**RCW 35.22.590 Bonds voted by people—Transfer of excess to redemption fund.**

(1) Whenever the issuance or sale of bonds or other obligations of any city of the first class has been authorized by vote of the people, as provided by any existing charter or laws, for any special improvement or purpose, the proceeds of the sale of such bonds including premiums if any shall be carried in a special fund to be devoted to the purpose for which such bonds were authorized, and no portion of such bonds shall be transferred or diverted to any other fund or purpose: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be held to prevent the transfer to the interest and redemption fund of any balance remaining in the treasury after the completion of such improvement or purpose so authorized: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein shall prevent the city council from disposing of such bonds, or any portion thereof, in such amounts and at such times as it shall direct, but no such bonds shall be sold for less than par. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 35; 1965 c 7 s 35.22.590. Prior: 1915 c 17 s 2; RRS s 8984. Formerly RCW 35.45.110.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.22.600 Liability for violations of RCW 35.22.580 or 35.22.590.** Any ordinance, resolution, order or other action of any city council, board or officer, and every city warrant or other instrument in writing made in violation of any of the provisions of RCW 35.22.580 or 35.22.590 shall be void, and every officer, agent or employee of any such city, or member of the city council, or other board thereof, and every private person or corporation who knowingly commits any violation thereof or knowingly aids in such violation, shall be liable to the city concerned for all moneys so transferred, diverted or paid out, which liability shall also attach to and be enforceable against the official bond (if any) of any such officer, agent, employee, member of city council or board. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.600. Prior: 1915 c 17 s 3; RRS s 8985. Formerly RCW 35.45.120.]

**RCW 35.22.610 Police officers—Appointment without regard to residence authorized.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 35.21.200, as now or hereafter amended, all cities of the first class shall have the right and authority to appoint and employ a person as a regular or special police officer of said city regardless of his or her place of residence or domicile at the date of his or her appointment.

This provision shall supersede any provision of any city charter to the contrary. [2009 c 549 s 2047; 1967 ex.s. c 37 s 1.]

*Residence requirements for appointive city officials and employees:*  
RCW 35.21.200.

**RCW 35.22.620 Public works or improvements—Limitations on work by public employees—Small works roster—Purchase of reused or recycled materials or products.** (1) As used in this section, the term "public works" means as defined in RCW 39.04.010.

(2) A first-class city may have public works performed by contract pursuant to public notice and call for competitive bids. As limited by subsection (3) of this section, a first-class city may have public works performed by city employees in any annual or biennial budget period equal to a dollar value not exceeding 10 percent of the public works construction budget, including any amount in a supplemental public works construction budget, over the budget period. The amount of public works that a first-class city has a county perform for it under RCW 35.77.020 shall be included within this 10 percent limitation.

If a first-class city has public works performed by public employees in any budget period that are in excess of this 10 percent limitation, the amount in excess of the permitted amount shall be reduced from the otherwise permitted amount of public works that may be performed by public employees for that city in its next budget period. Twenty percent of the motor vehicle fuel tax distributions to that city shall be withheld if two years after the year in which the excess amount of work occurred, the city has failed to so reduce the amount of public works that it has performed by public employees. The amount so withheld shall be distributed to the city when it has

demonstrated in its reports to the state auditor that the amount of public works it has performed by public employees has been so reduced.

Whenever a first-class city has had public works performed in any budget period up to the maximum permitted amount for that budget period, all remaining public works within that budget period shall be done by contract pursuant to public notice and call for competitive bids.

The state auditor shall report to the state treasurer any first-class city that exceeds this amount and the extent to which the city has or has not reduced the amount of public works it has performed by public employees in subsequent years.

(3) In addition to the percentage limitation provided in subsection (2) of this section, a first-class city shall not have public employees perform a public works project in excess of \$150,000 if more than a single craft or trade is involved with the public works project, or a public works project in excess of \$75,500 if only a single craft or trade is involved with the public works project or the public works project is street signalization or street lighting. A public works project means a complete project. The restrictions in this subsection do not permit the division of the project into units of work or classes of work to avoid the restriction on work that may be performed by day labor on a single project. However, a first-class city may have its own regularly employed personnel perform work which is an accepted industry practice under prudent utility management without a contract. For purposes of this section, "prudent utility management" means performing work with regularly employed personnel utilizing material of a worth not exceeding \$300,000 in value without a contract. This limit on the value of material being utilized in work being performed by regularly employed personnel shall not include the value of individual items of equipment. For purposes of this section, the term "equipment" includes, but is not limited to, conductor, cabling, wire, pipe, or lines used for electrical, water, fiber optic, or telecommunications.

(4) In addition to the accounting and recordkeeping requirements contained in RCW 39.04.070, every first-class city annually may prepare a report for the state auditor indicating the total public works construction budget and supplemental public works construction budget for that year, the total construction costs of public works performed by public employees for that year, and the amount of public works that is performed by public employees above or below 10 percent of the total construction budget. However, if a city budgets on a biennial basis, this annual report may indicate the amount of public works that is performed by public employees within the current biennial period that is above or below 10 percent of the total biennial construction budget.

Each first-class city with a population of 150,000 or less shall use the form required by RCW 43.09.205 to account and record costs of public works in excess of \$5,000 that are not let by contract.

(5) The cost of a separate public works project shall be the costs of materials, supplies, equipment, and labor on the construction of that project. The value of the public works budget shall be the value of all the separate public works projects within the budget.

(6) The competitive bidding requirements of this section may be waived by the city legislative authority pursuant to RCW 39.04.280 if an exemption contained within that section applies to the work or contract.

(7) In lieu of the procedures of subsections (2) and (6) of this section, a first-class city may let contracts using the small works roster process in RCW 39.04.151 through 39.04.154.

Whenever possible, the city shall invite at least one proposal from a certified minority or woman contractor who shall otherwise qualify under this section.

(8) The allocation of public works projects to be performed by city employees shall not be subject to a collective bargaining agreement.

(9) This section does not apply to performance-based contracts, as defined in RCW 39.35A.020(6), that are negotiated under chapter 39.35A RCW.

(10) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any first-class city from allowing for preferential purchase of products made from recycled materials or products that may be recycled or reused.

(11)(a) Any first-class city may procure public works with a unit priced contract under this section for the purpose of completing anticipated types of work based on hourly rates or unit pricing for one or more categories of work or trades.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "unit priced contract" means a competitively bid contract in which public works are anticipated on a recurring basis to meet the business or operational needs of the city, under which the contractor agrees to a fixed period indefinite quantity delivery of work, at a defined unit price for each category of work.

(c) Unit priced contracts must be executed for an initial contract term not to exceed three years, with the city having the option of extending or renewing the unit priced contract for one additional year.

(d) Invitations for unit price bids shall include, for purposes of the bid evaluation, estimated quantities of the anticipated types of work or trades, and specify how the city will issue or release work assignments, work orders, or task authorizations pursuant to a unit priced contract for projects, tasks, or other work based on the hourly rates or unit prices bid by the contractor. Contracts must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as per RCW 39.04.010. Whenever possible, the city must invite at least one proposal from a certified minority or woman contractor who otherwise qualifies under this section.

(e) Unit price contractors shall pay prevailing wages for all work that would otherwise be subject to the requirements of chapter 39.12 RCW. Prevailing wages for all work performed pursuant to each work order must be the prevailing wage rates in effect at the beginning date for each contract year. Unit priced contracts must have prevailing wage rates updated annually. Intents and affidavits for prevailing wages paid must be submitted annually for all work completed within the previous 12-month period of the unit priced contract.

(12) For the purposes of this section, "lowest responsible bidder" means a bid that meets the criteria under RCW 39.04.350 and has the lowest bid; provided, that if the city issues a written finding that the lowest bidder has delivered a project to the city within the last three years which was late, over budget, or did not meet specifications, and the city does not find in writing that such bidder has shown how they would improve performance to be likely to meet project specifications then the city may choose the second lowest bidder whose bid is within five percent of the lowest bid and meets

the same criteria as the lowest bidder. [2023 c 395 s 20; 2023 c 255 s 3; 2019 c 434 s 11; 2018 c 74 s 1; 2012 1st sp.s. c 5 s 1; 2009 c 229 s 3; 2002 c 94 s 1; 2000 c 138 s 203; 1998 c 278 s 2; 1993 c 198 s 9; 1989 c 431 s 59; 1987 c 120 s 1. Prior: 1985 c 219 s 1; 1985 c 169 s 6; 1979 ex.s. c 89 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 56 s 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2023 c 255 s 3 and by 2023 c 395 s 20, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2023 c 395 ss 1-30, 32-34, 36, and 37:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**Findings—Intent—2023 c 395:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**Effective date—2023 c 255 ss 1-5:** See note following RCW 54.04.070.

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 434:** See note following RCW 35.23.352.

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.010.

*Competitive bidding violations by municipal officer, penalties: RCW 39.30.020.*

*Subcontractors to be identified by bidder, when: RCW 39.30.060.*

**RCW 35.22.625 Public works or improvements—Inapplicability of RCW 35.22.620 to certain agreements relating to water pollution control, solid waste handling facilities.** RCW 35.22.620 does not apply to the selection of persons or entities to construct or develop water pollution control facilities or to provide water pollution control services under RCW 70A.140.040 or the selection of persons or entities to construct or develop solid waste handling facilities or to provide solid waste handling services under RCW 35.21.156. [2020 c 20 s 1012; 1989 c 399 s 4; 1987 c 436 s 8.]

**RCW 35.22.630 Public works or improvements—Cost amounts—How determined.** The cost of any public work or improvement for the purposes of RCW 35.22.620 and 35.22.640 shall be the aggregate of all amounts to be paid for labor, material, and equipment on one continuous or interrelated project where work is to be performed simultaneously or in close sequence: PROVIDED, That the cost of water services and metering equipment furnished by any first-class city in the course of a water service installation from the utility-owned main to and including the meter box assembly shall not be included as part of the aggregate cost as provided herein. The breaking down of any public work or improvement into units or accomplishing any public work or improvement by phases for the purpose of avoiding the minimum dollar amount prescribed in RCW 35.22.620 is contrary to public policy and is prohibited. [1975 1st ex.s. c 56 s 2.]

**RCW 35.22.635 Public works or improvements—Low bidder claiming error—Prohibition on later bid for same project.** A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract with a city for a public works project is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project. [1996 c 18 s 1.]

**RCW 35.22.640 Public works or improvements—Electrical distribution and generating systems—Customer may contract with qualified electrical contractor.** Cities of the first class are relieved from complying with the provisions of RCW 35.22.620 with respect to any public work or improvement relating solely to electrical distribution and generating systems on public rights-of-way or on municipally owned property: PROVIDED, That if a city-owned electrical utility directly assesses its customers a service installation charge for a temporary service, permanent service, or expanded service, the customer may, with the written approval of the city-owned electric utility, contract with a qualified electrical contractor licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW to install any material or equipment in lieu of having city utility personnel perform the installation. In the event the city-owned electric utility denies the customer's request to utilize a private electrical contractor for such installation work, it shall provide the customer with written reasons for such denial: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein shall prevent any first-class city from operating a solid waste department utilizing its own personnel.

If a customer elects to employ a private electrical contractor as provided in this section, the private electrical contractor shall be solely responsible for any damages resulting from the installation of any temporary service, permanent service, or expanded service and the city-owned electrical utility shall be immune from any tortious conduct actions as to that installation. [1983 c 217 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 56 s 3.]

**RCW 35.22.650 Public works or improvements—Minority business, employees—Contract, contents.** All contracts by and between a first-class city and contractors for any public work or improvement exceeding the sum of ten thousand dollars, or fifteen thousand dollars for construction of water mains, shall contain the following clause:

"Contractor agrees that the contractor shall actively solicit the employment of minority group members. Contractor further agrees that the contractor shall actively solicit bids for the subcontracting of goods or services from qualified minority businesses. Contractor shall furnish evidence of the contractor's compliance with these requirements of minority employment and solicitation. Contractor further agrees to consider the grant of subcontracts to said minority bidders on the basis of substantially equal proposals in the light most favorable to said minority businesses. The contractor shall be required to submit evidence of compliance with this section as part of the bid."

As used in this section, the term "minority business" means a business at least fifty-one percent of which is owned by minority group members. Minority group members include, but are not limited to,

blacks, women, native Americans, Asians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Hispanics. [2002 c 307 s 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 56 s 4.]

**Effective date—2002 c 307:** See note following RCW 1.20.130.

**RCW 35.22.660 Child care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** If a first-class city zones pursuant to its inherent charter authority and not pursuant to chapter 35.63 RCW, and does not provide for the siting of family day care homes in zones or areas that are designated for single-family or other residential uses, and for the siting of mini-day care centers and day care centers in zones or areas that are designated for any residential or commercial uses, the city shall conduct a review of the need and demand for child care facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 30, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 335 s 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—1989 c 335:** See notes following RCW 35.63.170.

**Definitions for RCW 35.22.660:** See RCW 35.63.170.

**RCW 35.22.680 Residential care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** If a first-class city zones pursuant to its inherent charter authority and not pursuant to chapter 35.63 RCW, and does not provide for the siting of residential care facilities in zones or areas that are designated for single-family or other residential uses, the city shall conduct a review of the need and demand for the facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 30, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 427 s 39.]



**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**RCW 35.22.685 Conditional and special use permit applications by parties licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections—Mediation prior to appeal required.** A final decision by a hearing examiner involving a conditional or special use permit application under a home rule charter that is requested by a party that is licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections is subject to mediation under RCW 35.63.260 before an appeal may be filed. [1998 c 119 s 4.]

**RCW 35.22.690 First-class cities subject to limitations on moratoria, interim zoning controls.** A first-class city that plans under the authority of its charter is subject to the provisions of RCW 35.63.200. [1992 c 207 s 2.]

**RCW 35.22.695 Planning regulations—Copies provided to county assessor.** By July 31, 1997, a first-class city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall provide to the county assessor a copy of the first-class city's comprehensive plan and development regulations in effect on July 1st of that year and shall thereafter provide any amendments to the plan and regulations that were adopted before July 31st of each following year. [1996 c 254 s 2.]

**RCW 35.22.700 Conformance with chapter 43.97 RCW required.** With respect to the National Scenic Area, as defined in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, P.L. 99-663, the exercise of any power or authority by a city pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to and in conformity with the requirements of chapter 43.97 RCW, including the Interstate Compact adopted by RCW 43.97.015, and with the management plan regulations and ordinances adopted by the Columbia River Gorge commission pursuant to the Compact. [1987 c 499 s 5.]

**RCW 35.22.705 Purchase of electric power and energy from joint operating agency.** A city of the first class may contract to purchase from a joint operating agency electric power and energy required for its present or future requirements. For projects the output of which is limited to qualified alternative energy resources as defined by RCW 19.29A.090(3), the contract may include the purchase of capability of the projects to produce electricity in addition to the actual output of the projects. The contract may provide that the city must make the payments required by the contract whether or not a project is completed, operable, or operating and notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or curtailment of the output of a project or the power and energy contracted for. The contract may

also provide that payments under the contract are not subject to reduction, whether by offset or otherwise, and shall not be conditioned upon the performance or nonperformance of the joint operating agency or a city, town, or public utility district under the contract or other instrument. [2003 c 138 s 4.]

**RCW 35.22.900 Liberal construction.** The rule that statutes in derogation of the common law are to be strictly construed shall have no application to this chapter, but the same shall be liberally construed for the purpose of carrying out the objects for which this chapter is intended. [1965 c 7 s 35.22.900. Prior: 1890 p 224 s 8.]

**Chapter 35.23 RCW**  
**SECOND-CLASS CITIES**

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*Unclaimed property in hands of city police: Chapter 63.32 RCW.*

**RCW 35.23.010 Rights, powers, and privileges—Exchange of park purpose property.** Every city of the second class shall be entitled "City of . . . . ." (naming it), and by such name shall have perpetual succession; may sue and be sued in all courts and in all proceedings; shall have and use a common seal which it may alter at pleasure; may acquire, hold, lease, use and enjoy property of every kind and control and dispose of it for the common benefit; and, upon making a finding that any property acquired for park purposes is not useful for such purposes and that an exchange thereof for other property to be dedicated for park purposes is in the public interest, may, with the consent of the dedicator or donor, his or her heirs, successors or assigns, exchange such property for other property to be dedicated for park purposes and make, execute and deliver proper conveyances to effect the exchange. In any case where owing to death or lapse of time there is neither donor, heir, successor, nor assigns to give consent to the exchange, then this consent may be executed by the grantee. Title to property so conveyed by the city shall vest in the grantee free and clear of any trust in favor of the public arising out of any prior dedication for park purposes. [2009 c 549 s 2048; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.010. Prior: 1953 c 190 s 1; 1907 c 241 s 1; RRS s 9006.]

**RCW 35.23.021 City officers enumerated—Compensation—Appointment and removal.** The government of a second-class city shall be vested in a mayor, a city council of seven members, a city attorney, a clerk, a treasurer, all elective; and a chief of police, municipal judge, city engineer, street superintendent, health officer and such other appointive officers as may be provided for by ordinance: PROVIDED, That the council may enact an ordinance providing for the appointment of the city clerk, city attorney, and treasurer by the mayor, which appointment shall be subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the city council. Such ordinance shall be enacted and become effective not later than thirty days prior to the first day allowed for filing declarations of candidacy for such offices when such offices are subject to an approaching city primary election. Elective incumbent city clerks, city attorneys, and city treasurers shall serve for the remainder of their unexpired term notwithstanding any appointment made pursuant to this section and RCW 35.23.051. If a free public library and reading room is established, five library trustees shall be appointed. The city council by ordinance shall prescribe the duties

and fix the compensation of all officers and employees: PROVIDED, That the provisions of any such ordinance shall not be inconsistent with any statute: PROVIDED FURTHER, That where the city council finds that the appointment of a full time city engineer is unnecessary, it may in lieu of such appointment, by resolution provide for the performance of necessary engineering services on either a part time, temporary or periodic basis by a qualified engineering firm, pursuant to any reasonable contract.

The mayor shall appoint and at his or her pleasure may remove all appointive officers except as otherwise provided herein: PROVIDED, That municipal judges shall be removed only upon conviction of misconduct or malfeasance in office, or because of physical or mental disability rendering the judge incapable of performing the duties of his or her office. Every appointment or removal must be in writing signed by the mayor and filed with the city clerk. [1994 c 81 s 35; 1993 c 47 s 1; 1987 c 3 s 9; 1969 c 116 s 1; 1965 ex.s. c 116 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.020. Prior: 1961 c 81 s 1; 1955 c 365 s 2; 1955 c 55 s 5; prior: (i) 1915 c 184 s 2; 1891 c 156 s 4; 1890 p 179 s 105; RRS s 9115. (ii) 1929 c 182 s 1, part; 1927 c 159 s 1; 1915 c 184 s 3, part; 1893 c 57 s 1; 1891 c 156 s 1; 1890 p 179 s 106; RRS s 9116, part. (iii) 1915 c 184 s 28; 1890 p 196 s 137; RRS s 9142. Formerly RCW 35.24.020.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**RCW 35.23.031 Eligibility to hold elective office.** No person is eligible to hold an elective office in a second-class city unless the person is a resident and registered voter in the city. [1997 c 361 s 7.]

**RCW 35.23.051 Elections—Terms of office—Positions and wards.** General municipal elections in second-class cities shall be held biennially in the odd-numbered years and shall be subject to general election law.

The terms of office of the mayor, city attorney, clerk, and treasurer shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280: PROVIDED, That if the offices of city attorney, clerk, and treasurer are made appointive, the city attorney, clerk, and treasurer shall not be appointed for a definite term: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the term of the elected treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium in which the term of the mayor commences, nor in which the terms of the city attorney and clerk commence if they are elected.

Council positions shall be numbered in each second-class city so that council position seven has a two-year term of office and council positions one through six shall each have four-year terms of office. Each councilmember shall remain in office until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280.

In its discretion the council of a second-class city may divide the city by ordinance, into a convenient number of wards, not exceeding six, fix the boundaries of the wards, and change the ward boundaries from time to time and as provided in RCW 29A.76.010. No change in the boundaries of any ward shall be made within one hundred twenty days next before the date of a general municipal election, nor

within twenty months after the wards have been established or altered unless pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040 or 29A.92.110. However, if a boundary change results in one ward being represented by more councilmembers than the number to which it is entitled, those having the shortest unexpired terms shall be assigned by the council to wards where there is a vacancy, and the councilmembers so assigned shall be deemed to be residents of the wards to which they are assigned for purposes of determining whether those positions are vacant.

Whenever such city is so divided into wards, the city council shall designate by ordinance the number of councilmembers to be elected from each ward, apportioning the same in proportion to the population of the wards. Thereafter the councilmembers so designated shall be elected by the voters resident in such ward, or by general vote of the whole city as may be designated in such ordinance. Council position seven shall not be associated with a ward and the person elected to that position may reside anywhere in the city and voters throughout the city may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for position seven, when a primary is necessary, and at a general election to elect the person to council position seven. Additional territory that is added to the city shall, by act of the council, be annexed to contiguous wards without affecting the right to redistrict at the expiration of twenty months after last previous division. The removal of a councilmember from the ward for which he or she was elected shall create a vacancy in such office.

Wards shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29A.76 RCW. Wards shall be used as follows: (1) Only a resident of the ward may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a councilmember of the ward; and (2) only voters of the ward may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a councilmember of the ward. Voters of the entire city may vote at the general election to elect a councilmember of a ward, unless the city had prior to January 1, 1994, limited the voting in the general election for any or all council positions to only voters residing within the ward associated with the council positions. If a city had so limited the voting in the general election to only voters residing within the ward, then the city shall be authorized to continue to do so. The elections for the remaining council position or council positions that are not associated with a ward shall be conducted as if the wards did not exist. [2019 c 454 s 5; 2015 c 53 s 39; 1997 c 361 s 13; 1995 c 134 s 8. Prior: 1994 c 223 s 17; 1994 c 81 s 36; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 22; 1969 c 116 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.050; prior: 1963 c 200 s 15; 1959 c 86 s 4; 1955 c 365 s 3; 1955 c 55 s 6; prior: (i) 1929 c 182 s 1, part; 1927 c 159 s 1; 1915 c 184 s 3, part; 1893 c 57 s 1; 1891 c 156 s 1; 1890 p 179 s 106; RRS s 9116, part. (ii) 1941 c 108 s 1; 1939 c 87 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9116-1. Formerly RCW 35.24.050.]

**Retroactive application—Effective date—2019 c 454:** See notes following RCW 29A.92.050.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.23.081 Oath and bond of officers.** In a city of the second class, the treasurer, city attorney, clerk, chief of police, and such other officers as the council may require shall each, before entering upon the duties of office, take an oath of office and execute



and file with the clerk an official bond in such penal sum as the council shall determine, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties and otherwise conditioned as may be provided by ordinance. The oath of office shall be filed with the county auditor. [1994 c 81 s 37; 1987 c 3 s 10; 1986 c 167 s 18; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.080. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 5; 1893 c 70 s 1; 1890 p 179 s 107; RRS s 9118. Formerly RCW 35.24.080.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**Severability—1986 c 167:** See note following RCW 29A.16.040.

**RCW 35.23.091 Compensation of officers—Expenses—Nonstate pensions.** The mayor and the members of the city council may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties, upon presentation of a claim therefor, after allowance and approval thereof, by resolution of the city council; and each city councilmember may be paid for attending council meetings an amount which shall be fixed by ordinance and may be revised from time to time by ordinance, but any increase or reduction in the compensation attaching to an office shall not be applicable to the term then being served by the incumbent.

The city attorney, clerk and treasurer, if elective, shall severally receive at stated times a compensation to be fixed by ordinance by the city council.

The mayor and other officers shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the city council at the time the estimates are made as provided by law.

Any city that provides a pension for any of its employees under a plan not administered by the state must notify the state auditor of the existence of the plan at the time of an audit of the city by the auditor. No city may establish a pension plan for its employees that is not administered by the state, except that any defined contribution plan in existence as of January 1, 1990, is deemed to have been authorized. No city that provides a defined contribution plan for its employees as authorized by this section may make any material changes in the terms or conditions of the plan after June 7, 1990. [1990 c 212 s 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 87 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 270 s 8; 1965 c 105 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.090. Prior: 1961 c 89 s 7; 1941 c 115 s 1; 1915 c 184 s 7; 1893 c 70 s 2; 1890 p 180 s 109; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9120. Formerly RCW 35.24.090.]

**RCW 35.23.101 Vacancies.** (1) The council of a second-class city may declare a council position vacant if the councilmember is absent for three consecutive regular meetings without permission of the council.

(2) A vacancy in an elective office shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. An incumbent councilmember is eligible to be appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor.

Vacancies in offices other than that of mayor or city councilmember shall be filled by appointment of the mayor.

(3) If there is a temporary vacancy in an appointive office due to illness, absence from the city or other temporary inability to act, the mayor may appoint a temporary appointee to exercise the duties of

the office until the temporary disability of the incumbent is removed. [2008 c 50 s 1; 1995 c 134 s 9. Prior: 1994 c 223 s 19; 1994 c 81 s 38; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.100; prior: (i) 1919 c 113 s 1; 1915 c 184 s 6; 1890 p 180 s 108; RRS s 9119. (ii) 1907 c 228 s 5, part; RRS s 9203, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.100.]

*Vacancies in office of mayor filled from among city councilmembers:*  
RCW 35.23.191.

**RCW 35.23.111 City attorney—Duties.** The city attorney shall advise the city authorities and officers in all legal matters pertaining to the business of the city and shall approve all ordinances as to form. He or she shall represent the city in all actions brought by or against the city or against city officials in their official capacity. He or she shall perform such other duties as the city council by ordinance may direct. [2009 c 549 s 2049; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.110. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 26; 1893 c 70 s 11; 1890 p 192 s 132; RRS s 9140. Formerly RCW 35.24.110.]

*Employment of legal interns:* RCW 35.21.760.

**RCW 35.23.121 City clerk—Duties—Deputies.** The city clerk shall keep a full and true record of every act and proceeding of the city council and keep such books, accounts and make such reports as may be required by the state auditor. The city clerk shall record all ordinances, annexing thereto his or her certificate giving the number and title of the ordinance, stating that the ordinance was published and posted according to law and that the record is a true and correct copy thereof. The record copy with the clerk's certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the contents of the ordinance and of its passage and publication and shall be admissible as such evidence in any court or proceeding.

The city clerk shall be custodian of the seal of the city and shall have authority to acknowledge the execution of all instruments by the city which require acknowledgment.

The city clerk may appoint a deputy for whose acts he or she and his or her bondspersons shall be responsible, and he or she and his or her deputy shall have authority to take all necessary affidavits to claims against the city and certify them without charge.

The city clerk shall perform such other duties as may be required by statute or ordinance. [2007 c 218 s 75; 1995 c 301 s 36; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.120. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 25; RRS s 9139. Formerly RCW 35.24.120.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**RCW 35.23.131 City treasurer—Duties.** The city treasurer shall receive and safely keep all money which comes into his or her hands as treasurer, for all of which he or she shall execute triplicate receipts, one to be filed with the city clerk. He or she shall receive all money due the city and disburse it on warrants issued by the clerk countersigned by the mayor, and not otherwise. He or she shall make monthly settlements with the city clerk at which time he or she shall

deliver to the clerk the duplicate receipts for all money received and all canceled warrants as evidence of money paid. [2009 c 549 s 2050; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.130. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 24; 1893 c 70 s 8; 1890 p 192 s 132; RRS s 9138. Formerly RCW 35.24.130.]

**RCW 35.23.134 Association of sheriffs and police chiefs.** See chapter 36.28A RCW.

**RCW 35.23.141 Duty of officers collecting moneys.** Every officer collecting or receiving any money belonging to or for the use of the city shall settle with the clerk and immediately pay it into the treasury on the order of the clerk to be credited to the fund to which it belongs. [1965 c 7 s 35.24.140. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 30; 1890 p 197 s 139; RRS s 9144. Formerly RCW 35.24.140.]

**RCW 35.23.142 Combination of offices of treasurer with clerk—Authorized.** The city council of any city of the second class is authorized to provide by ordinance that the office of treasurer shall be combined with that of clerk, or that the office of clerk shall be combined with that of treasurer: PROVIDED, That such ordinance shall not be voted upon until the next regular meeting after its introduction. [1994 c 81 s 39; 1969 c 116 s 3. Formerly RCW 35.24.142.]

**RCW 35.23.144 Combination of offices of treasurer with clerk—Powers of clerk.** In the event that the office of treasurer is combined with the office of clerk so as to become the office of clerk-treasurer, the clerk shall exercise all the powers vested in and perform all the duties required to be performed by the treasurer, and in cases where the law requires the treasurer to sign or execute any papers or documents, it shall not be necessary for the clerk to sign as treasurer, but shall be sufficient if he or she signs as clerk. [2009 c 549 s 2051; 1969 c 116 s 4. Formerly RCW 35.24.144.]

**RCW 35.23.146 Combination of offices of treasurer with clerk—Powers of treasurer.** In the event that the office of clerk is combined with the office of treasurer so as to become the office of treasurer-clerk, the treasurer shall exercise all the powers vested in and perform all the duties required to be performed by the clerk. [1969 c 116 s 5. Formerly RCW 35.24.146.]

**RCW 35.23.148 Combination of offices of treasurer with clerk—Ordinance—Termination of combined offices.** The ordinance provided for combining said offices shall provide the date when the combination shall become effective, which date shall not be less than three months from the date when the ordinance becomes effective; and on and after said date the office of treasurer or clerk, as the case may be, shall be abolished. Any city which as herein provided, combined the office of treasurer with that of clerk or the office of clerk with that of treasurer may terminate such combination by ordinance, fixing the time

when the combination shall cease and thereafter the duties of the offices shall be performed by separate officials: PROVIDED, That if the office of treasurer was combined with that of clerk, or an elective office of clerk was combined with the office of treasurer, the mayor shall appoint a treasurer and clerk who shall serve until the next regular municipal general election when a treasurer and clerk shall be elected for the term as provided by law unless such city has enacted an ordinance in accordance with \*RCW 35.24.020. [1969 c 116 s 6. Formerly RCW 35.24.148.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.24.020 was recodified as RCW 35.23.021 pursuant to 1994 c 81 s 90.

**RCW 35.23.161 Chief of police and police department.** The department of police in a city of the second class shall be under the direction and control of the chief of police subject to the direction of the mayor. Any police officer may pursue and arrest violators of city ordinances beyond the city limits.

Every citizen shall lend the police chief aid, when required, for the arrest of offenders and maintenance of public order. With the concurrence of the mayor, the police chief may appoint additional police officers to serve for one day only under orders of the chief in the preservation of public order.

The police chief shall have the same authority as that conferred upon sheriffs for the suppression of any riot, public tumult, disturbance of the peace, or resistance against the laws or the public authorities in the lawful exercise of their functions and shall be entitled to the same protection.

The police chief shall perform such other services as may be required by statute or ordinances of the city. [1994 c 81 s 40; 1987 c 3 s 11; 1977 ex.s. c 316 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.160. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 27; 1893 c 70 s 12; 1890 p 195 s 136; RRS s 9141. Formerly RCW 35.24.160.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 316:** See note following RCW 70.48.020.

*Commencement of actions: Chapter 4.28 RCW.*

*Duties of chief law enforcement officer receiving found property: RCW 63.21.050.*

*Law enforcement chaplains authorized: Chapter 41.22 RCW.*

*Unclaimed property in hands of city police: Chapter 63.32 RCW.*

**RCW 35.23.170 Park commissioners.** Councils of second-class cities and towns may provide by ordinance, for a board of park commissioners, not to exceed seven in number, to be appointed by the mayor, with the consent of the city council, from citizens of recognized fitness for such position. No commissioner shall receive any compensation. The first commissioners shall determine by lot whose term of office shall expire each year, and a new commissioner shall be appointed annually to serve for a term of years corresponding in

number to the number of commissioners in order that one term shall expire each year. Such board of park commissioners shall have only such powers and authority with respect to the management, supervision, and control of parks and recreational facilities and programs as are granted to it by the council. [1994 c 81 s 16; 1973 c 76 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.170. Prior: 1953 c 86 s 1; 1925 ex.s. c 121 s 1; 1907 c 228 s 2; RRS s 9200.]

**RCW 35.23.181 City council—Oath—Meetings.** The city council and mayor shall meet in January next succeeding the date of each general municipal election, and shall take the oath of office, and shall hold regular meetings at least once during each month but not to exceed one regular meeting in each week, at such times as may be fixed by ordinance.

Special meetings may be called by the mayor by written notice as provided in RCW 42.30.080. No ordinances shall be passed or contract let or entered into, or bill for the payment of money allowed at any special meeting.

All meetings of the city council shall be held at such place as may be designated by the city council. All final actions on resolutions and ordinances must take place within the corporate limits of the city. All meetings of the city council must be public. [1993 c 199 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.180. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 10, part; 1893 c 70 s 3; 1890 p 181 s 113; RRS s 9123, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.180.]

**RCW 35.23.191 City council—Mayor pro tempore.** The members of the city council, at their first meeting each calendar year and thereafter whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor pro tempore, shall elect from among their number a mayor pro tempore, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the council and in case of the absence of the mayor, perform the duties of mayor except that he or she shall not have the power to appoint or remove any officer or to veto any ordinance.

The mayor and the mayor pro tempore shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations, take affidavits and certify them. The mayor or the mayor pro tempore when acting as mayor, shall sign all conveyances made by the city and all instruments which require the seal of the city. [2008 c 50 s 2; 1994 c 81 s 41; 1969 c 101 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.190. Prior: (i) 1915 c 184 s 10, part; 1893 c 70 s 3; 1890 p 181 s 113; RRS s 9123, part. (ii) 1915 c 184 s 23; RRS s 9137. Formerly RCW 35.24.190.]

**RCW 35.23.201 City council—Meetings—Journal.** All meetings of the council shall be presided over by the mayor, or, in the mayor's absence, by the mayor pro tempore. The mayor shall have a vote only in the case of a tie in the votes of the councilmembers. If the clerk is absent from a council meeting, the mayor or mayor pro tempore shall appoint one of the members of the council as clerk pro tempore. The appointment of a councilmember as mayor pro tempore or clerk pro tempore shall not in any way abridge the councilmember's right to vote upon all questions coming before the council.

The clerk shall keep a correct journal of all proceedings and at the desire of any member the ayes and noes shall be taken on any

question and entered in the journal. [1994 c 81 s 42; 1965 c 107 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.200. Prior: (i) 1915 c 184 s 13, part; 1890 p 182 s 115; RRS s 9126, part. (ii) 1915 c 184 s 11, part; 1891 c 156 s 2; 1890 p 182 s 114; RRS s 9124, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.200.]

**RCW 35.23.211 Ordinances—Style—Requisites—Veto.** The enacting clause of all ordinances in a second-class city shall be as follows: "The city council of the city of . . . . do ordain as follows:" No ordinance shall contain more than one subject and that must be clearly expressed in its title.

No ordinance or any section thereof shall be revised or amended unless the new ordinance sets forth the revised ordinance or the amended section at full length.

No ordinance and no resolution or order shall have any validity or effect unless passed by the votes of at least four councilmembers.

No ordinance shall take effect until five days after the date of its publication unless otherwise provided in this title.

Every ordinance which passes the council in order to become valid must be presented to the mayor; if the mayor approves it, the mayor shall sign it, but if not, the mayor shall return it with written objections to the council and the council shall cause the mayor's objections to be entered at large upon the journal and proceed to a reconsideration thereof. If upon reconsideration five members of the council voting upon a call of yeas and nays favor its passage, the ordinance shall become valid notwithstanding the mayor's veto. If the mayor fails for ten days to either approve or veto an ordinance, it shall become valid without the approval of the mayor.

Every ordinance shall be signed by the mayor and attested by the clerk. [1994 c 81 s 43; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.210. Prior: (i) 1915 c 184 s 11, part; 1891 c 156 s 2; 1890 p 182 s 114; RRS s 9124, part. (ii) 1915 c 184 s 12, part; 1893 c 70 s 4; 1890 p 182 s 116; RRS s 9125, part. (iii) 1915 c 184 s 18, part; 1890 p 186 s 118; RRS s 9132, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.210.]

*Codification of city or town ordinances: RCW 35.21.500 through 35.21.570.*

**RCW 35.23.221 Ordinances—Publication—Summary—Public notice of hearings and meeting agendas.** Promptly after adoption, the text of each ordinance or a summary of the content of each ordinance shall be published at least once in the city's official newspaper.

For purposes of this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly describes the main points of the ordinance. Publication of the title of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall constitute publication of a summary of that ordinance. When the city publishes a summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.

An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the text or a summary of the content of an ordinance shall not render the ordinance invalid.

In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or a summary of the content of each adopted ordinance, every city shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming hearings

and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas, or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent of this requirement. [1994 c 273 s 10; 1988 c 168 s 4; 1987 c 400 s 1; 1985 c 469 s 25; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.220. Prior: (i) 1915 c 184 s 18, part; 1890 p 186 s 118; RRS s 9132, part. (ii) 1915 c 184 s 12, part; 1893 c 70 s 4; 1890 p 182 s 116; RRS s 9125, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.220.]

**RCW 35.23.251 Ordinances granting franchises—Requisites.** No ordinance or resolution granting any franchise for any purpose shall be passed by the city council on the day of its introduction, nor for five days thereafter, nor at any other than a regular meeting nor without first being submitted to the city attorney.

No franchise or valuable privilege shall be granted unless by the vote of at least five members of the city council.

The city council may require a bond in a reasonable amount for any person or corporation obtaining a franchise from the city conditioned for the faithful performance of the conditions and terms of the franchise and providing a recovery on the bond in case of failure to perform the terms and conditions of franchise. [1965 c 7 s 35.24.250. Prior: (i) 1915 c 184 s 12, part; 1893 c 70 s 4; 1890 p 182 s 116; RRS s 9125, part. (ii) 1907 c 228 s 1, part; RRS s 9199, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.250.]

**RCW 35.23.261 Audit and allowance of demands against city.** All demands against the city shall be presented to and audited by the city council in accordance with such regulations as it may by ordinance prescribe; and upon the allowance of a demand, the clerk shall draw a warrant upon the treasurer for it, which warrant shall be countersigned by the mayor and shall specify for what purpose it is drawn and out of which fund it is to be paid. [1965 c 7 s 35.24.260. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 19; 1890 p 186 s 119; RRS s 9133. Formerly RCW 35.24.260.]

**RCW 35.23.270 City council—Quorum—Rules—Journal, etc.** A majority of the councilmembers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A less number may compel the attendance of absent members and may adjourn from time to time. The council shall determine its rules of proceedings. The council may punish their members for disorderly conduct and upon written charges entered upon the journal therefor, may, after trial, expel a member by two-thirds vote of all the members elected. All orders of the city council shall be entered upon the journal of its proceedings, which journal shall be signed by the officer who presided at the meeting. The journal shall be kept by the clerk under the council's direction. [1994 c 81 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.270. Prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 28, part; 1890 p 148 s 37; RRS s 9033, part. (ii) 1907 c 241 s 59; 1890 p 159 s 49; RRS s 9062.]

**RCW 35.23.290 City council—Entry of ayes and noes on journal.**

At any time, at the request of any two members the ayes and noes on any question may be taken and entered upon the journal and they must be so taken and entered upon the passage of all ordinances appropriating money, imposing taxes, abolishing licenses, increasing or lessening the amount to be paid for licenses. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.290. Prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 28, part; 1890 p 148 s 37; RRS s 9033, part. (ii) 1907 c 241 s 60; 1890 p 159 s 50; RRS s 9063.]

**RCW 35.23.311 Eminent domain.**

Whenever it shall become necessary for the city to take or damage private property for the purpose of establishing, laying out, extending and widening streets and other public highways and places within the city, or for the purpose of securing rights-of-way for drains, sewers and aqueducts, and for the purpose of widening, straightening or diverting the channels of streams and the improvement of waterfronts, or any other public purpose, and the city council cannot agree with the owner thereof as to the price to be paid, the city council may proceed to acquire, take or damage the same in the manner provided by chapter 8.12 RCW or by chapter 8.20 RCW. [1965 c 7 s 35.24.310. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 22; RRS s 9136. Formerly RCW 35.24.310.]

**RCW 35.23.325 Payment of claims and obligations by warrant or check.** A second-class city, by ordinance, may adopt a policy for the payment of claims or other obligations of the city, which are payable out of solvent funds, electing to pay such obligations by warrant or by check. However, when the applicable fund is not solvent at the time payment is ordered, a warrant shall be issued. When checks are to be used, the legislative body shall designate the qualified public depository, upon which such checks are to be drawn, and the officers authorized or required to sign such checks. Wherever a reference is made to warrants in this title, such term shall include checks where authorized by this section. [2006 c 41 s 1.]

**RCW 35.23.330 Limitation on allowance of claims, warrants, etc.**

No claim shall be allowed against the city by the city council, nor shall the city council order any warrants to be drawn except at a general meeting of the council. The council shall never allow, make valid, or recognize any demand against the city which was not a valid claim against it when the obligation was created, nor authorize to be paid any demand which without such action would be invalid or which is then barred by the statute of limitations, or for which the city was never liable, and any such action shall be void. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.330. Prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 35; RRS s 9042. (ii) 1907 c 241 s 72, part; RRS s 9075, part.]

**RCW 35.23.331 Nuisances.**

Every act or thing done or being within the limits of a second-class city which is declared by law or by ordinance to be a nuisance shall be a nuisance and shall be so considered in all actions and proceedings. All remedies given by law for the prevention and abatement of nuisances shall apply thereto.



[1994 c 81 s 46; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.330. Prior: 1915 c 184 s 21; 1890 p 187 s 123; RRS s 9135. Formerly RCW 35.24.330.]

*Public nuisances: Chapter 9.66 RCW.*

**RCW 35.23.351 Application of RCW 35.23.352 to certain agreements relating to water pollution control, solid waste handling facilities.**

RCW 35.23.352 does not apply to the selection of persons or entities to construct or develop water pollution control facilities or to provide water pollution control services under RCW 70A.140.040 or the selection of persons or entities to construct or develop solid waste handling facilities or to provide solid waste handling services under RCW 35.21.156. [2020 c 20 s 1013; 1989 c 399 s 5; 1986 c 244 s 10.]

**RCW 35.23.352 Public works—Contracts—Bids—Small works roster—Purchasing requirements, recycled or reused materials or products.**

(1) Any second-class city or any town may construct any public works, as defined in RCW 39.04.010, by contract or day labor without calling for bids therefor whenever the estimated cost of the work or improvement, including cost of materials, supplies and equipment will not exceed the sum of \$150,000 if more than one craft or trade is involved with the public works, or \$75,500 if a single craft or trade is involved with the public works or the public works project is street signalization or street lighting. A public works project means a complete project. The restrictions in this subsection do not permit the division of the project into units of work or classes of work to avoid the restriction on work that may be performed by day labor on a single project. However, a second-class city or any town may have its own regularly employed personnel perform work which is an accepted industry practice under prudent utility management without a contract. For purposes of this section, "prudent utility management" means performing work with regularly employed personnel utilizing material of a worth not exceeding \$300,000 in value without a contract. This limit on value of material being utilized in work being performed by regularly employed personnel shall not include the value of individual items of equipment. For purposes of this section, "equipment" includes, but is not limited to, conductor, cabling, wire, pipe, or lines used for electrical, water, fiber optic, or telecommunications.

Whenever the cost of the public work or improvement, including materials, supplies and equipment, will exceed these figures, the same shall be done by contract. All such contracts shall be let at public bidding upon publication of notice calling for sealed bids upon the work. The notice shall be published in the official newspaper, or a newspaper of general circulation most likely to bring responsive bids, at least 13 days prior to the last date upon which bids will be received. The notice shall generally state the nature of the work to be done that plans and specifications therefor shall then be on file in the city or town hall for public inspections, and require that bids be sealed and filed with the council or commission within the time specified therein. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid proposal deposit in the form of a cashier's check, postal money order, or surety bond to the council or commission for a sum of not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by such bid proposal deposit. The council or

commission of the city or town shall let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder or shall have power by resolution to reject any or all bids and to make further calls for bids in the same manner as the original call.

When the contract is let then all bid proposal deposits shall be returned to the bidders except that of the successful bidder which shall be retained until a contract is entered into and a bond to perform the work furnished, with surety satisfactory to the council or commission, in accordance with RCW 39.08.030. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with his or her bid and furnish a bond within 10 days from the date at which he or she is notified that he or she is the successful bidder, the check or postal money order and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the council or commission or the council or commission shall recover the amount of the surety bond. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project.

If no bid is received on the first call the council or commission may readvertise and make a second call, or may enter into a contract without any further call or may purchase the supplies, material or equipment and perform the work or improvement by day labor.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "lowest responsible bidder" means a bid that meets the criteria under RCW 39.04.350 and has the lowest bid; provided, that if the city issues a written finding that the lowest bidder has delivered a project to the city within the last three years which was late, over budget, or did not meet specifications, and the city does not find in writing that such bidder has shown how they would improve performance to be likely to meet project specifications then the city may choose the second lowest bidder whose bid is within five percent of the lowest bid and meets the same criteria as the lowest bidder.

(3) The allocation of public works projects to be performed by city or town employees shall not be subject to a collective bargaining agreement.

(4) In lieu of the procedures of subsection (1) of this section, a second-class city or a town may let contracts using the small works roster process provided in RCW 39.04.151 through 39.04.154.

Whenever possible, the city or town shall invite at least one proposal from a certified minority or woman contractor who shall otherwise qualify under this section.

(5) The form required by RCW 43.09.205 shall be to account and record costs of public works in excess of \$5,000 that are not let by contract.

(6) The cost of a separate public works project shall be the costs of the materials, equipment, supplies, and labor on that construction project.

(7) Any purchase of supplies, material, or equipment, except for public work or improvement, with an estimated cost in excess of \$40,000, shall be by contract. Any purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment with an estimated cost of less than \$50,000 shall be made using the process provided in RCW 39.04.190.

(8) Bids shall be called annually and at a time and in the manner prescribed by ordinance for the publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town of all notices or newspaper publications required by law. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

(9) For advertisement and formal sealed bidding to be dispensed with as to purchases with an estimated value of \$15,000 or less, the council or commission must authorize by resolution, use of the uniform procedure provided in RCW 39.04.190.

(10) The city or town legislative authority may waive the competitive bidding requirements of this section pursuant to RCW 39.04.280 if an exemption contained within that section applies to the purchase or public work.

(11) This section does not apply to performance-based contracts, as defined in RCW 39.35A.020(6), that are negotiated under chapter 39.35A RCW.

(12) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any second-class city or any town from allowing for preferential purchase of products made from recycled materials or products that may be recycled or reused.

(13)(a) Any second-class city or any town may procure public works with a unit priced contract under this section for the purpose of completing anticipated types of work based on hourly rates or unit pricing for one or more categories of work or trades.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "unit priced contract" means a competitively bid contract in which public works are anticipated on a recurring basis to meet the business or operational needs of the city or town, under which the contractor agrees to a fixed period indefinite quantity delivery of work, at a defined unit price for each category of work.

(c) Unit priced contracts must be executed for an initial contract term not to exceed three years, with the city or town having the option of extending or renewing the unit priced contract for one additional year.

(d) Invitations for unit price bids shall include, for purposes of the bid evaluation, estimated quantities of the anticipated types of work or trades, and specify how the city or town will issue or release work assignments, work orders, or task authorizations pursuant to a unit priced contract for projects, tasks, or other work based on the hourly rates or unit prices bid by the contractor. Contracts must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as per RCW 39.04.010. Whenever possible, the city or town must invite at least one proposal from a certified minority or woman contractor who otherwise qualifies under this section.

(e) Unit price contractors shall pay prevailing wages for all work that would otherwise be subject to the requirements of chapter 39.12 RCW. Prevailing wages for all work performed pursuant to each work order must be the prevailing wage rates in effect at the beginning date for each contract year. Unit priced contracts must have prevailing wage rates updated annually. Intents and affidavits for prevailing wages paid must be submitted annually for all work completed within the previous 12-month period of the unit priced contract.

(14) Any second-class city or town that awards a project to a bidder under the criteria described in subsection (2) of this section must make an annual report to the department of commerce that includes the total number of bids awarded to certified minority or women contractors and describing how notice was provided to potential certified minority or women contractors. [2023 c 395 s 21; 2023 c 255 s 2; 2019 c 434 s 1; 2018 c 74 s 2; 2009 c 229 s 4; 2002 c 94 s 2; 2000 c 138 s 204; 1998 c 278 s 3; 1996 c 18 s 2. Prior: 1994 c 273 s 9; 1994 c 81 s 18; 1993 c 198 s 10; 1989 c 431 s 56; 1988 c 168 s 3; 1987 c 120 s 2; prior: 1985 c 469 s 24; 1985 c 219 s 2; 1985 c 169 s

7; 1979 ex.s. c 89 s 2; 1977 ex.s. c 41 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 74 s 2; 1965 c 114 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.352; prior: 1957 c 121 s 1; 1951 c 211 s 1; prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 52; RRS s 9055. (ii) 1915 c 184 s 31; RRS s 9145. (iii) 1947 c 151 s 1; 1890 p 209 s 166; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9185.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2023 c 255 s 2 and by 2023 c 395 s 21, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2023 c 395 ss 1-30, 32-34, 36, and 37:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**Findings—Intent—2023 c 395:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**Effective date—2023 c 255 ss 1-5:** See note following RCW 54.04.070.

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 434:** "(1) The legislature finds that there are hundreds of local governments and special purpose districts and due to their existing authority and structure, partial legislative measures are introduced each year to amend the procurement thresholds for each individual entity. Therefore the legislature intends to require a comprehensive review of all local government bid limits for public works projects and purchases, including the small works roster and limited public works processes, rather than amend procurement rules and contract thresholds on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the capital projects advisory review board must review the public works contracting processes for local governments, including the small works roster and limited public works processes provided in RCW 39.04.155, and report to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by November 1, 2020. The report must include the following:

(a) Identification of the most common contracting procedures used by local governments;

(b) Identification of the dollar amounts set for local government public works contracting processes;

(c) Analysis of whether the dollar amounts identified in (b) of this subsection comport with estimated project costs within the relevant industries;

(d) An analysis of the potential application of an inflation-based increaser, taking regional factors into consideration, to the dollar amounts identified in (b) of this subsection, for example:

(i) Applying the implicit price deflator for state and local government purchases of goods and services for the United States as published by the bureau of economic analysis of the federal department of commerce; and

(ii) Adjusting the bid limit dollar thresholds for inflation, on a regional basis, by the building cost index during that time period;

(e) Recommendations to increase uniformity and efficiency for local government public works contracting and procurement processes;

(f) Rates of participation of all contractor types, including qualified minority and women-owned and controlled businesses, in the small works roster and limited public works contracting processes; and

(g) Barriers to improving the participation rate in the small works roster and limited public works contracting processes.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Local governments" refers to all counties, cities, towns, other political subdivisions, and special purpose districts.

(b) "Building cost index" means the building cost index for Seattle, Washington, compiled by engineering news record, a nationally recognized professional construction trade periodical. The building cost index uses average skilled construction labor rates, structural steel, concrete, and lumber as the basis of measurement." [2019 c 434 s 16.]

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.010.

*Competitive bidding violations by municipal officer, penalties:* RCW 39.30.020.

*Subcontractors to be identified by bidder, when:* RCW 39.30.060.

**RCW 35.23.371 Taxation—Street poll tax.** A second-class city may impose upon and collect from every inhabitant of the city over the age of eighteen years an annual street poll tax not exceeding two dollars and no other road poll tax shall be collected within the limits of the city. [1994 c 81 s 47; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 51; 1971 ex.s. c 292 s 61; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.370. Prior: 1905 c 75 s 1, part; 1890 p 201 s 154; RRS s 9210, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.370.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

**RCW 35.23.380 Exclusive franchises prohibited.** No exclusive franchise or privilege shall be granted for the use of any street, alley, highway, or public place or any part thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.380. Prior: 1907 c 241 s 32; RRS s 9039.]

**RCW 35.23.410 Leasing of street ends on waterfront.** The city council may lease for business purposes portions of the ends of streets terminating in the waterfront or navigable waters of the city with the written consent of all the property owners whose properties abut upon the portion proposed to be leased. The lease may be made for any period not exceeding fifteen years but must provide that at intervals of every five years during the term, the rental to be paid by the lessee shall be readjusted between him or her and the city by mutual agreement, or if they cannot agree by a board of arbitration, one to be chosen by the city, one by the lessee and the third by the other two, their decision to be final. The vote of two-thirds of all the councilmembers elected is necessary to authorize such a lease. [2009 c 549 s 2052; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.410. Prior: 1907 c 241 s 67, part; RRS s 9070, part.]

**RCW 35.23.420 Notice of lease to be published before execution.**

No lease of a portion of the end of a street terminating in the waterfront or navigable waters of the city shall be made until a notice describing the portion of the street proposed to be leased, to whom and for what purpose leased and the proposed rental to be paid has been published by the city clerk in the official newspaper at least fifteen days prior to the execution of the lease. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.420. Prior: 1907 c 241 s 67, part; RRS s 9070, part.]

**RCW 35.23.430 Railroads in streets to be assessed for street improvement.** If an improvement is made upon a street occupied by a street railway or any railroad enjoying a franchise on the street, the city council shall assess against the railroad its just proportion of making the improvement which shall be not less than the expense of improving the space between the rails of the railroad and for a distance of one foot on each side. The assessment against the railroad shall be made on the rolls of the improvement district the same as against other property in the district and shall be a lien on that portion of the railroad within the district from the time of the equalization of the roll. The lien may be foreclosed by a civil action in superior court and the same period of redemption from any sale on foreclosure shall be allowed as is allowed in cases of sale of real estate upon execution. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.430. Prior: 1907 c 241 s 65; RRS s 9068.]

**RCW 35.23.440 Specific powers enumerated.** The city council of each second-class city shall have power and authority:

(1) Ordinances: To make and pass all ordinances, orders, and resolutions not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the state of Washington, or the provisions of this title, necessary for the municipal government and management of the affairs of the city, for the execution of the powers vested in said body corporate, and for the carrying into effect of the provisions of this title.

(2) License of shows: To fix and collect a license tax, for the purposes of revenue and regulation, on theaters, melodeons, balls, concerts, dances, theatrical, circus, or other performances, and all performances where an admission fee is charged, or which may be held in any house or place where wines or liquors are sold to the participators; also all shows, billiard tables, pool tables, bowling alleys, exhibitions, or amusements.

(3) Hotels, etc., licenses: To fix and collect a license tax for the purposes of revenue and regulation on and to regulate all taverns, hotels, restaurants, banks, brokers, manufactories, livery stables, express companies and persons engaged in transmitting letters or packages, railroad, stage, and steamboat companies or owners, whose principal place of business is in such city, or who have an agency therein.

(4) Peddlers', etc., licenses: To license, for the purposes of revenue and regulation, tax, prohibit, suppress, and regulate all raffles, hawkers, peddlers, pawnbrokers, refreshment or coffee stands, booths, or sheds; and to regulate as authorized by state law all tipping houses, dram shops, saloons, bars, and barrooms.

(5) Dance houses: To prohibit or suppress, or to license and regulate all dance houses, fandango houses, or any exhibition or show of any animal or animals.

(6) License vehicles: To license for the purposes of revenue and regulation, and to tax hackney coaches, cabs, omnibuses, drays, market wagons, and all other vehicles used for hire, and to regulate their stands, and to fix the rates to be charged for the transportation of persons, baggage, and property.

(7) Hotel runners: To license or suppress runners for steamboats, taverns, or hotels.

(8) License generally: To fix and collect a license tax for the purposes of revenue and regulation, upon all occupations and trades, and all and every kind of business authorized by law not heretofore specified. However, on any business, trade, or calling not provided by law to be licensed for state and county purposes, the amount of license shall be fixed at the discretion of the city council, as they may deem the interests and good order of the city may require. A city may not require a business to be licensed based solely upon registration under or compliance with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement.

(9) Riots: To prevent and restrain any riot or riotous assemblages, disturbance of the peace, or disorderly conduct in any place, house, or street in the city.

(10) Nuisances: To declare what shall be deemed nuisances; to prevent, remove, and abate nuisances at the expense of the parties creating, causing, or committing or maintaining the same, and to levy a special assessment on the land or premises whereon the nuisance is situated to defray the cost or to reimburse the city for the cost of abating the same.

(11) Stock pound: To establish, maintain, and regulate a common pound for estrays, and to appoint a poundkeeper, who shall be paid out of the fines and fees imposed and collected of the owners of any animals impounded, and from no other source; to prevent and regulate the running at large of any and all domestic animals within the city limits or any parts thereof, and to regulate or prevent the keeping of such animals within any part of the city.

(12) Control of certain trades: To control and regulate slaughterhouses, washhouses, laundries, tanneries, forges, and offensive trades, and to provide for their exclusion or removal from the city limits, or from any part thereof.

(13) Street cleaning: To provide, by regulation, for the prevention and summary removal of all filth and garbage in streets, sloughs, alleys, back yards, or public grounds of such city, or elsewhere therein.

(14) Gambling, etc.: To prohibit and suppress all gaming and all gambling or disorderly houses, and houses of ill fame, and all immoral and indecent amusements, exhibitions, and shows.

(15) Markets: To establish and regulate markets and market places.

(16) Speed of railroad cars: To fix and regulate the speed at which any railroad cars, streetcars, automobiles, or other vehicles may run within the city limits, or any portion thereof.

(17) City commons: To provide for and regulate the commons of the city.

(18) Fast driving: To regulate or prohibit fast driving or riding in any portion of the city.

(19) Combustibles: To regulate or prohibit the loading or storage of gunpowder and combustible or explosive materials in the city, or transporting the same through its streets or over its waters.

(20) Property: To have, purchase, hold, use, and enjoy property of every name or kind whatsoever, and to sell, lease, transfer, mortgage, convey, control, or improve the same; to build, erect, or construct houses, buildings, or structures of any kind needful for the use or purposes of such city.

(21) Fire department: To establish, continue, regulate, and maintain a fire department for such city, to change or reorganize the same, and to disband any company or companies of the said department; also, to discontinue and disband said fire department, and to create, organize, establish, and maintain a paid fire department for such city.

(22) Water supply: To adopt, enter into, and carry out means for securing a supply of water for the use of such city or its inhabitants, or for irrigation purposes therein.

(23) Overflow of water: To prevent the overflow of the city or to secure its drainage, and to assess the cost thereof to the property benefited.

(24) House numbers: To provide for the numbering of houses.

(25) Health board: To establish a board of health; to prevent the introduction and spread of disease; to establish a city infirmary and to provide for the indigent sick; and to provide and enforce regulations for the protection of health, cleanliness, peace, and good order of the city; to establish and maintain hospitals within or without the city limits; to control and regulate interments and to prohibit them within the city limits.

(26) Harbors and wharves: To build, alter, improve, keep in repair, and control the waterfront; to erect, regulate, and repair wharves, and to fix the rate of wharfage and transit of wharf, and levy dues upon vessels and commodities; and to provide for the regulation of berths, landing, stationing, and removing steamboats, sail vessels, rafts, barges, and all other watercraft; to fix the rate of speed at which steamboats and other steam watercraft may run along the waterfront of the city; to build bridges so as not to interfere with navigation; to provide for the removal of obstructions to the navigation of any channel or watercourses or channels.

(27) License of steamers: To license steamers, boats, and vessels used in any watercourse in the city, and to fix and collect a license tax thereon.

(28) Ferry licenses: To license ferries and toll bridges under the law regulating the granting of such license.

(29) Penalty for violation of ordinances: To provide that violations of ordinances with the punishment for any offense not exceeding a fine of five thousand dollars or imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or both fine and imprisonment, but the punishment for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment provided in state law for the same crime. Alternatively, such a city may provide that a violation of an ordinance constitutes a civil violation subject to monetary penalties or to determine and impose fines for forfeitures and penalties, but no act which is a state crime may be made a civil violation. A violation of an order, regulation, or ordinance relating to traffic including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction, except that violation of an order, regulation, or ordinance equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor.



(30) Police department: To create and establish a city police; to prescribe their duties and their compensation; and to provide for the regulation and government of the same.

(31) Examine official accounts: To examine, either in open session or by committee, the accounts or doings of all officers or other persons having the care, management, or disposition of moneys, property, or business of the city.

(32) Contracts: To make all appropriations, contracts, or agreements for the use or benefit of the city and in the city's name.

(33) Streets and sidewalks: To provide by ordinance for the opening, laying out, altering, extending, repairing, grading, paving, planking, graveling, macadamizing, or otherwise improving of public streets, avenues, and other public ways, or any portion of any thereof; and for the construction, regulation, and repair of sidewalks and other street improvements, all at the expense of the property to be benefited thereby, without any recourse, in any event, upon the city for any portion of the expense of such work, or any delinquency of the property holders or owners, and to provide for the forced sale thereof for such purposes; to establish a uniform grade for streets, avenues, sidewalks, and squares, and to enforce the observance thereof.

(34) Waterways: To clear, cleanse, alter, straighten, widen, fill up, or close any waterway, drain, or sewer, or any watercourse in such city when not declared by law to be navigable, and to assess the expense thereof, in whole or in part, to the property specially benefited.

(35) Sewerage: To adopt, provide for, establish, and maintain a general system of sewerage, draining, or both, and the regulation thereof; to provide funds by local assessments on the property benefited for the purpose aforesaid and to determine the manner, terms, and place of connection with main or central lines of pipes, sewers, or drains established, and compel compliance with and conformity to such general system of sewerage or drainage, or both, and the regulations of said council thereto relating, by the infliction of suitable penalties and forfeitures against persons and property, or either, for nonconformity to, or failure to comply with the provisions of such system and regulations or either.

(36) Buildings and parks: To provide for all public buildings, public parks, or squares, necessary or proper for the use of the city.

(37) Franchises: To permit the use of the streets for railroad or other public service purposes.

(38) Payment of judgments: To order paid any final judgment against such city, but none of its lands or property of any kind or nature, taxes, revenue, franchise, or rights, or interest, shall be attached, levied upon, or sold in or under any process whatsoever.

(39) Weighing of fuel: To regulate the sale of coal and wood in such city, and may appoint a measurer of wood and weigher of coal for the city, and define his or her duties, and may prescribe his or her term of office, and the fees he or she shall receive for his or her services: PROVIDED, That such fees shall in all cases be paid by the parties requiring such service.

(40) Hospitals, etc.: To erect and establish hospitals and pesthouses and to control and regulate the same.

(41) Waterworks: To provide for the erection, purchase, or otherwise acquiring of waterworks within or without the corporate limits of the city to supply such city and its inhabitants with water,

and to regulate and control the use and price of the water so supplied.

(42) City lights: To provide for lighting the streets and all public places of the city and for furnishing the inhabitants of the city with gas, electric, or other light, and for the ownership, purchase or acquisition, construction, or maintenance of such works as may be necessary or convenient therefor: PROVIDED, That no purchase of any such water plant or light plant shall be made without first submitting the question of such purchase to the electors of the city.

(43) Parks: To acquire by purchase or otherwise land for public parks, within or without the limits of the city, and to improve the same.

(44) Bridges: To construct and keep in repair bridges, and to regulate the use thereof.

(45) Power of eminent domain: In the name of and for the use and benefit of the city, to exercise the right of eminent domain, and to condemn lands and property for the purposes of streets, alleys, parks, public grounds, waterworks, or for any other municipal purpose and to acquire by purchase or otherwise such lands and property as may be deemed necessary for any of the corporate uses provided for by this title, as the interests of the city may from time to time require.

(46) To provide for the assessment of taxes: To provide for the assessment, levying, and collecting of taxes on real and personal property for the corporate uses and purposes of the city and to provide for the payment of the debts and expenses of the corporation.

(47) Local improvements: To provide for making local improvements, and to levy and collect special assessments on the property benefited thereby and for paying the same or any portion thereof; to determine what work shall be done or improvements made, at the expense, in whole or in part, of the adjoining, contiguous, or proximate property, and to provide for the manner of making and collecting assessments therefor.

(48) Cemeteries: To regulate the burial of the dead and to establish and regulate cemeteries, within or without the corporate limits, and to acquire lands therefor by purchase or otherwise.

(49) Fire limits: To establish fire limits with proper regulations and to make all needful regulations for the erection and maintenance of buildings or other structures within the corporate limits as safety of persons or property may require, and to cause all such buildings and places as may from any cause be in a dangerous state to be put in a safe condition; to regulate the manner in which stone, brick, and other buildings, party walls, and partition fences shall be constructed and maintained.

(50) Safety and sanitary measures: To require the owners of public halls, theaters, hotels, and other buildings to provide suitable means of exit and proper fire escapes; to provide for the cleaning and purification of watercourses and canals and for the draining and filling up of ponds on private property within its limits when the same shall be offensive to the senses or dangerous to the health, and to charge the expense thereof to the property specially benefited, and to regulate and control and provide for the prevention and punishment of the defilement or pollution of all streams running in or through its corporate limits and a distance of five miles beyond its corporate limits, and of any stream or lake from which the water supply of the city is or may be taken and for a distance of five miles beyond its source of supply, and to make all quarantine and other regulations as may be necessary for the preservation of the public

health and to remove all persons afflicted with any contagious disease to some suitable place to be provided for that purpose.

(51) To regulate liquor traffic: To regulate the selling or giving away of intoxicating, spirituous, malt, vinous, mixed, or fermented liquors as authorized by the general laws of the state.

(52) To establish streets on tidelands: To project or extend or establish streets over and across any tidelands within the limits of such city.

(53) To provide for the general welfare. [2011 c 96 s 26; 2009 c 549 s 2053; 2008 c 129 s 2; 1994 c 81 s 19; 1993 c 83 s 5; 1986 c 278 s 4. Prior: 1984 c 258 s 803; 1984 c 189 s 5; 1979 ex.s. c 136 s 28; 1977 ex.s. c 316 s 21; 1965 ex.s. c 116 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.440; prior: 1907 c 241 s 29; 1890 p 148 s 38; RRS s 9034.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**Effective date—1994 c 81 s 19:** "Section 19 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1994." [1994 c 81 s 91.]

**Effective date—1993 c 83:** See note following RCW 35.21.163.

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Effective date—Severability—1979 ex.s. c 136:** See notes following RCW 46.63.010.

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 316:** See note following RCW 70.48.020.

**RCW 35.23.442 City and town license fees and taxes on financial institutions.** See chapter 82.14A RCW.

**RCW 35.23.443 City license fees or taxes on certain business activities to be at a single uniform rate.** See RCW 35.21.710.

**RCW 35.23.444 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** See chapter 80.58 RCW.

**RCW 35.23.445 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts.** See RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.

**RCW 35.23.452 Additional powers—Acquisition, control, and disposition of property.** The city council of such city shall have power to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire real estate and personal property necessary or proper for municipal purposes and to control, lease, sublease, convey or otherwise dispose of the same; to acquire and plat land for cemeteries and parks and provide for the

regulation thereof, including but not limited to the right to lease any waterfront and other lands adjacent thereto owned by it for manufacturing, commercial or other business purposes; including but not limited to the right to lease for wharf, dock and other purposes of navigation and commerce such portions of its streets which bound upon or terminate in its waterfront or the navigable waters of such city, subject, however, to the written consent of the lessees of a majority of the square feet frontage of the harbor area abutting on any street proposed to be so leased. No lease of streets or waterfront shall be for longer than ten years and the rental therefor shall be fixed by the city council. Every such lease shall contain a clause that at intervals of every five years during the term thereof the rental to be paid by the lessee shall be readjusted between the lessee and the city by mutual agreement, or in default of such mutual agreement that the rental shall be fixed by arbitrators to be appointed one by the city council, one by the lessee and the third by the two thus appointed. No such lease shall be made until the city council has first caused notice thereof to be published in the official newspaper of such city at least fifteen days and in one issue thereof each week prior to the making of such lease, which notice shall describe the portion of the street proposed to be leased, to whom, for what purpose, and the rental to be charged therefor. The city may improve part of such waterfront or street extensions by building inclines, wharves, gridirons and other accommodations for shipping, commerce and navigation and may charge and collect for service and use thereof reasonable rates and tolls. [1965 c 7 s 35.24.300. Prior: 1963 c 155 s 1; 1915 c 184 s 15; RRS s 9128. Formerly RCW 35.24.300.]

**RCW 35.23.454 Additional powers—Parking meter revenue for revenue bonds.** All second-class cities and towns are authorized to use parking meter revenue as a base for obtaining revenue bonds for use in improvement of streets, roads, alleys, and such other related public works. [1994 c 81 s 44; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.305. Prior: 1957 c 166 s 1. Formerly RCW 35.24.305.]

**RCW 35.23.455 Additional powers—Construction and operation of boat harbors, marinas, docks, etc.** The legislative body of any second-class city or town which contains, or abuts upon, any bay, lake, sound, river or other navigable waters, may construct, operate and maintain any boat harbor, marina, dock or other public improvement, for the purposes of commerce, recreation or navigation. [1994 c 81 s 20; 1965 c 154 s 1.]

**RCW 35.23.456 Additional powers—Ambulances and first aid equipment.** A second-class city, where commercial ambulance service is not readily available, shall have the power:

(1) To authorize the operation of municipally-owned ambulances which may serve the city and may serve for emergencies surrounding rural areas;

(2) To authorize the operation of other municipally-owned first aid equipment which may serve the city and surrounding rural areas;

(3) To contract with the county or with another municipality for emergency use of city-owned ambulances or other first aid equipment: PROVIDED, That the county or other municipality shall contribute at least the cost of maintenance and operation of the equipment attributable to its use thereof; and

(4) To provide that such ambulance service may be used to transport persons in need of emergency hospital care to hospitals beyond the city limits.

The council may, in its discretion, make a charge for the service authorized by this section: PROVIDED, That such ambulance service shall not enter into competition or competitive bidding where private ambulance service is available. [1994 c 81 s 45; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.306. Prior: 1963 c 131 s 1. Formerly RCW 35.24.306.]

**RCW 35.23.457 Conveyance or lease of space above real property or structures or improvements.** See RCW 35.22.302.

**RCW 35.23.460 Employees' group insurance—False arrest insurance.** Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, any second-class city or town may contract with an insurance company authorized to do business in this state to provide group insurance for its employees including group false arrest insurance for its law enforcement personnel, and pursuant thereto may use a portion of its revenues to pay an employer's portion of the premium for such insurance, and may make deductions from the payrolls of employees for the amount of the employees' contribution and may apply the amount deducted in payment of the employees' portion of the premium. [1994 c 81 s 21; 1991 sp.s. c 30 s 19; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.460. Prior: 1963 c 127 s 1; 1947 c 162 s 1; RRS s 9592-160.]

**Effective date, implementation, application—1991 sp.s. c 30:** See RCW 48.62.900.

**RCW 35.23.470 Publicity fund.** Every city of the second class may create a publicity fund to be used exclusively for exploiting and advertising the general advantages and opportunities of the city and its vicinity. After providing by ordinance for a publicity fund the city council may use therefor an annual amount not exceeding sixty-two and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of the taxable property in the city. [1994 c 81 s 22; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.470. Prior: 1913 c 57 s 1; RRS s 9035.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.23.480 Publicity board.** The publicity board administering the publicity fund shall consist of three members nominated by a recognized commercial organization in the city, then appointed by the mayor and confirmed by at least a two-thirds vote of the city council. The commercial organization must be incorporated, must be representative and public, devoted exclusively to the work usually devolving upon such organizations and have not less than two

hundred bona fide dues-paying members; if more than one organization in the city meets the qualifications, the oldest one shall be designated to make the nominations.

Members of the publicity board must be resident property owners and voters in the city and after their appointment and confirmation must qualify by taking the oath of office and filing a bond with the city in the sum of one thousand dollars conditioned upon the faithful performance of their duties. They shall be appointed in December and their terms shall be for one year commencing on the second Monday in January after their appointment and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Any member of the board may be removed by the mayor at the request of the organization which nominated the members after a majority vote of the entire membership of the organization favoring the removal, taken at a regular meeting.

Members of the publicity board shall serve without remuneration. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.480. Prior: 1913 c 57 s 2, part; RRS s 9036, part.]

**RCW 35.23.490 Limitations on use of publicity fund.** All expenditures shall be made under direction of the board of publicity. No part of the publicity fund shall ever be paid to any newspaper, magazine, or periodical published within the city or county in which the city is situated, for advertising, or write-ups or for any other service or purpose and no part of the fund shall be expended for the purpose of making exhibits at any fair, exposition or the like. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.490. Prior: 1913 c 57 s 2, part; RRS s 9036, part.]

**RCW 35.23.505 Local improvement guaranty fund—Investment in city's own guaranteed bonds.** The city treasurer of any second-class city, by and with the consent of the city council or finance committee of the city council, may invest any portion of its local improvement guaranty fund in the city's own guaranteed local improvement bonds in an amount not to exceed ten percent of the total issue of bonds in any one local improvement district: PROVIDED, That no such investment shall be made in an amount which will affect the ability of the local improvement guaranty fund to meet its obligations as they accrue, and that if all the bonds have the same maturity, the bonds having the highest numbers shall be purchased.

The interest received shall be credited to the local improvement guaranty fund. [1994 c 81 s 48; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.400. Prior: 1941 c 145 s 2; RRS s 9138-2. Formerly RCW 35.24.400.]

*Local improvements*

*bonds and warrants: Chapter 35.45 RCW.*

*nonguaranteed bonds: Chapter 35.48 RCW.*

**RCW 35.23.515 Utilities—City may contract for service or construct own facilities.** The city council of every city of the second class may contract for supplying the city with water, light, power, and heat for municipal purposes; and within or without the city may acquire, construct, repair, and manage pumps, aqueducts, reservoirs, plants, or other works necessary or proper for irrigation purposes or for supplying water, light, power, or heat or any by-product thereof for the use of the city and any person within the city

and dispose of any excess of its supply to any person without the city. [1994 c 81 s 49; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.410. Prior: 1917 c 124 s 1, part; 1915 c 184 s 16, part; RRS s 9129, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.410.]

**RCW 35.23.525 Utilities—Method of acquisition—Bonds.** To pay the original cost of water, light, power, or heat systems, every city of the second class may issue:

(1) General bonds to be retired by general tax levies against all the property within the city limits then existing or as they may thereafter be extended; or

(2) Utility bonds under the general authority given to all cities for the acquisition or construction of public utilities.

Extensions to plants may be made either

(1) By general bond issue,

(2) By general tax levies, or

(3) By creating local improvement districts in accordance with statutes governing their establishment. [1994 c 81 s 50; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.420. Prior: 1917 c 124 s 1, part; 1915 c 184 s 16, part; RRS s 9129, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.420.]

**RCW 35.23.535 Utilities—Maintenance and operation—Rates.** No taxes shall be imposed for maintenance and operating charges of city owned water, light, power, or heating works or systems.

Rates shall be fixed by ordinance for supplying water, light, power, or heat for commercial, domestic, or irrigation purposes sufficient to pay for all operating and maintenance charges. If the rates in force produce a greater amount than is necessary to meet operating and maintenance charges, the rates may be reduced or the excess income may be transferred to the city's current expense fund.

Complete separate accounts for municipal utilities must be kept under the system and on forms prescribed by the state auditor.

The term "maintenance and operating charges," as used in this section includes all necessary repairs, replacement, interest on any debts incurred in acquiring, constructing, repairing and operating plants and departments and all depreciation charges. This term shall also include an annual charge equal to four percent on the cost of the plant or system, as determined by the state auditor to be paid into the current expense fund, except that where utility bonds have been or may hereafter be issued and are unpaid no payment shall be required into the current expense fund until such bonds are paid. [1995 c 301 s 37; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.430. Prior: 1917 c 124 s 1, part; 1915 c 184 s 16, part; RRS s 9129, part. Formerly RCW 35.24.430.]

**RCW 35.23.545 Procedure to attack consolidation or annexation of territory.** Proceedings attacking the validity of the consolidation of a city of the second class or the annexation of territory to a city of the second class shall be by quo warranto only, instituted by the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the city is located or by a person interested in the proceedings whose interest must clearly be shown. The quo warranto proceedings must be commenced within one year after the consolidation or annexation proceedings complained of and no error, irregularity, or defect of any kind shall be the basis for

invalidating a consolidation or annexation after one year. [1994 c 81 s 51; 1965 c 7 s 35.24.440. Prior: 1923 c 153 s 1; RRS s 8913-1. Formerly RCW 35.24.440.]

**Validating—1923 c 153:** "All proceedings for the consolidation of cities of the third class and for the annexation of any unincorporated territory described in any abstract filed with the secretary of state in any such annexation proceeding to a city of the third class heretofore had, or attempted to be had, and over which such consolidated cities or annexed territory such city has exercised jurisdiction for a period of one year after the filing of such abstract with the secretary of state, are hereby ratified and validated as of the date of filing such abstract, irrespective of the fact that such consolidated cities, or any part thereof, are separated by a body of navigable water or that such annexed territory, or any part thereof, is separated from such city by a body of navigable water, and irrespective of any failure to file a petition for such consolidation or annexation, or to give proper notice of election or of any other defect occurring in such consolidation or annexation proceedings, and all territory so sought to be annexed is hereby declared to be a part of such annexing city as of the date of filing such abstract, and such cities so consolidated are hereby declared to be one municipal corporation as of the date of filing such abstract. All proceedings since the date of the filing of such abstract heretofore had or attempted to be had by any such city within or including such annexed territory, or any part thereof, in the creation of local improvement districts and the making of local improvements, the levying of special assessments and the issuance of bonds therein and also in the levy of taxes, making of contracts, incurring of indebtedness and the issuance of bonds therefor are hereby ratified, validated and confirmed. PROVIDED, That nothing in this act contained shall affect the rights of any parties in any proceedings now pending in any court of record in this state and the rights of such parties therein shall be determined and adjudicated as the same existed prior to the passage of this act." [1923 c 153 s 2.] This applies to RCW 35.23.545.

**RCW 35.23.555 Criminal code repeals by city operating municipal court—Agreement covering costs of handling resulting criminal cases—Arbitration.** A city of the second class operating a municipal court may not repeal in its entirety that portion of its municipal code defining crimes or repeal a provision of its municipal code which defines a crime equivalent to an offense listed in RCW 46.63.020 unless the municipality has reached an agreement with the appropriate county under chapter 39.34 RCW under which the county is to be paid a reasonable amount for costs associated with prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing in criminal cases filed in district court as a result of the repeal. The agreement shall include provisions for periodic review and renewal of the terms of the agreement. If the municipality and the county are unable to agree on the terms for renewal of the agreement, they shall be deemed to have entered into an agreement to submit the issue to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. Pending conclusion of the arbitration proceeding, the terms of the agreement shall remain in effect. The municipality and the county have the same rights and are subject to the same duties as other parties who have



agreed to submit to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. [2005 c 433 s 39; 1994 c 81 s 52; 1984 c 258 s 206. Formerly RCW 35.24.455.]

**Application—Captions not law—Savings—Effective date—2005 c 433:** See RCW 7.04A.290 through 7.04A.310 and 7.04A.900.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**RCW 35.23.560 Waterworks—Construction by city or by district assessments.** All cities and towns within the state, other than cities of the first class, which are empowered to construct waterworks for irrigation and domestic purposes, may do so either by the entire city or by assessment districts as the mayor and council may determine. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.560. Prior: 1901 c 117 s 1; RRS s 9526.]

**RCW 35.23.570 Waterworks—Plans—Special assessments.** Before letting any contract for the construction of any waterworks for irrigation and domestic purposes, the mayor and council shall by ordinance or resolution adopt the plans therefor and shall fix and establish the assessment district, if the same is to be constructed at the expense of the district, and such cities and towns are authorized to charge the expense of such waterworks for irrigation and domestic purposes to all the property included within such district which is contiguous or proximate to any streets in which any main pipe or lateral pipe of such waterworks for irrigation and domestic purposes, is to be placed, and to levy special assessments upon such property to pay therefor, which assessment shall be levied in accordance with the last general assessment of the property within said district for city purposes. [1994 c 81 s 23; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.570. Prior: 1901 c 117 s 2; RRS s 9527.]

**RCW 35.23.580 Waterworks—Procedure—Bonds.** For the purpose of providing for, constructing and maintaining such waterworks for irrigation and domestic purposes and issuing bonds to pay therefor, such cities and towns may proceed in all ways in accordance with, and apply all the provisions of, law relating to local improvement assessments. [1965 c 7 s 35.23.580. Prior: 1901 c 117 s 3; RRS s 9528.]

**RCW 35.23.680 Cities of ten thousand or more may frame charter without changing classification.** See chapter 35.22 RCW.

**RCW 35.23.705 Purchase of electric power and energy from joint operating agency.** A city of the second class may contract to purchase from a joint operating agency electric power and energy required for its present or future requirements. For projects the output of which is limited to qualified alternative energy resources as defined by RCW 19.29A.090(3), the contract may include the purchase of capability of the projects to produce electricity in addition to the actual output of the projects. The contract may provide that the city must make the

payments required by the contract whether or not a project is completed, operable, or operating and notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or curtailment of the output of a project or the power and energy contracted for. The contract may also provide that payments under the contract are not subject to reduction, whether by offset or otherwise, and shall not be conditioned upon the performance or nonperformance of the joint operating agency or a city, town, or public utility district under the contract or other instrument. [2003 c 138 s 5.]

**RCW 35.23.800 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Elective officers.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the elective officers shall consist of a mayor, twelve councilmembers, a city clerk, and a city treasurer. [1994 c 81 s 24; 1987 c 3 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.020. Prior: 1949 c 83 s 1; 1907 c 241 s 2; RRS s 9007. Formerly RCW 35.23.020.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**RCW 35.23.805 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Elections—Terms of office.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the terms of office of mayor, city clerk, city treasurer and councilmembers shall be four years, and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280, but not more than six councilmembers normally shall be elected in any one year to fill a full term. [2015 c 53 s 40; 1994 c 81 s 25; 1987 c 3 s 7; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.040. Prior: 1963 c 200 s 14; 1959 c 86 s 3; prior: (i) 1951 c 71 s 1; 1909 c 120 s 4; 1907 c 241 s 3; RRS s 9008. (ii) 1951 c 71 s 1; 1907 c 241 s 4; RRS s 9009. Formerly RCW 35.23.040.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.23.810 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Mayor—General duties.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the mayor shall be the chief executive officer of the city and shall:

- (1) Have general supervision over the several departments of the city government and over all its interests;
- (2) Preside over the city council when present;
- (3) Once in three months, submit a general statement of the condition of the various departments and recommend to the city council such measures as the mayor deems expedient for the public health or improvement of the city, its finances or government; and

(4) Countersign all warrants and licenses, deeds, leases and contracts requiring signature issued under and by authority of the city.

If there is a vacancy in the office of mayor or the mayor is absent from the city, or is unable from any cause to discharge the duties of the office, the president of the council shall act as mayor, exercise all the powers and be subject to all the duties of the mayor. [1994 c 81 s 26; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.080. Prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 16, part; RRS s 9021, part. (ii) 1907 c 241 s 17, part; RRS s 9022, part. Formerly RCW 35.23.080.]

**RCW 35.23.815 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Appointive officers.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the appointive officers shall be a chief of police, city attorney, health officer, and street commissioner; the council may also create by ordinance the offices of superintendent of irrigation, city engineer, harbor master, pound keeper, city jailer, chief of the fire department, and any other offices necessary to discharge the functions of the city and for whose election or appointment no other provision is made. If a paid fire department is established therein a chief engineer and one or more assistant engineers may be appointed. If a free library and reading room is established therein five library trustees shall be appointed. The council by ordinance shall prescribe the duties of the officers and fix their compensation subject to the provisions of any statutes pertaining thereto. [1994 c 81 s 27; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.120. Prior: 1949 c 83 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9007A. Formerly RCW 35.23.120.]

**RCW 35.23.820 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Health officer.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the council shall create the office of city health officer, prescribe the duties and qualifications of this office and fix the compensation for the office. [1994 c 81 s 28; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.150. Prior: 1907 c 241 s 64; RRS s 9067. Formerly RCW 35.23.150.]

**RCW 35.23.825 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Street commissioner.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the street commissioner shall be under the direction of the mayor and city council shall have control of the streets and public places of the city and shall perform such duties as the city council may prescribe. [1994 c 81 s 29; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.160. Prior: 1907 c 241 s 23; RRS s 9028. Formerly RCW 35.23.160.]

**RCW 35.23.830 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Appointment of officers—Confirmation.** In a city initially

classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the mayor shall appoint all the appointive officers of the city subject to confirmation by the city council. If the council refuses to confirm any nomination of the mayor, the mayor shall nominate another person for that office within ten days thereafter, and may continue to so nominate until a nominee is confirmed. If the mayor fails to make another nomination for the same office within ten days after the rejection of a nominee, the city council shall elect a suitable person to fill the office during the term. The affirmative vote of not less than seven councilmembers is necessary to confirm any nomination made by the mayor. [1994 c 81 s 30; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.180. Prior: 1907 c 241 s 8, part; 1890 p 145 s 25; RRS s 9013, part. Formerly RCW 35.23.180.]

**RCW 35.23.835 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Oath and bond of officers.** Before entering upon official duties and within ten days after receiving notice of being elected or appointed to city office, every officer of a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city shall qualify by taking the oath of office and by filing such bond duly approved as may be required. The oath of office shall be filed with the county auditor. If no notice of election or appointment was received, the officer must qualify on or before the date fixed for the assumption of the duties of the office. The city council shall fix the amount of all official bonds and may designate what officers shall be required to give bonds in addition to those required to do so by statute.

All official bonds shall be approved by the city council and when so approved shall be filed with the city clerk except the city clerk's which shall be filed with the mayor. No city officer shall be eligible as a surety upon any bond running to the city as obligee.

The city council may require a new or additional bond of any officer whenever it deems it expedient. [1994 c 81 s 31; 1987 c 3 s 8; 1986 c 167 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.190. Prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 10, part; 1890 p 145 s 29; RRS s 9015, part. (ii) 1907 c 241 s 11; 1890 p 145 s 29; RRS s 9016. Formerly RCW 35.23.190.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**Severability—1986 c 167:** See note following RCW 29A.16.040.

**RCW 35.23.840 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—City council—How constituted.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the mayor and twelve councilmembers shall constitute the city council. At the first council meeting in each calendar year, the city council shall elect one of their own body to serve as president of the council.

The mayor shall preside at all meetings at which the mayor is present. In the absence of the mayor, the president of the council shall preside. In the absence of both the mayor and the president of

the council, the council may elect a president pro tempore from its own body. The president pro tempore shall have all the powers of the president of the council during the session of the council at which the president pro tempore is presiding. [1994 c 81 s 32; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.250. Prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 17, part; RRS s 9022, part. (ii) 1907 c 247 s 27; RRS s 9032. (iii) 1907 c 241 s 28, part; 1890 p 148 s 37; RRS s 9033, part. Formerly RCW 35.23.250.]

**RCW 35.23.845 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—City council—Presiding officer—Voting rights.** In a city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the mayor shall have a vote only in the case of a tie in the votes of the councilmembers. The president of the council while presiding or the president pro tempore shall have the right to vote upon all questions coming before the council.

A majority of all the members elected shall be necessary to pass any ordinance appropriating for any purpose the sum of five hundred dollars or upwards or any ordinance imposing any assessment, tax, or license or in any wise increasing or diminishing the city revenue. [1994 c 81 s 33; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.280. Prior: (i) 1907 c 241 s 28, part; 1890 p 148 s 37; RRS s 9033, part. (ii) 1907 c 241 s 61; 1890 p 159 s 51; RRS s 9064. Formerly RCW 35.23.280.]

**RCW 35.23.850 Code city retaining former second-class city plan—Wards—Division of city into.** In any city initially classified as a second-class city prior to January 1, 1993, that retained its second-class city plan of government when the city reorganized as a noncharter code city, the city council may divide the city into wards, not exceeding six in all, or change the boundaries of existing wards at any time less than one hundred twenty days before a municipal general election. Unless the city is dividing into wards or changing the boundaries of existing wards under RCW 29A.92.040 or 29A.92.110, no change in the boundaries of wards shall affect the term of any councilmember, and councilmembers shall serve out their terms in the wards of their residences at the time of their elections. However, if these boundary changes result in one ward being represented by more councilmembers than the number to which it is entitled, those having the shortest unexpired terms shall be assigned by the council to wards where there is a vacancy, and the councilmembers so assigned shall be deemed to be residents of the wards to which they are assigned for purposes of determining whether those positions are vacant.

If the city is dividing into wards or changing the boundaries of existing wards under RCW 29A.92.040 or 29A.92.110, all council positions are subject to election at the next regular election.

The representation of each ward in the city council shall be in proportion to the population as nearly as is practicable.

Wards shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29A.76 RCW. Wards shall be used as follows: (1) Only a resident of the ward may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a councilmember of the ward; and (2) only voters of the ward may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a councilmember of the ward. Voters of the entire city may vote at the general election to elect a councilmember of a ward, unless the

city had prior to January 1, 1994, limited the voting in the general election for any or all council positions to only voters residing within the ward associated with the council positions. If a city had so limited the voting in the general election to only voters residing within the ward, then the city shall be authorized to continue to do so. The elections for the remaining council position or council positions that are not associated with a ward shall be conducted as if the wards did not exist. [2019 c 454 s 6; 2015 c 53 s 41; 1995 c 134 s 10. Prior: 1994 c 223 s 16; 1994 c 81 s 34; 1965 c 7 s 35.23.530; prior: 1907 c 241 s 14; 1890 p 147 s 35; RRS s 9019. Formerly RCW 35.23.530.]

**Retroactive application—Effective date—2019 c 454:** See notes following RCW 29A.92.050.

**RCW 35.23.860 Telecommunications services and facilities authorized—Requirements.** (1) A second-class city may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for the purpose of furnishing the second-class city and its inhabitants with telecommunications services. The second-class city has full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of the services.

(2) (a) Before providing telecommunications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a second-class city must examine and report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the second-class city:

(i) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(ii) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iii) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iv) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the second-class city;

(v) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(vi) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(vii) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(b) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on its website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) "Unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed. [2021 c 294 s 6.]

**Short title—2021 c 294:** See note following RCW 54.16.330.

**Chapter 35.27 RCW**  
**TOWNS**

**Sections**

- 35.27.010 Rights, powers, and privileges.
- 35.27.030 Uncertain boundaries—Petition—Request for examination.
- 35.27.040 Duty of county commissioners.
- 35.27.050 Report of survey.
- 35.27.060 Expense of proceedings.
- 35.27.070 Town officers enumerated.
- 35.27.080 Eligibility to hold elective office.
- 35.27.090 Elections—Terms of office.
- 35.27.100 Conduct of elections.
- 35.27.120 Oath and bond of officers.
- 35.27.130 Compensation of officers and employees—Expenses—Nonstate pensions—Limitations.
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*Accident claims against: RCW 35.31.040, 35.31.050.*

*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection, preservation, or open space purposes by towns: RCW 64.04.130.*

*Actions against  
public corporations: RCW 4.08.120.  
state: Chapter 4.92 RCW.*

*Actions by in corporate name: RCW 4.08.110.*

*Advancement in classification: RCW 35.06.010.*

*Classification as: RCW 35.01.040.*

*Code of ethics for public officers and employees: Chapters 42.23 and 42.52 RCW.*

*Corporate stock or bonds not to be owned by: State Constitution Art. 8 s 7.*

*Credit not to be loaned, exception: State Constitution Art. 8 s 7.*

*Group false arrest insurance: RCW 35.23.460.*

*Incorporation and annexation restrictions as to area: RCW 35.21.010.*

*Inhabitants at time of organization: RCW 35.01.040.*

*Insurance, group for employees: RCW 35.23.460.*

*Judgment against public corporations, enforcement: RCW 6.17.080.*

*Limitation upon actions by public corporations: RCW 4.16.160.*

*Limitations on indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

*Lost and found property: Chapter 63.21 RCW.*

*Metropolitan park districts, withdrawal from: RCW 35.61.010.*

*Municipal utilities: Chapter 35.92 RCW.*

*Municipal water and sewer facilities act: Chapter 35.91 RCW.*

*Organization under general laws required: State Constitution Art. 11 s 10 (Amendment 40).*

*Park commissioners: RCW 35.23.170.*

*Parking meter revenue, basis for revenue bonds: RCW 35.23.454.*

*Plats*  
*regulation of surveys and plats: RCW 58.10.040.*  
*resurvey and correction of: RCW 58.10.030.*

*Revenue bonds, parking meter revenue as basis for: RCW 35.23.454.*

*School districts, educational service districts, agreements with other governmental entities for transportation of students or the public, or for other noncommon school purposes—Limitations: RCW 28A.160.120.*

*Service of summons on, personal service: RCW 4.28.080.*

*Sidewalks, construction, initial: Chapter 35.70 RCW.*

*Taxes, power of municipalities: State Constitution Art. 11 s 12.*

*Unclaimed property in hands of city police: Chapter 63.32 RCW.*

**RCW 35.27.010 Rights, powers, and privileges.** Every town shall be entitled the "Town of . . . . . ." (naming it), and by such name shall have perpetual succession, may sue, and be sued in all courts and places, and in all proceedings whatever; shall have and use a common seal, alterable at the pleasure of the town authorities, and may purchase, lease, receive, hold, and enjoy real and personal property and control, lease, sublease, convey, or otherwise dispose of the same for the common benefit. [1994 c 273 s 11; 1994 c 81 s 53; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.010. Prior: 1890 p 198 s 142; RRS s 9163.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1994 c 81 s 53 and by 1994 c 273 s 11, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**RCW 35.27.030 Uncertain boundaries—Petition—Request for examination.** Whenever a petition is presented to the council of any incorporated town in this state, signed by not less than five electors of such town, setting forth that in the belief of the petitioners, the boundaries of said town are indefinite and uncertain and that on account of such indefiniteness and uncertainty the legality of the taxes levied within such town are in danger of being affected, and setting forth the particular causes or reasons of such alleged indefiniteness or uncertainty, it shall be the duty of the town council to cause the petition to be filed and recorded by the clerk, and to cause a copy of the same to be made and certified by the clerk and the corporate seal of such town to be attached to said certificate, and the mayor of such town shall forthwith present said certified copy of the petition to the board of county commissioners of the county wherein said town is situated, with a written request to be signed by him or her as such mayor that the said board of county commissioners proceed to examine the boundaries of such town or city, and make the same definite and certain. [2009 c 549 s 2054; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.030. Prior: 1899 c 79 s 1; RRS s 9195.]

**RCW 35.27.040 Duty of county commissioners.** The board of county commissioners upon receipt of the certified copy of said petition, and the request aforesaid, shall cause the same to be filed in the office of the county auditor and forthwith proceed to examine the boundaries of the town and make the same definite and certain. For this purpose they may employ a competent surveyor, and shall commence at some recognized and undisputed point on the boundary line of the town, if such there be, and if there is no such recognized and undisputed point, they shall establish a starting point from the best data at their command and from such starting point they shall run a boundary line by courses and distances around such town, in one tract or body. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.040. Prior: 1899 c 79 s 2; RRS s 9196.]

**RCW 35.27.050 Report of survey.** The board of county commissioners, without unnecessary delay, shall make and file a report of their doings in the premises in the office of the county auditor, who shall transmit a certified copy thereof under the seal of the county, to the clerk of the town, and the clerk shall record the same in the records of the town, and keep the copy on file in his or her office. The report shall contain the description of the boundary of the town, as fixed by the board, written in plain words and figures and the boundaries so made and fixed shall be the boundaries of the town, and all the territory included within the boundary lines so established shall be included in the town, and be a part thereof. [2009 c 549 s 2055; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.050. Prior: 1899 c 79 s 3; RRS s 9197.]

**RCW 35.27.060 Expense of proceedings.** The expense of such proceedings shall be paid by the town at whose request the same is incurred. The county commissioners shall each receive as compensation, an amount not exceeding the amount allowed by law for their usual services as commissioners, and, any surveyor or other assistants employed by them, a reasonable compensation to be fixed and certified

by said commissioners. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.060. Prior: 1899 c 79 s 4; RRS s 9198.]

**RCW 35.27.070 Town officers enumerated.** The government of a town shall be vested in a mayor and a council consisting of five members and a treasurer, all elective; the mayor shall appoint a clerk and a marshal; and may appoint a town attorney, pound master, street superintendent, a civil engineer, and such police and other subordinate officers and employees as may be provided for by ordinance. All appointive officers and employees shall hold office at the pleasure of the mayor, subject to any applicable law, rule, or regulation relating to civil service, and shall not be subject to confirmation by the town council. [1997 c 361 s 3; 1993 c 47 s 2; 1987 c 3 s 12; 1965 ex.s. c 116 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.070. Prior: 1961 c 89 s 3; prior: (i) 1903 c 113 s 4; 1890 p 198 s 143; RRS s 9164. (ii) 1941 c 108 s 2; 1939 c 87 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9165-1a. (iii) 1943 c 183 s 1, part; 1941 c 91 s 1, part; 1911 c 33 s 1, part; 1903 c 113 s 5, part; 1890 p 198 s 144, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9165.]

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**RCW 35.27.080 Eligibility to hold elective office.** No person shall be eligible to or hold an elective office in a town unless he or she is a resident and registered voter in the town. [1997 c 361 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.080. Prior: 1890 p 200 s 149; RRS s 9170.]

**RCW 35.27.090 Elections—Terms of office.** All general municipal elections in towns shall be held biennially in the odd-numbered years as provided in RCW 29A.04.330. The term of office of the mayor and treasurer shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with \*RCW 29A.20.040: PROVIDED, That the term of the treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium in which the term of the mayor commences. Councilmembers shall be elected for four year terms and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with \*RCW 29A.20.040; three at one election and two at the next succeeding biennial election. [2009 c 549 s 2056; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 23; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.090. Prior: 1963 c 200 s 16; 1961 c 89 s 4; prior: 1955 c 55 s 7; 1943 c 183 s 1, part; 1941 c 91 s 1, part; 1911 c 33 s 1, part; 1903 c 113 s 5, part; 1890 p 198 s 144, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9165, part.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 29A.20.040 was recodified as RCW 29A.60.280 pursuant to 2013 c 11 s 93.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.27.100 Conduct of elections.** All elections in towns shall be held in accordance with the general election laws of the state. [1994 c 223 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.100. Prior: 1890 p 200 s 148; RRS s 9169.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.27.120 Oath and bond of officers.** Every officer of a town before entering upon the duties of his or her office shall take and file with the county auditor his or her oath of office. The clerk, treasurer, and marshal before entering upon their respective duties shall also each execute a bond approved by the council in such penal sum as the council by ordinance may determine, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties including in the same bond the duties of all offices of which he or she is made ex officio incumbent.

All bonds, when approved, shall be filed with the town clerk, except the bonds of the clerk which shall be filed with the mayor. [2009 c 549 s 2057; 1986 c 167 s 19; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.120. Prior: 1890 p 199 s 145; RRS s 9166.]

**Severability—1986 c 167:** See note following RCW 29A.16.040.

**RCW 35.27.130 Compensation of officers and employees—Expenses—Nonstate pensions—Limitations.** The mayor and members of the town council may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties upon presentation of a claim therefor and its allowance and approval by resolution of the town council. The mayor and members of the council may also receive such salary as the council may fix by ordinance.

The treasurer and treasurer-clerk shall severally receive at stated times a compensation to be fixed by ordinance.

The compensation of all other officers and employees shall be fixed from time to time by the council.

Any town that provides a pension for any of its employees under a plan not administered by the state must notify the state auditor of the existence of the plan at the time of an audit of the town by the auditor. No town may establish a pension plan for its employees that is not administered by the state, with the following exceptions:

(1) Participation in a defined contribution plan in existence as of January 1, 1990, is deemed to have been authorized. No town that provides a defined contribution plan for its employees as authorized by this section may make any material changes in the terms or conditions of the plan after June 7, 1990.

(2) Participation in a defined benefit pension plan that commenced prior to January 1, 1999, is authorized to continue. No town that commenced participation in a defined benefit pension plan that is not administered by the state may make any material changes in the terms or conditions of the plan after June 7, 1999. [2012 c 240 s 1; 1993 c 47 s 3; 1990 c 212 s 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 87 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 270 s 9; 1965 c 105 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.130. Prior: 1961 c 89 s 5; prior: (i) 1941 c 115 s 2; 1890 p 200 s 147; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9168. (ii) 1921 c 24 s 1, part; 1890 p 209 s 168, part; RRS s 9187, part. (iii) 1890 p 214 s 173; RRS s 9191. (iv) 1943 c 183 s 1, part; 1941 c 91 s 1, part; 1911 c 33 s 1, part; 1903 c 113 s 5, part; 1890 p 198 s 144, part; RRS s 9165, part.]

**RCW 35.27.140 Vacancies.** (1) The council of a town may declare a council position vacant if that councilmember is absent from the town for three consecutive council meetings without the permission of the council.

(2) A vacancy in an elective office shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. An incumbent councilmember is eligible to be appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor.

(3) A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by appointment by the mayor. [2008 c 50 s 3; 1994 c 223 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.140. Prior: (i) 1903 c 113 s 6; 1890 p 199 s 146; RRS s 9167. (ii) 1907 c 228 s 5, part; RRS s 9203, part.]

**RCW 35.27.160 Mayor—Duties—Powers—Mayor pro tempore.** The mayor shall preside over all meetings of the council at which he or she is present. A mayor pro tempore may be chosen by the council for a specified period of time, not to exceed six months, to act as the mayor in the absence of the mayor. The mayor shall sign all warrants drawn on the treasurer and shall sign all written contracts entered into by the town. The mayor may administer oaths and affirmations, and take affidavits and certify them. The mayor shall sign all conveyances made by the town and all instruments which require the seal of the town.

The mayor is authorized to acknowledge the execution of all instruments executed by the town which require acknowledgment. [1988 c 196 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.160. Prior: 1890 p 209 s 167; RRS s 9186.]

**RCW 35.27.170 Town treasurer—Duties.** The town treasurer shall receive and safely keep all money which comes into his or her hands as treasurer, for all of which he or she shall give duplicate receipts, one of which shall be filed with the clerk. He or she shall pay out the money on warrants signed by the mayor and countersigned by the clerk and not otherwise. He or she shall make monthly settlements with the clerk. [2009 c 549 s 2058; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.170. Prior: 1961 c 89 s 6; prior: 1921 c 24 s 1, part; 1890 p 209 s 168, part; RRS s 9187, part.]

**RCW 35.27.180 Treasurer and clerk may be combined.** The council of every town may provide by ordinance that the office of treasurer be combined with that of clerk or that the office of clerk be combined with that of treasurer. This ordinance shall not be voted upon until the next regular meeting after its introduction and shall require the vote of at least two-thirds of the council. The ordinance shall provide the date when the consolidation shall take place which date shall be not less than three months from the date the ordinance goes into effect. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.180. Prior: (i) 1945 c 58 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 9177-1. (ii) 1945 c 58 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 9177-4, part.]

**RCW 35.27.190 Effect of consolidation of offices.** Upon the consolidation of the office of treasurer with that of clerk, the office of treasurer shall be abolished and the clerk shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties required by statute or ordinance to be performed by the treasurer; in the execution of any papers his or her designation as clerk shall be sufficient.

Upon the consolidation of the office of clerk with that of treasurer, the treasurer shall exercise all the powers vested in and

perform all the duties required to be performed by the clerk. [2009 c 549 s 2059; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.190. Prior: (i) 1945 c 58 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 9177-2. (ii) 1945 c 58 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 9177-3.]

**RCW 35.27.200 Abandonment of consolidation.** Every town which has combined the office of treasurer with that of clerk or the office of clerk with that of treasurer may terminate the combination by ordinance, fixing the time when the combination shall cease and providing that the duties thereafter be performed by separate officials. If the office of treasurer was combined with that of clerk, the mayor shall appoint a treasurer who shall serve until the next town election when a treasurer shall be elected for the term as provided by law. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.200. Prior: 1945 c 58 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 9177-4, part.]

**RCW 35.27.210 Duty of officers collecting moneys.** Every officer collecting or receiving any money belonging to a town shall settle for it with the clerk on the first Monday of each month and immediately pay it into the treasury on the order of the clerk to be credited to the fund to which it belongs. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.210. Prior: 1890 p 214 s 175; RRS s 9193.]

**RCW 35.27.220 Town clerk—Duties.** The town clerk shall be custodian of the seal of the town. The town clerk may appoint a deputy for whose acts he or she and his or her bondspersons shall be responsible. The town clerk and his or her deputy may administer oaths or affirmations and certify to them, and may take affidavits and depositions to be used in any court or proceeding in the state.

The town clerk shall make a quarterly statement in writing showing the receipts and expenditures of the town for the preceding quarter and the amount remaining in the treasury.

At the end of every fiscal year the town clerk shall make a full and detailed statement of receipts and expenditures of the preceding year and a full statement of the financial condition of the town which shall be published.

The town clerk shall perform such other services as may be required by statute or by ordinances of the town council.

The town clerk shall keep a full and true account of all the proceedings of the council. [2007 c 218 s 76; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.220. Prior: 1890 p 210 s 170, part; RRS s 9188, part.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**RCW 35.27.230 Records to be kept by clerk.** The proceedings of the town council shall be kept in a book marked "records of council." The town clerk shall keep a book marked "town accounts," in which shall be entered on the debit side all moneys received by the town including but not limited to proceeds from licenses and general taxes and in which shall be entered on the credit side all warrants drawn on the treasury.

He or she shall also keep a book marked "marshal's account" in which he or she shall charge the marshal with all licenses delivered

to him or her and credit him or her with all money collected and paid in.

He or she shall also keep a book marked "treasurer's account" in which he or she shall keep a full account of the transactions of the town with the treasurer.

He or she shall also keep a book marked "licenses" in which he or she shall enter all licenses issued by him or her—the date thereof, to whom issued, for what, the time they expire, and the amount paid.

Each of the foregoing books, except the records of the council, shall have a general index sufficiently comprehensive to enable a person readily to ascertain matters contained therein.

He or she shall also keep a book marked "demands and warrants" in which he or she shall enter every demand against the town at the time of filing it. He or she shall state therein the final disposition of each demand and if it is allowed and a warrant drawn, he or she shall state the number of the warrant and its date. This book shall contain an index in which reference shall be made to each demand. [2009 c 549 s 2060; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.230. Prior: 1890 p 210 s 170, part; RRS s 9188, part.]

**RCW 35.27.240 Town marshal—Police department.** The department of police in a town shall be under the direction and control of the marshal subject to the direction of the mayor. He or she may pursue and arrest violators of town ordinances beyond the town limits.

The marshal's lawful orders shall be promptly executed by deputies, police officers and watchpersons. Every citizen shall lend him or her aid, when required, for the arrest of offenders and maintenance of public order. He or she may appoint, subject to the approval of the mayor, one or more deputies, for whose acts he and his or her bondspersons shall be responsible, whose compensation shall be fixed by the council. With the concurrence of the mayor, the marshal may appoint additional police officers for one day only when necessary for the preservation of public order.

The marshal shall have the same authority as that conferred upon sheriffs for the suppression of any riot, public tumult, disturbance of the peace, or resistance against the laws or public authorities in the lawful exercise of their functions and shall be entitled to the same protection.

The marshal shall execute and return all process issued and directed to him or her by any legal authority and for his or her services shall receive the same fees as are paid to constables. The marshal shall perform such other services as the council by ordinance may require. [2007 c 218 s 67; 1987 c 3 s 13; 1977 ex.s. c 316 s 24; 1965 c 125 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.240. Prior: 1963 c 191 s 1; 1890 p 213 s 172; RRS s 9190.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**Severability—1987 c 3:** See note following RCW 3.70.010.

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 316:** See note following RCW 70.48.020.

**RCW 35.27.250 Town attorney—Duties.** The town attorney shall advise the town authorities and officers in all legal matters



pertaining to the business of the town. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.250. Prior: 1890 p 212 s 171; RRS s 9189.]

*Employment of legal interns: RCW 35.21.760.*

**RCW 35.27.260 Park commissioners.** See RCW 35.23.170.

**RCW 35.27.270 Town council—Oath—Meetings.** The town council shall meet in January succeeding the date of the general municipal election, shall take the oath of office, and shall hold regular meetings at least once each month at such times as may be fixed by ordinance. Special meetings may be called at any time by the mayor or by three councilmembers, by written notice as provided in RCW 42.30.080. No resolution or order for the payment of money shall be passed at any other than a regular meeting. No such resolution or order shall be valid unless passed by the votes of at least three councilmembers.

All meetings of the council shall be held at such places as may be designated by the town council. All final actions on resolutions and ordinances must take place within the corporate limits of the town. All meetings of the town council must be public. [1993 c 199 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.270. Prior: (i) 1890 p 200 s 150; RRS s 9171. (ii) 1890 p 201 s 153, part; RRS s 9174, part.]

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.27.280 Town council—Quorum—Rules—Journal.** A majority of the councilmembers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as may be prescribed by ordinance.

The mayor shall preside at all meetings of the council. The mayor shall have a vote only in case of a tie in the votes of the councilmembers. In the absence of the mayor the council may appoint a president pro tempore; in the absence of the clerk, the mayor or president pro tempore, shall appoint one of the councilmembers as clerk pro tempore. The council may establish rules for the conduct of its proceedings and punish any members or other person for disorderly behavior at any meeting. At the desire of any member, the ayes and noes shall be taken on any question and entered in the journal. [2009 c 549 s 2061; 1965 c 107 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.280. Prior: (i) 1890 p 201 s 151; RRS s 9172. (ii) 1890 p 201 s 152, part; RRS s 9173, part.]

**RCW 35.27.290 Ordinances—Style—Signatures.** The enacting clause of all ordinances shall be as follows: "Be it ordained by the council of the town of . . . ."

Every ordinance shall be signed by the mayor and attested by the clerk. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.290. Prior: 1917 c 99 s 1, part; 1890 p 204 s 155, part; RRS s 9178, part.]

**RCW 35.27.300 Ordinances—Publication—Summary—Public notice of hearings and meeting agendas.** Promptly after adoption, the text of each ordinance or a summary of the content of each ordinance shall be published at least once in the official newspaper of the town.

For purposes of this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly describes the main points of the ordinance. Publication of the title of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall constitute publication of a summary of that ordinance. When the town publishes a summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.

An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the text or a summary of the content of an ordinance shall not render the ordinance invalid.

In addition to the requirement that a town publish the text or a summary of the content of each adopted ordinance, every town shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written notification to the town's official newspaper, publication of a notice in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas, or such other processes as the town determines will satisfy the intent of this requirement. [1994 c 273 s 12; 1988 c 168 s 5; 1987 c 400 s 2; 1985 c 469 s 26; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.300. Prior: 1917 c 99 s 1, part; 1890 p 204 s 155, part; RRS s 9178, part.]

**RCW 35.27.310 Ordinances—Clerk to keep book of ordinances.** The town clerk shall keep a book marked "ordinances" into which he or she shall copy all town ordinances, with his or her certificate annexed to said copy stating that the foregoing ordinance is a true and correct copy of an ordinance of the town, and giving the number and title of the ordinance, and stating that it has been published or posted according to law. Such record copy, with the clerk's certificate, shall be prima facie evidence of the contents of the ordinance and of its passage and publication, and shall be admissible as such in any court or proceeding. Such record shall not be filed in any case but shall be returned to the custody of the clerk. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the proof of the passage and publication of ordinances in the usual way. The book of ordinances shall have a general index sufficiently comprehensive to enable a person readily to ascertain matters contained therein. [2009 c 549 s 2062; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.310. Prior: 1890 p 210 s 170, part; RRS s 9188, part.]

**RCW 35.27.330 Ordinances granting franchises—Requisites.** No ordinance or resolution granting any franchise for any purpose shall be passed by the council on the day of its introduction, nor within five days thereafter, nor at any other than a regular meeting, and no such ordinance or resolution shall have any validity or effect unless passed by the vote of at least three councilmembers. The town council may require a bond in a reasonable amount from any persons and corporations obtaining a franchise from the town conditioned for the faithful performance of the conditions and terms of the franchise and providing a recovery on the bond in case of failure to perform the terms and conditions of the franchise. [2009 c 549 s 2063; 1965 c 7 s

35.27.330. Prior: (i) 1890 p 201 s 153, part; RRS s 9174, part. (ii) 1907 c 228 s 1, part; RRS s 9199, part.]

**RCW 35.27.340 Audit and allowance of demands against town.** All demands against a town shall be presented to and audited by the council in accordance with such regulations as they may by ordinance prescribe. Upon allowance of a demand the mayor shall draw a warrant therefor upon the treasurer; the warrant shall be countersigned by the clerk and shall specify the purpose for which it is drawn.

The town clerk and his or her deputy shall take all necessary affidavits to claims against the town and certify them. [2009 c 549 s 2064; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.340. Prior: (i) 1890 p 210 s 170, part; RRS s 9188, part. (ii) 1890 p 204 s 156; RRS s 9179.]

**RCW 35.27.345 Payment of claims and obligations by warrant or check.** A town, by ordinance, may adopt a policy for the payment of claims or other obligations of the town, which are payable out of solvent funds, electing to pay such obligations by warrant or by check. However, when the applicable fund is not solvent at the time payment is ordered, a warrant shall be issued. When checks are to be used, the legislative body shall designate the qualified public depository, upon which such checks are to be drawn, and the officers authorized or required to sign such checks. Wherever a reference is made to warrants in this title, such term shall include checks where authorized by this section. [2006 c 41 s 2.]

**RCW 35.27.350 Contract for town printing.** Every town may designate any daily or weekly newspaper published or of general circulation therein as its official newspaper and all notices published in that newspaper for the period and in the manner provided by law or the ordinances of the town shall be due and legal notice. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.350. Prior: 1903 c 120 s 1; RRS s 9177.]

**RCW 35.27.362 Contracts, purchases, advertising—Call for bids—Exceptions.** See RCW 35.23.352.

**RCW 35.27.370 Specific powers enumerated.** The council of said town shall have power:

(1) To pass ordinances not in conflict with the Constitution and laws of this state, or of the United States;

(2) To purchase, lease or receive such real estate and personal property as may be necessary or proper for municipal purposes, and to control, dispose of and convey the same for the benefit of the town; to acquire, own, and hold real estate for cemetery purposes either within or without the corporate limits, to sell and dispose of such real estate, to plat or replat such real estate into cemetery lots and to sell and dispose of any and all lots therein, and to operate, improve and maintain the same as a cemetery;

(3) To contract for supplying the town with water for municipal purposes, or to acquire, construct, repair and manage pumps, aqueducts, reservoirs, or other works necessary or proper for

supplying water for use of such town or its inhabitants, or for irrigating purposes therein;

(4) To establish, build and repair bridges, to establish, lay out, alter, widen, extend, keep open, improve, and repair streets, sidewalks, alleys, squares and other public highways and places within the town, and to drain, sprinkle and light the same; to remove all obstructions therefrom; to establish the grades thereof; to grade, pave, plank, macadamize, gravel and curb the same, in whole or in part, and to construct gutters, culverts, sidewalks and crosswalks therein, or on any part thereof; to cause to be planted, set out and cultivated trees therein, and generally to manage and control all such highways and places;

(5) To establish, construct and maintain drains and sewers, and shall have power to compel all property owners on streets along which sewers are constructed to make proper connections therewith, and to use the same for proper purposes when such property is improved by the erection thereon of a building or buildings; and in case the owners of such improved property on such streets shall fail to make such connections within the time fixed by such council, they may cause such connections to be made, and to assess against the property in front of which such connections are made the costs and expenses thereof;

(6) To provide fire engines and all other necessary or proper apparatus for the prevention and extinguishment of fires;

(7) To impose and collect an annual license on every dog within the limits of the town, to prohibit dogs running at large, and to provide for the killing of all dogs found at large and not duly licensed;

(8) To levy and collect annually a property tax, for the payment of current expenses and for the payment of indebtedness (if any indebtedness exists) within the limits authorized by law;

(9) To license, for purposes of regulation and revenue, all and every kind of business, authorized by law and transacted and carried on in such town; and all shows, exhibitions and lawful games carried on therein and within one mile of the corporate limits thereof; to fix the rate of license tax upon the same, and to provide for the collection of the same, by suit or otherwise; to regulate, restrain, or prohibit the running at large of any and all domestic animals within the city limits, or any part or parts thereof, and to regulate the keeping of such animals within any part of the city; to establish, maintain and regulate a common pound for estrays, and to appoint a poundkeeper, who shall be paid out of the fines and fees imposed on, and collected from, the owners of any impounded stock. A city may not require a business to be licensed based solely upon registration under or compliance with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement;

(10) To improve the rivers and streams flowing through such town or adjoining the same; to widen, straighten and deepen the channels thereof, and to remove obstructions therefrom; to prevent the pollution of streams or water running through such town, and for this purpose shall have jurisdiction for two miles in either direction; to improve the waterfront of the town, and to construct and maintain embankments and other works to protect such town from overflow;

(11) To erect and maintain buildings for municipal purposes;

(12) To grant franchises or permits to use and occupy the surface, the overhead and the underground of streets, alleys and other public ways, under such terms and conditions as it shall deem fit, for any and all purposes, including but not being limited to the construction, maintenance and operation of railroads, street railways,

transportation systems, water, gas and steam systems, telephone and telegraph systems, electric lines, signal systems, surface, aerial and underground tramways;

(13) To punish the keepers and inmates and lessors of houses of ill fame, and keepers and lessors of gambling houses and rooms and other places where gambling is carried on or permitted, gamblers and keepers of gambling tables;

(14) To impose fines, penalties and forfeitures for any and all violations of ordinances, and for any breach or violation of any ordinance, to fix the penalty by fine or imprisonment, or both; but no such fine shall exceed five thousand dollars, nor the term of imprisonment exceed one year, except that the punishment for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment provided in state law for the same crime; or to provide that violations of ordinances constitute a civil violation subject to a monetary penalty, but no act which is a state crime may be made a civil violation;

(15) To operate ambulance service which may serve the town and surrounding rural areas and, in the discretion of the council, to make a charge for such service;

(16) To make all such ordinances, bylaws, rules, regulations and resolutions not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington, as may be deemed expedient to maintain the peace, good government and welfare of the town and its trade, commerce and manufacturers, and to do and perform any and all other acts and things necessary or proper to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

[2008 c 129 s 3; 1993 c 83 s 7; 1986 c 278 s 6; 1984 c 258 s 805; 1977 ex.s. c 316 s 25; 1965 ex.s. c 116 s 15; 1965 c 127 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.370. Prior: 1955 c 378 s 4; 1949 c 151 s 1; 1945 c 214 s 1; 1941 c 74 s 1; 1927 c 207 s 1; 1925 ex.s. c 159 s 1; 1895 c 32 s 1; 1890 p 201 s 154; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9175.]

**Effective date—1993 c 83:** See note following RCW 35.21.163.

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 316:** See note following RCW 70.48.020.

**Validating—1925 ex.s. c 159:** "All franchises, permits and rights-of-way heretofore granted by any municipality of the fourth class to any person, firm or corporation, to construct, maintain or operate surface, underground and aerial tramways and other means of conveyance over, above, across, upon and along its streets, highways and alleys are hereby validated, ratified and confirmed." [1925 ex.s. c 159 s 2.]

**RCW 35.27.372 City and town license fees and taxes on financial institutions.** See chapter 82.14A RCW.

**RCW 35.27.373 City license fees or taxes on certain business activities to be at a single uniform rate.** See RCW 35.21.710.

**RCW 35.27.375 Additional powers—Parking meter revenue for revenue bonds.** See RCW 35.23.454.

**RCW 35.27.376 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** See chapter 80.58 RCW.

**RCW 35.27.377 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts.** See RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.

**RCW 35.27.380 Additional powers—Eminent domain.** Whenever it becomes necessary for a town to take or damage private property for the purpose of establishing, laying out, extending, and widening streets and other public highways and places within the town, or for the purpose of rights-of-way for drains, sewers, and aqueducts, and for the purpose of widening, straightening, or diverting the channels of streams and the improvement of waterfronts, and the council cannot agree with the owner thereof as to the price to be paid, the council may direct proceedings to be taken under the general laws of the state to procure the same. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.380. Prior: 1890 p 207 s 162; RRS s 9182.]

*Eminent domain: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.27.385 Additional powers—Construction and operation of boat harbors, marinas, docks, etc.** See RCW 35.23.455.

**RCW 35.27.390 Employees' group insurance.** See RCW 35.23.460.

**RCW 35.27.400 Fire limits—Parks.** Towns are hereby given the power to establish fire limits with proper regulations; to acquire by purchase or otherwise, lands for public parks within or without the limits of the town, and to improve the same. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.400. Prior: 1961 c 58 s 1; 1899 c 103 s 1; RRS s 9176.]

**RCW 35.27.410 Nuisances.** Every act or thing done or being within the limits of a town, which is declared by law or by ordinance to be a nuisance shall be a nuisance and shall be so considered in all actions and proceedings. All remedies given by law for the prevention and abatement of nuisances shall apply thereto. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.410. Prior: 1890 p 205 s 160; RRS s 9181.]

*Nuisances: Chapter 9.66 RCW.*

**RCW 35.27.500 Taxation—Street poll tax.** A town may impose upon and collect from every inhabitant of the town over eighteen years of age an annual street poll tax not exceeding two dollars and no other

road poll tax shall be collected within the limits of the town. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 52; 1971 ex.s. c 292 s 62; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.500. Prior: 1905 c 75 s 1, part; RRS s 9210, part.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

**RCW 35.27.510 Utilities—Transfer of part of net earnings to current expense fund.** When any special fund of a public utility department of a town has retired all bond and warrant indebtedness and is on a cash basis, if a reserve or depreciation fund has been created in an amount satisfactory to the state auditor and if the fixing of the rates of the utility is governed by contract with the supplier of water, electrical energy, or other commodity sold by the town to its inhabitants, and the rates are at the lowest possible figure, the town council may set aside such portion of the net earnings of the utility as it may deem advisable and transfer it to the town's current expense fund: PROVIDED, That no amount in excess of fifty percent of the net earnings shall be so set aside and transferred except with the unanimous approval of the council and mayor. [1995 c 301 s 38; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.510. Prior: 1939 c 96 s 1; 1929 c 98 s 1; RRS s 9185-1.]

**RCW 35.27.515 Criminal code repeals by town operating municipal court—Agreement covering costs of handling resulting criminal cases—Arbitration.** A town operating a municipal court may not repeal in its entirety that portion of its municipal code defining crimes or repeal a provision of its municipal code which defines a crime equivalent to an offense listed in RCW 46.63.020 unless the municipality has reached an agreement with the appropriate county under chapter 39.34 RCW under which the county is to be paid a reasonable amount for costs associated with prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing in criminal cases filed in district court as a result of the repeal. The agreement shall include provisions for periodic review and renewal of the terms of the agreement. If the municipality and the county are unable to agree on the terms for renewal of the agreement, they shall be deemed to have entered into an agreement to submit the issue to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. Pending conclusion of the arbitration proceeding, the terms of the agreement shall remain in effect. The municipality and the county have the same rights and are subject to the same duties as other parties who have agreed to submit to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. [2005 c 433 s 40; 1984 c 258 s 207.]

**Application—Captions not law—Savings—Effective date—2005 c 433:** See RCW 7.04A.290 through 7.04A.310 and 7.04A.900.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**RCW 35.27.550 Off-street parking space and facilities—Authorized—Declared public use.** Towns are authorized to provide off-

street parking space and facilities for motor vehicles, and the use of real property for such purpose is declared to be a public use. [1994 c 81 s 54; 1965 c 7 s 35.27.550. Prior: 1961 c 33 s 1.]

*Off-street parking facilities, cities of the first, second, and third classes: Chapter 35.86 RCW.*

**RCW 35.27.560 Off-street parking space and facilities—**

**Financing.** In order to provide for off-street parking space and/or facilities, such towns are authorized, in addition to their powers for financing public improvements, to finance their acquisition through the issuance and sale of revenue bonds and general obligation bonds. Any bonds issued by such towns pursuant to this section shall be issued in the manner and within the limitations prescribed by the Constitution and the laws of this state. In addition local improvement districts may be created and their financing procedures used for this purpose in accordance with the provisions of Title 35 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. Such towns may finance from their general budget, costs of land acquisition, planning, engineering, location, design and construction to the off-street parking. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.560. Prior: 1961 c 33 s 2.]

**RCW 35.27.570 Off-street parking space and facilities—**

**Acquisition and disposition of real property.** Such towns are authorized to obtain by lease, purchase, donation and/or gift, or by eminent domain in the manner provided by law for the exercise of this power by cities, such real property for off-street parking as the legislative bodies thereof determine to be necessary by ordinance. Such property may be sold, transferred, exchanged, leased, or otherwise disposed of by the town when its legislative body has determined by ordinance such property is no longer necessary for off-street parking purposes. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.570. Prior: 1961 c 33 s 3.]

*Eminent domain: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.27.580 Off-street parking space and facilities—Operation**

**—Lease.** Such towns are authorized to establish the methods of operation of off-street parking space and/or facilities by ordinance, which may include leasing or municipal operation. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.580. Prior: 1961 c 33 s 4.]

**RCW 35.27.590 Off-street parking space and facilities—Hearing**

**prior to establishment.** Before the establishment of any off-street parking space and/or facilities, the town shall hold a public hearing thereon, prior to the adoption of any ordinance relating to the leasing or acquisition of property, and for the financing thereof for this purpose. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.590. Prior: 1961 c 33 s 5.]

**RCW 35.27.600 Off-street parking space and facilities—**

**Construction.** Insofar as the provisions of RCW 35.27.550 through



35.27.600 are inconsistent with the provisions of any other law, the provisions of RCW 35.27.550 through 35.27.600 shall be controlling. [1965 c 7 s 35.27.600. Prior: 1961 c 33 s 7.]

**RCW 35.27.610 Purchase of electric power and energy from joint operating agency.** A town may contract to purchase from a joint operating agency electric power and energy required for its present or future requirements. For projects the output of which is limited to qualified alternative energy resources as defined by RCW 19.29A.090(3), the contract may include the purchase of capability of the projects to produce electricity in addition to the actual output of the projects. The contract may provide that the town must make the payments required by the contract whether or not a project is completed, operable, or operating and notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or curtailment of the output of a project or the power and energy contracted for. The contract may also provide that payments under the contract are not subject to reduction, whether by offset or otherwise, and shall not be conditioned upon the performance or nonperformance of the joint operating agency or a city, town, or public utility district under the contract or other instrument. [2003 c 138 s 6.]

**RCW 35.27.620 Telecommunications services and facilities authorized—Requirements.** (1) A town may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for the purpose of furnishing the town and its inhabitants with telecommunications services. The town has full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of the services.

(2) (a) Before providing telecommunications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a town must examine and report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the town:

(i) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(ii) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iii) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iv) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the town;

(v) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(vi) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(vii) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(b) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on its website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) "Unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed. [2021 c 294 s 5.]

**Short title—2021 c 294:** See note following RCW 54.16.330.

**Chapter 35.30 RCW**  
**UNCLASSIFIED CITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.30.010 Additional powers.
- 35.30.011 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.
- 35.30.014 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts.
- 35.30.018 Publication of ordinances or summary—Public notice of hearings and meeting agendas.
- 35.30.020 Sewer systems—Sewer fund.
- 35.30.030 Assessment, levy and collection of taxes.
- 35.30.040 Limitation of indebtedness.
- 35.30.050 Additional indebtedness with popular vote.
- 35.30.060 Additional indebtedness for municipal utilities.
- 35.30.070 Adoption of powers granted to code cities—Resolution required.
- 35.30.080 Alternative election procedures—Resolution required.
- 35.30.100 Criminal code repeal by city operating municipal court—Agreement covering costs of handling resulting criminal cases—Arbitration.

**RCW 35.30.010 Additional powers.** The council, or other legislative body, of all cities within the state of Washington which were created by special charter prior to the adoption of the state Constitution, and which have not since reincorporated under any general statute, shall have, in addition to the powers specially granted by the charter of such cities, the following powers:

- (1) To construct, establish and maintain drains and sewers.
- (2) To impose and collect an annual license not exceeding two dollars on every dog owned or harbored within the limits of the city.
- (3) To levy and collect annually a property tax on all property within such city.
- (4) To license all shows, exhibitions and lawful games carried on therein; and to fix the rates of license tax upon the same, and to provide for the collection of the same by suit or otherwise.
- (5) To permit, under such restrictions as they may deem proper, the construction and maintenance of telephone, telegraph and electric light lines therein.
- (6) To impose fines, penalties and forfeitures for any and all violations of ordinances; and for any breach or violation of any ordinance, to fix the penalty by fine or imprisonment or both, but no such fine shall exceed five thousand dollars nor the term of imprisonment exceed one year.
- (7) To cause all persons imprisoned for violation of any ordinance to labor on the streets or other public property or works within the city.
- (8) To make all such ordinances, bylaws and regulations, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington, as may be deemed expedient to maintain the peace, good government and welfare of the city, and to do and perform any and all other acts and things necessary and proper to carry out the purposes

of the municipal corporation. [1984 c 258 s 806; 1965 c 7 s 35.30.010. Prior: 1899 c 69 s 1; RRS s 8944.]

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**RCW 35.30.011 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** See chapter 80.58 RCW.

**RCW 35.30.014 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts.** See RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.

**RCW 35.30.018 Publication of ordinances or summary—Public notice of hearings and meeting agendas.** Promptly after adoption, the text of each ordinance or a summary of the content of each ordinance shall be published at least once in the official newspaper of the city.

For purposes of this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly describes the main points of the ordinance. Publication of the title of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall constitute publication of a summary of that ordinance. When the city publishes a summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.

An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the text or a summary of the content of an ordinance shall not render the ordinance invalid.

In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or a summary of the content of each adopted ordinance, every city shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas, or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent of this requirement. [1994 c 273 s 13; 1988 c 168 s 6; 1985 c 469 s 101.]

**RCW 35.30.020 Sewer systems—Sewer fund.** The city council of all unclassified cities in this state are authorized to construct a sewer or system of sewers and to keep the same in repair; the cost of such sewer or sewers shall be paid from a special fund to be known as the "sewer fund" to be provided by the city council, which fund shall be created by a tax on all the property within the limits of such city: PROVIDED, That such tax shall not exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of all real and personal property within such city for any one year. Whenever it shall become necessary for the city to take or damage private property for the purpose of making or repairing sewers, and the city council cannot agree with the owner as to the price to be paid, the city council may direct proceedings to be taken by law for the condemnation of such

property for such purpose. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 18; 1965 c 7 s 35.30.020. Prior: 1899 c 69 s 2; RRS s 8945.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:**  
See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.30.030 Assessment, levy and collection of taxes.** The city council shall have power to provide by ordinance a complete system for the assessment, levy, and collection of all city taxes. All taxes assessed together with any percentage imposed for delinquency and the cost of collection, shall constitute liens on the property assessed from and after the first day of November each year; which liens may be enforced by a summary sale of such property, and the execution and delivery of all necessary certificates and deeds therefor, under such regulations as may be prescribed by ordinance or by action in any court of competent jurisdiction to foreclose such liens: PROVIDED, That any property sold for taxes shall be subject to redemption within the time and within the manner provided or that may hereafter be provided by law for the redemption of property sold for state and county taxes. [1965 c 7 s 35.30.030. Prior: 1899 c 69 s 3; RRS s 8946.]

**RCW 35.30.040 Limitation of indebtedness.** Whenever it is deemed advisable to do so by the city council thereof, any city having a corporate existence in this state at the time of the adoption of the Constitution thereof is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow money and to contract indebtedness in any other manner for general municipal purposes, not exceeding in amount, together with the existing general indebtedness of the city, the amount of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters. [1965 c 7 s 35.30.040. Prior: 1890 p 225 s 1; RRS s 9532.]

**Construction—1890 p 227:** "That when this act comes in conflict with any provision, limitation or restriction in any local or special law or charter existing at the time that the Constitution of the State of Washington was adopted, this statute shall govern and control." [1890 p 227 s 6.] This applies to RCW 35.30.040 through 35.30.060.

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.30.050 Additional indebtedness with popular vote.** Any such city may borrow money or contract indebtedness for strictly municipal purposes over the amount specified in RCW 35.30.040, but not exceeding in amount, together with existing general indebtedness, the amount of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred with the assent of the voters, through the council of the city, whenever three-fifths of the voters assent thereto, at an election to be held for that purpose, at such time, upon such reasonable notice, and in the manner presented by the

city council, not inconsistent with the general election laws. [1965 c 7 s 35.30.050. Prior: 1890 p 225 s 2; RRS s 9533.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.30.060 Additional indebtedness for municipal utilities.**

In addition to the powers granted in RCW 35.30.040 and 35.30.050, any such city, through its council may borrow money or contract indebtedness not exceeding in amount the amount of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, for the purpose of supplying the city with water, artificial light, or sewers, when the plants used therefor are owned and controlled by the city, whenever three-fifths of the voters assent thereto at an election to be held for that purpose, according to the provisions of RCW 35.30.050. [1965 c 7 s 35.30.060. Prior: 1890 p 225 s 3; RRS s 9534.]

**RCW 35.30.070 Adoption of powers granted to code cities—**

**Resolution required.** If the legislative body of an unclassified city determines that it would serve the best interests and general welfare of such municipality, the body may by resolution adopt any powers granted to cities classified under Title 35A RCW including, but not limited to, the power to define the functions, powers, and duties of its officers and employees. [2003 c 42 s 1.]

**RCW 35.30.080 Alternative election procedures—Resolution**

**required.** (1) When a majority of the legislative body of an unclassified city determines that it would serve the best interests and general welfare of such municipality to change the election procedures of such city to the procedures specified in this section, such legislative body may, by resolution, declare its intention to adopt such procedures for the city. Such resolution must be adopted at least one hundred eighty days before the general municipal election at which the new election procedures are implemented. Within ten days after the passage of the resolution, the legislative body shall cause it to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the city.

(2) All general municipal elections in an unclassified city adopting a resolution under subsection (1) of this section shall be held biennially in the odd-numbered years as provided in RCW 29A.04.330 and shall be held in accordance with the general election laws of the state.

The term of the treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium in which the term of the mayor commences. Candidates for the city council shall run for specific council positions. The staggering of terms of city officers shall be established at the first election, where the simple majority of the persons elected as councilmembers receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office and the remainder of the persons elected as councilmembers and the treasurer shall be elected to two-year terms of office. Thereafter, all elected city officers shall be elected for four-year terms and until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. [2015 c 53 s 42; 2003 c 42 s 2.]

**RCW 35.30.100 Criminal code repeal by city operating municipal court—Agreement covering costs of handling resulting criminal cases—Arbitration.** A city operating a municipal court may not repeal in its entirety that portion of its municipal code defining crimes unless the municipality has reached an agreement with the appropriate county under chapter 39.34 RCW under which the county is to be paid a reasonable amount for costs associated with prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing in criminal cases filed in district court as a result of the repeal. The agreement shall include provisions for periodic review and renewal of the terms of the agreement. If the municipality and the county are unable to agree on the terms for renewal of the agreement, they shall be deemed to have entered into an agreement to submit the issue to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. Pending conclusion of the arbitration proceeding, the terms of the agreement shall remain in effect. The municipality and the county have the same rights and are subject to the same duties as other parties who have agreed to submit to arbitration under chapter 7.04A RCW. [2005 c 433 s 41; 1984 c 258 s 208.]

**Application—Captions not law—Savings—Effective date—2005 c 433:** See RCW 7.04A.290 through 7.04A.310 and 7.04A.900.

**Court Improvement Act of 1984—Effective dates—Severability—Short title—1984 c 258:** See notes following RCW 3.30.010.

**Chapter 35.31 RCW  
ACCIDENT CLAIMS AND FUNDS**

**Sections**

- 35.31.020 Charter cities—Manner of filing.
- 35.31.040 Noncharter cities and towns—Manner of filing—Report.
- 35.31.050 Accident fund—Warrants for judgments.
- 35.31.060 Tax levy for fund.
- 35.31.070 Surplus to current expense fund.

*Actions against*

*public corporations: RCW 4.08.120.  
state: Chapter 4.92 RCW.*

*Claims, reports, etc., filing: RCW 1.12.070.*

*Tortious conduct of political subdivision, municipal corporations and quasi municipal corporations, liability for damages: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*

**RCW 35.31.020 Charter cities—Manner of filing.** The provisions of chapter 35.31 RCW shall be applied notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in any charter of any city permitted by law to have a charter; however, charter provisions not inconsistent herewith shall continue to apply. All claims for damages against a charter city shall be filed in the manner set forth in chapter 4.96 RCW. [1993 c 449 s 7; 1967 c 164 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.31.020. Prior: 1957 c 224 s 3; 1917 c 96 s 1; 1915 c 148 s 1; 1909 c 83 s 2; RRS s 9479.]

**Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

**Purpose—Severability—1967 c 164:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

*Tortious conduct of political subdivisions and municipal corporations, liability for damages: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*

**RCW 35.31.040 Noncharter cities and towns—Manner of filing—Report.** All claims for damages against noncharter cities and towns shall be filed in the manner set forth in chapter 4.96 RCW.

No ordinance or resolution shall be passed allowing such claim or any part thereof, or appropriating any money or other property to pay or satisfy the same or any part thereof, until the claim has first been referred to the proper department or committee, nor until such department or committee has made its report to the council thereon pursuant to such reference. [1993 c 449 s 8; 1989 c 74 s 1; 1967 c 164 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.31.040. Prior: 1957 c 224 s 4; 1915 c 148 s 2; 1909 c 167 s 1; RRS s 9481.]

**Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.



**Purpose—Severability—1967 c 164:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

*Actions against political subdivisions, municipal corporations, and quasi municipal corporations: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*

*Limitation of actions: Chapter 4.16 RCW.*

**RCW 35.31.050 Accident fund—Warrants for judgments.** Every city of the second class and town may create an accident fund upon which the clerk shall draw warrants for the full amount of any judgment including interest and costs against the city or town on account of personal injuries suffered by any person as shown by a transcript of the judgment duly certified to the clerk. The warrants shall be issued in denominations not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars; they shall draw interest at the rate of six percent per annum, shall be numbered consecutively and be paid in the order of their issue. [1994 c 81 s 55; 1965 c 7 s 35.31.050. Prior: (i) 1909 c 128 s 1; RRS s 9482. (ii) 1909 c 128 s 2; RRS s 9483. (iii) 1909 c 128 s 5; RRS s 9486.]

**RCW 35.31.060 Tax levy for fund.** The city or town council after the drawing of warrants against the accident fund shall estimate the amount necessary to pay the warrants with accrued interest thereon, and shall levy a tax sufficient to pay that amount not exceeding seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. If a single levy of seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value is not sufficient, an annual levy of seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value shall be made until the warrants and interest are fully paid. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 19; 1965 c 7 s 35.31.060. Prior: 1909 c 128 s 3; RRS s 9484.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.31.070 Surplus to current expense fund.** If there is no judgment outstanding against the city or town for personal injuries the money remaining in the accident fund after the payment of the warrants drawn on that fund and interest in full shall be transferred to the current expense fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.31.070. Prior: 1909 c 128 s 4; RRS s 9485.]

**Chapter 35.32A RCW**  
**BUDGETS IN CITIES OVER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND**

**Sections**

- 35.32A.010 Budget to be enacted—Exempted functions or programs.  
35.32A.020 Budget director.  
35.32A.030 Estimates of revenues and expenditures—Preparation of proposed budget—Submission to city council—Copies—Publication.  
35.32A.040 Consideration by city council—Hearings—Revision by council.  
35.32A.050 Adoption of budget—Expenditure allowances constitute appropriations—Reappropriations—Transfers of allowances.  
35.32A.060 Emergency fund.  
35.32A.070 Utilities—Exemption from budgetary control.  
35.32A.080 Unexpended appropriations—Annual—Operating and maintenance—Capital and betterment outlays.  
35.32A.090 Budget mandatory—Other expenditures void—Liability of public officials—Penalty.  
35.32A.900 Short title.

*Budgets*

*expenditures for streets: RCW 35.76.060.*  
*leases with or without option to purchase, budget to provide for payment of rentals: RCW 35.42.220.*

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.32A.010 Budget to be enacted—Exempted functions or programs.** In each city of over three hundred thousand population, there shall be enacted annually by the legislative authority a budget covering all functions or programs of such city except in those cities in which an ordinance has been adopted under RCW 35.34.040 providing for a biennial budget, in which case this chapter does not apply. In addition, this chapter shall not apply to any municipal transportation system managed by a separate commission, the making of expenditures from proceeds of general obligation and revenue bond sales, or the expenditure of moneys derived from grants, gifts, bequests or devises for specified purposes. [1985 c 175 s 3; 1967 c 7 s 3.]

**RCW 35.32A.020 Budget director.** There shall be a budget director, appointed by the mayor without regard to civil service rules and regulations and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the city council, who shall be in charge of the city budget office and, under the direction of the mayor, shall be responsible for preparing the budget and supervising its execution. The budget director may be removed by the mayor upon filing with the city council a statement of his or her reasons therefor. [2009 c 549 s 2065; 1967 c 7 s 4.]

**RCW 35.32A.030 Estimates of revenues and expenditures—Preparation of proposed budget—Submission to city council—Copies—Publication.** The heads of all departments, divisions or agencies of the city government, including the library department, and departments headed by commissions or elected officials shall submit to the mayor estimates of revenues and necessary expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year in such detail, in such form and at such time as the mayor shall prescribe.

The budget director shall assemble all estimates of revenues; necessary departmental expenditures; interest and redemption requirements for any city debt; and other pertinent budgetary information as may be required by uniform regulations of the state auditor; and, under the direction of the mayor, prepare a proposed budget for presentation to the city council.

The revenue estimates shall be based primarily on the collection experience of the first six months of the current fiscal year and the last six months of the preceding fiscal year and shall not include revenue from any source in excess of the amount so collected unless it shall be reasonably anticipated that such excess amounts will in fact be realized. The estimated revenues shall include sources previously established by law and unencumbered fund balances estimated to be available at the close of the current fiscal year. The estimated expenditures in the proposed budget shall, in no event, exceed such estimated revenues: PROVIDED, That the mayor may recommend expenditures exceeding the estimated revenues when accompanied by proposed legislation to raise at least an equivalent amount of additional revenue.

The mayor shall submit the proposed budget to the city council not later than ninety days prior to the beginning of the ensuing fiscal year.

The budget director shall cause sufficient copies of the proposed budget to be prepared and made available to all interested persons and shall cause a summary of the proposed budget to be published at least once in the city official newspaper. [1985 c 175 s 62; 1967 c 7 s 5.]

**RCW 35.32A.040 Consideration by city council—Hearings—Revision by council.** The city council shall forthwith consider the proposed budget submitted by the mayor and shall cause such public hearings to be scheduled on two or more days to allow all interested persons to be heard. Such hearings shall be announced by public notice published in the city official newspaper as well as provided to general news media.

The city council may insert new expenditure allowances, increase or decrease expenditure allowances recommended by the mayor, or revise estimates of revenues subject to the same restrictions as are herein imposed on the mayor; but may not adopt a budget in which the total expenditure allowances exceed the total estimated revenues as defined in RCW 35.32A.030 for the ensuing fiscal year. [1985 c 175 s 63; 1967 c 7 s 6.]

**RCW 35.32A.050 Adoption of budget—Expenditure allowances constitute appropriations—Reappropriations—Transfers of allowances.** Not later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the ensuing fiscal year the city council shall, by ordinance adopt the budget submitted by the mayor as modified by the city council.

The expenditure allowances as set forth in the enacted budget shall constitute the budget appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year. The city council by ordinance may, during the fiscal year covered by the enacted budget, abrogate or decrease any unexpended allowance contained within the budget and reappropriate such unexpended allowances for other functions or programs. Transfers between allowances in the budget of any department, division or agency may be made upon approval by the budget director pursuant to such regulations as may be prescribed by ordinance. [1967 c 7 s 7.]

**RCW 35.32A.060 Emergency fund.** Every city having a population of over three hundred thousand may maintain an emergency fund, which fund balance shall not exceed thirty-seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. Such fund shall be maintained by an annual budget allowance. When the necessity therefor arises transfers may be made to the emergency fund from any tax-supported fund except bond interest and redemption funds.

The city council by an ordinance approved by two-thirds of all of its members may authorize the expenditure of sufficient money from the emergency fund, or other designated funds, to meet the expenses or obligations:

- (1) Caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, epidemic, riot, insurrection, act of God, act of the public enemy or any other such happening that could not have been anticipated; or
- (2) For the immediate preservation of order or public health or for the restoration to a condition of usefulness of public property the usefulness of which has been destroyed by accident; or
- (3) In settlement of approved claims for personal injuries or property damages, exclusive of claims arising from the operation of a public utility owned by the city; or
- (4) To meet mandatory expenditures required by laws enacted since the last budget was adopted.

The city council by an ordinance approved by three-fourths of all its members may appropriate from the emergency fund, or other designated funds, an amount sufficient to meet the actual necessary expenditures of the city for which insufficient or no appropriations have been made due to causes which could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of the making of the budget.

An ordinance authorizing an emergency expenditure shall become effective immediately upon being approved by the mayor or upon being passed over his or her veto as provided by the city charter. [2009 c 549 s 2066; 1985 c 175 s 64; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 20; 1967 c 7 s 8.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:**  
See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.32A.070 Utilities—Exemption from budgetary control.**  
Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the public utilities owned by a city having a population of over three hundred thousand supported wholly by revenues derived from sources other than taxation, may make expenditures for utility purposes not contemplated in the annual budget, as the legislative authority by ordinance shall allow. [1967 c 7 s 9.]

**RCW 35.32A.080 Unexpended appropriations—Annual—Operating and maintenance—Capital and betterment outlays.** The whole or any part of any appropriation provided in the budget for operating and maintenance expenses of any department or activity remaining unexpended or unencumbered at the close of the fiscal year shall automatically lapse, except any such appropriation as the city council shall continue by ordinance. The whole or any part of any appropriation provided in the budget for capital or betterment outlays of any department or activity remaining unexpended or unencumbered at the close of the fiscal year shall remain in full force and effect and shall be held available for the following year, except any such appropriation as the city council by ordinance may have abandoned. [1967 c 7 s 10.]

**RCW 35.32A.090 Budget mandatory—Other expenditures void—Liability of public officials—Penalty.** (1) There shall be no orders, authorizations, allowances, contracts or payments made or attempted to be made in excess of the expenditure allowances authorized in the final budget as adopted or modified as provided in this chapter, and any such attempted excess expenditure shall be void and shall never be the foundation of a claim against the city.

(2) Any public official authorizing, auditing, allowing, or paying any claims or demands against the city in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be jointly and severally liable to the city in person and upon their official bonds to the extent of any payments upon such claims or demands.

(3) Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter, in addition to any other liability or penalty provided therefor, is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 s 198; 1967 c 7 s 11.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 35.32A.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the budget act for cities over three hundred thousand population. [1967 c 7 s 2.]

**Chapter 35.33 RCW**  
**BUDGETS IN SECOND AND THIRD-CLASS CITIES, TOWNS, AND FIRST-CLASS**  
**CITIES UNDER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND**

**Sections**

- 35.33.011 Definitions.
- 35.33.020 Applicability of chapter.
- 35.33.031 Budget estimates.
- 35.33.041 Budget estimates—Classification and segregation.
- 35.33.051 Budget—Preliminary.
- 35.33.055 Budget—Preliminary—Filing—Copies.
- 35.33.057 Budget message—Hearings.
- 35.33.061 Budget—Notice of hearing on final.
- 35.33.071 Budget—Final—Hearing.
- 35.33.075 Budget—Final—Adoption—Appropriations.
- 35.33.081 Emergency expenditures—Nondebtable emergencies.
- 35.33.091 Emergency expenditures—Other emergencies—Hearing.
- 35.33.101 Emergency warrants.
- 35.33.106 Registered warrants—Payment.
- 35.33.107 Adjustment of wages, hours, and conditions of employment.
- 35.33.111 Forms—Accounting—Supervision by state.
- 35.33.121 Funds—Limitations on expenditures—Transfers.
- 35.33.123 Administration, oversight, or supervision of utility—  
Reimbursement from utility budget authorized.
- 35.33.125 Liabilities incurred in excess of budget.
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Expenditure program—Federal tax law.
- 35.33.135 Revenue estimates—Amount to be raised by ad valorem  
taxes.
- 35.33.141 Report of expenditures and liabilities against budget  
appropriations.
- 35.33.145 Contingency fund—Creation—Purpose—Support—Lapse.
- 35.33.147 Contingency fund—Withdrawals.
- 35.33.151 Unexpended appropriations.
- 35.33.170 Violations and penalties.

*Budgets*

*expenditures for streets: RCW 35.76.060.*  
*leases with or without option to purchase, budget to provide  
for payment of rentals: RCW 35.42.220.*

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 s 6  
(Amendment 27), Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), chapter 39.36 RCW,  
RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.33.011 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following words as used in this chapter shall have the meaning herein prescribed:

(1) "Chief administrative officer" as used in this chapter includes the mayor of cities or towns having a mayor-council form of government, the commissioners in cities or towns having a commission form of government, the city manager, or any other city or town official designated by the charter or ordinances of such city or town under the plan of government governing the same, or the budget or

finance officer designated by the mayor, manager or commissioners, to perform the functions, or portions thereof, contemplated by this chapter.

(2) "Clerk" as used in this chapter includes the officer performing the functions of a finance or budget director, comptroller, auditor, or by whatever title he or she may be known in any city or town.

(3) "Department" as used in this chapter includes each office, division, service, system or institution of the city or town for which no other statutory or charter provision is made for budgeting and accounting procedures or controls.

(4) "Fiscal year" as used in this chapter means that fiscal period set by the city or town pursuant to authority given under RCW 1.16.030.

(5) "Fund", as used in this chapter and "funds" where clearly used to indicate the plural of "fund", shall mean the budgeting or accounting entity authorized to provide a sum of money for specified activities or purposes.

(6) "Funds" as used in this chapter where not used to indicate the plural of "fund" shall mean money in hand or available for expenditure or payment of a debt or obligation.

(7) "Legislative body" as used in this chapter includes council, commission or any other group of officials serving as the legislative body of a city or town.

(8) Except as otherwise defined herein, municipal accounting terms used in this chapter shall have the meaning prescribed by the state auditor pursuant to RCW 43.09.200. [2009 c 549 s 2067; 1981 c 40 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 1.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**RCW 35.33.020 Applicability of chapter.** The provisions of this chapter apply to all cities of the first class that have a population of less than three hundred thousand, to all cities of the second class, and to all towns, except those cities and towns that have adopted an ordinance under RCW 35.34.040 providing for a biennial budget. [1997 c 361 s 14; 1985 c 175 s 4; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.33.020. Prior: 1923 c 158 s 8; RRS s 9000-8.]

**RCW 35.33.031 Budget estimates.** On or before the second Monday of the fourth month prior to the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal year, or at such other time as the city or town may provide by ordinance or charter, the clerk shall notify in writing the head of each department of a city or town to file with the clerk within fourteen days of the receipt of such notification, detailed estimates of the probable revenue from sources other than ad valorem taxation and of all expenditures required by his or her department for the ensuing fiscal year. The notice shall be accompanied by the proper forms provided by the clerk, prepared in accordance with the requirements and classification established by the state auditor. The clerk shall prepare the estimates for interest and debt redemption requirements and all other estimates, the preparation of which falls properly within the duties of his or her office. The chief administrative officers of the city or town shall submit to the clerk

detailed estimates of all expenditures proposed to be financed from the proceeds of bonds or warrants not yet authorized, together with a statement of the proposed method of financing them. In the absence or disability of the official or person regularly in charge of a department, the duties herein required shall devolve upon the person next in charge of such department. [1995 c 301 s 39; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 3.]

**RCW 35.33.041 Budget estimates—Classification and segregation.**

All estimates of receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year shall be fully detailed in the annual budget and shall be classified and segregated according to a standard classification of accounts to be adopted and prescribed by the state auditor after consultation with the Washington finance officers association, the association of Washington cities and the association of Washington city managers. [1995 c 301 s 40; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 4.]

**RCW 35.33.051 Budget—Preliminary.** On or before the first business day in the third month prior to the beginning of the fiscal year of a city or town or at such other time as the city or town may provide by ordinance or charter, the clerk or other person designated by the charter, by ordinances, or by the chief administrative officer of the city or town shall submit to the chief administrative officer a proposed preliminary budget which shall set forth the complete financial program of the city or town for the ensuing fiscal year, showing the expenditure program requested by each department and the sources of revenue by which each such program is proposed to be financed.

The revenue section shall set forth in comparative and tabular form for each fund the actual receipts for the last completed fiscal year, the estimated receipts for the current fiscal year and the estimated receipts for the ensuing fiscal year, which shall include the amount to be raised from ad valorem taxes and unencumbered fund balances estimated to be available at the close of the current fiscal year.

The expenditure section shall set forth in comparative and tabular form for each fund and every department operating within each fund the actual expenditures for the last completed fiscal year, the appropriations for the current fiscal year and the estimated expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year. The salary or salary range for each office, position or job classification shall be set forth separately together with the title or position designation thereof: PROVIDED, That salaries may be set out in total amounts under each department if a detailed schedule of such salaries and positions be attached to and made a part of the budget document. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 5.]

**RCW 35.33.055 Budget—Preliminary—Filing—Copies.** The chief administrative officer shall prepare the preliminary budget in detail, making any revisions or additions to the reports of the department heads deemed advisable by such chief administrative officer and at least sixty days before the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal year he or she shall file it with the clerk as the



recommendation of the chief administrative officer for the final budget. The clerk shall provide a sufficient number of copies of such preliminary budget and budget message to meet the reasonable demands of taxpayers therefor and have them available for distribution not later than six weeks before the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal year. [2009 c 549 s 2068; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 6.]

**RCW 35.33.057 Budget message—Hearings.** In every city or town a budget message prepared by or under the direction of the city's or town's chief administrative officer shall be submitted as a part of the preliminary budget to the city's or town's legislative body at least sixty days before the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal year and shall contain the following:

- (1) An explanation of the budget document;
- (2) An outline of the recommended financial policies and programs of the city for the ensuing fiscal year;
- (3) A statement of the relation of the recommended appropriation to such policies and programs;
- (4) A statement of the reason for salient changes from the previous year in appropriation and revenue items;
- (5) An explanation for any recommended major changes in financial policy.

Prior to the final hearing on the budget, the legislative body or a committee thereof, shall schedule hearings on the budget or parts thereof, and may require the presence of department heads to give information regarding estimates and programs. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 7.]

**RCW 35.33.061 Budget—Notice of hearing on final.** Immediately following the filing of the preliminary budget with the clerk, the clerk shall publish a notice once each week for two consecutive weeks stating that the preliminary budget for the ensuing fiscal year has been filed with the clerk; that a copy thereof will be furnished to any taxpayer who will call at the clerk's office therefor and that the legislative body of the city or town will meet on or before the first Monday of the month next preceding the beginning of the ensuing fiscal year for the purpose of fixing the final budget, designating the date, time and place of the legislative budget meeting and that any taxpayer may appear thereat and be heard for or against any part of the budget. The publication of the notice shall be made in the official newspaper of the city or town. [1985 c 469 s 27; 1973 c 67 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 8.]

**RCW 35.33.071 Budget—Final—Hearing.** The council shall meet on the day fixed by RCW 35.33.061 for the purpose of fixing the final budget of the city or town at the time and place designated in the notice thereof. Any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against any part of the budget. The hearing may be continued from day to day but not later than the twenty-fifth day prior to commencement of the city's or town's fiscal year. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 9.]

**RCW 35.33.075 Budget—Final—Adoption—Appropriations.** Following conclusion of the hearing, and prior to the beginning of the fiscal

year, the legislative body shall make such adjustments and changes as it deems necessary or proper and after determining the allowance in each item, department, classification and fund, and shall by ordinance, adopt the budget in its final form and content. Appropriations shall be limited to the total estimated revenues contained therein including the amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes and the unencumbered fund balances estimated to be available at the close of the current fiscal year. Such ordinances may adopt the final budget by reference: PROVIDED, That the ordinance adopting such budget shall set forth in summary form the totals of estimated revenues and appropriations for each separate fund and the aggregate totals for all such funds combined.

A complete copy of the final budget as adopted shall be transmitted to the association of Washington cities. [1995 c 301 s 41; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 10.]

**RCW 35.33.081 Emergency expenditures—Nondebatable emergencies.**

Upon the happening of any emergency caused by violence of nature, casualty, riot, insurrection, war, or other unanticipated occurrence requiring the immediate preservation of order or public health, or for the restoration to a condition of usefulness of any public property which has been damaged or destroyed by accident, or for public relief from calamity, or in settlement of approved claims for personal injuries or property damages, or to meet mandatory expenditures required by laws enacted since the last annual budget was adopted, or to cover expenses incident to preparing for or establishing a new form of government authorized or assumed after adoption of the current budget, including any expenses incident to selection of additional or new officials required thereby, or incident to employee recruitment at any time, the city or town legislative body, upon the adoption of an ordinance, by the vote of one more than the majority of all members of the legislative body, stating the facts constituting the emergency and the estimated amount required to meet it, may make the expenditures therefor without notice or hearing. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 11.]

**RCW 35.33.091 Emergency expenditures—Other emergencies—Hearing.**

If a public emergency which could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of filing the preliminary budget requires the expenditure of money not provided for in the annual budget, and if it is not one of the emergencies specifically enumerated in RCW 35.33.081, the city or town legislative body before allowing any expenditure therefor shall adopt an ordinance stating the facts constituting the emergency and the estimated amount required to meet it and declaring that an emergency exists.

Such ordinance shall not be voted on until five days have elapsed after its introduction, and for passage shall require the vote of one more than the majority of all members of the legislative body of the city or town.

Any taxpayer may appear at the meeting at which the emergency ordinance is to be voted on and be heard for or against the adoption thereof. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 12.]

**RCW 35.33.101 Emergency warrants.** All expenditures for emergency purposes as provided in this chapter shall be paid by warrants from any available money in the fund properly chargeable with such expenditures. If, at any time, there is insufficient money on hand in a fund with which to pay such warrants as presented, the warrants shall be registered, bear interest and be called in the same manner as other registered warrants as prescribed in RCW 35.33.111. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 13.]

*Warrants—Interest rate—Payment: RCW 35.21.320.*

**RCW 35.33.106 Registered warrants—Payment.** In adopting the final budget for any fiscal year, the legislative body shall appropriate from estimated revenue sources available, a sufficient amount to pay the principal and interest on all outstanding registered warrants issued since the adoption of the last preceding budget except those issued and identified as revenue warrants and except those for which an appropriation previously has been made: PROVIDED, That no portion of the revenues which are restricted in use by law may be appropriated for the redemption of warrants issued against a utility or other special purpose fund of a self-supporting nature: PROVIDED FURTHER, That all or any portion of the city's or town's outstanding registered warrants may be funded into bonds in any manner authorized by law. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 14.]

**RCW 35.33.107 Adjustment of wages, hours, and conditions of employment.** Notwithstanding the appropriations for any salary, or salary range of any employee or employees adopted in a final budget, the legislative body of any city or town may, by ordinance, change the wages, hours, and conditions of employment of any or all of its appointive employees if sufficient funds are available for appropriation to such purposes. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 15.]

**RCW 35.33.111 Forms—Accounting—Supervision by state.** The state auditor is empowered to make and install the forms and classifications required by this chapter to define what expenditures are chargeable to each budget class and to establish the accounting and cost systems necessary to secure accurate budget information. [1995 c 301 s 42; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 16.]

**RCW 35.33.121 Funds—Limitations on expenditures—Transfers.** The expenditures as classified and itemized in the final budget shall constitute the city's or town's appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year. Unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, and subject to further limitations imposed by ordinance of the city or town, the expenditure of city or town funds or the incurring of current liabilities on behalf of the city or town shall be limited to the following:

(1) The total amount appropriated for each fund in the budget for the current fiscal year, without regard to the individual items contained therein, except that this limitation shall not apply to wage adjustments authorized by RCW 35.33.107; and

(2) The unexpended appropriation balances of a preceding budget which may be carried forward from prior fiscal years pursuant to RCW 35.33.151; and

(3) Funds received from the sale of bonds or warrants which have been duly authorized according to law; and

(4) Funds received in excess of estimated revenues during the current fiscal year, when authorized by an ordinance amending the original budget; and

(5) Expenditures required for emergencies, as authorized in RCW 35.33.081 and 35.33.091.

Transfers between individual appropriations within any one fund may be made during the current fiscal year by order of the city's or town's chief administrative officer subject to such regulations, if any, as may be imposed by the city or town legislative body. Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 43.09.210 or of any statute to the contrary, transfers, as herein authorized, may be made within the same fund regardless of the various offices, departments or divisions of the city or town which may be affected.

The city or town legislative body, upon a finding that it is to the best interests of the city or town to decrease, revoke or recall all or any portion of the total appropriations provided for any one fund, may, by ordinance, approved by the vote of one more than the majority of all members thereof, stating the facts and findings for doing so, decrease, revoke or recall all or any portion of an unexpended fund balance, and by said ordinance, or a subsequent ordinance adopted by a like majority, the moneys thus released may be reappropriated for another purpose or purposes, without limitation to department, division or fund, unless the use of such moneys is otherwise restricted by law, charter, or ordinance. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 17.]

**RCW 35.33.123 Administration, oversight, or supervision of utility—Reimbursement from utility budget authorized.** Whenever any city or town apportions a percentage of the city manager's, administrator's, or supervisor's time, or the time of other management or general government staff, for administration, oversight, or supervision of a utility operated by the city or town, or to provide services to the utility, the utility budget may identify such services and budget for reimbursement of the city's or town's current expense fund for the value of such services. [1991 c 152 s 1.]

**RCW 35.33.125 Liabilities incurred in excess of budget.** Liabilities incurred by any officer or employee of the city or town in excess of any budget appropriations shall not be a liability of the city or town. The clerk shall issue no warrant and the city or town legislative body or other authorized person shall approve no claim for an expenditure in excess of the total amount appropriated for any individual fund, except upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction or for emergencies as provided in this chapter. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 18.]

**RCW 35.33.131 Funds received from sale of bonds and warrants—Expenditure program—Federal tax law.** Moneys received from the sale

of bonds or warrants must be used for no other purpose than that for which they were issued. If any unexpended fund balance remains from the proceeds realized from the bonds or warrants after the accomplishment of the purpose for which they were issued it must be used for the payment of principal of or interest on such indebtedness consistent with applicable provisions of federal tax law. Where a budget contains an expenditure program to be partially or wholly financed from a bond issue to be authorized thereafter, expenditures of amounts anticipated to be reimbursed from the proceeds of the issuance and sale of such bonds must be made or incurred consistent with any applicable federal tax law requirements. [2011 c 210 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 19.]

**Application to previously issued bonds—2011 c 210:** See note following RCW 39.46.040.

**RCW 35.33.135 Revenue estimates—Amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes.** At a time fixed by the city's or town's ordinance or city charter, not later than the first Monday in October of each year, the chief administrative officer shall provide the city's or town's legislative body with current information on estimates of revenues from all sources as adopted in the budget for the current year, together with estimates submitted by the clerk under RCW 35.33.051. The city's or town's legislative body and the city's or town's administrative officer or his or her designated representative shall consider the city's or town's total anticipated financial requirements for the ensuing fiscal year, and the legislative body shall determine and fix by ordinance the amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes. Upon adoption of the ordinance fixing the amount of ad valorem taxes to be levied, the clerk shall certify the same to the board of county commissioners as required by RCW 84.52.020. [2009 c 549 s 2069; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 20.]

**RCW 35.33.141 Report of expenditures and liabilities against budget appropriations.** At such intervals as may be required by city charter or city or town ordinance, however, being not less than quarterly, the clerk shall submit to the city's or town's legislative body and chief administrative officer a report showing the expenditures and liabilities against each separate budget appropriation incurred during the preceding reporting period and like information for the whole of the current fiscal year to the first day of the current reporting period together with the unexpended balance of each appropriation. The report shall also show the receipts from all sources. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 21.]

**RCW 35.33.145 Contingency fund—Creation—Purpose—Support—Lapse.** Every city or town may create and maintain a contingency fund to provide moneys with which to meet any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of adopting the annual budget, or from which to provide moneys for those emergencies described in RCW 35.33.081 and 35.33.091. Such fund may be supported by a budget appropriation from any tax or other revenue source not restricted in

use by law, or also may be supported by a transfer from other unexpended or decreased funds made available by ordinance as set forth in RCW 35.33.121: PROVIDED, That the total amount accumulated in such fund at any time shall not exceed the equivalent of thirty-seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of property within the city or town at such time. Any moneys in the contingency fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse except upon reappropriation by the council to another fund in the adoption of a subsequent budget. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 21; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 22.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:**  
See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.33.147 Contingency fund—Withdrawals.** No money shall be withdrawn from the contingency fund except by transfer to the appropriate operating fund authorized by a resolution or ordinance of the legislative body of the city or town, adopted by a majority vote of the entire legislative body, clearly stating the facts constituting the reason for the withdrawal or the emergency as the case may be, specifying the fund to which the withdrawn money shall be transferred. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 23.]

**RCW 35.33.151 Unexpended appropriations.** All appropriations in any current operating fund shall lapse at the end of each fiscal year: PROVIDED, That this shall not prevent payments in the following year upon uncompleted programs or improvements in progress or on orders subsequently filled or claims subsequently billed for the purchase of material, equipment and supplies or for personal or contractual services not completed or furnished by the end of the fiscal year, all of which have been properly budgeted and contracted for prior to the close of such fiscal year but furnished or completed in due course thereafter.

All appropriations in a special fund authorized by ordinance or by state law to be used only for the purpose or purposes therein specified, including any cumulative reserve funds lawfully established in specific or general terms for any municipal purpose or purposes, or a contingency fund as authorized by RCW 35.33.145, shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward from year to year until fully expended or the purpose has been accomplished or abandoned, without necessity of reappropriation.

The accounts for budgetary control for each fiscal year shall be kept open for twenty days after the close of such fiscal year for the purpose of paying and recording claims for indebtedness incurred during such fiscal year; any claim presented after the twentieth day following the close of the fiscal year shall be paid from appropriations lawfully provided for the ensuing period, including those made available by provisions of this section, and shall be recorded in the accounts for the ensuing fiscal year. [1969 ex.s. c 95 s 24.]

**RCW 35.33.170 Violations and penalties.** Upon the conviction of any city or town official, department head or other city or town employee of knowingly failing, or refusing, without just cause, to

perform any duty imposed upon such officer or employee by this chapter, or city charter or city or town ordinance, in connection with the giving of notice, the preparing and filing of estimates of revenues or expenditures or other information required for preparing a budget report in the time and manner required, or of knowingly making expenditures in excess of budget appropriations, he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars for each separate violation. [2009 c 549 s 2070; 1969 ex.s. c 95 s 25.]

**Chapter 35.34 RCW**  
**BIENNIAL BUDGETS**

**Sections**

- 35.34.010 Legislative intent.
- 35.34.020 Application of chapter.
- 35.34.030 Definitions.
- 35.34.040 Biennial budget authorized—Limitations.
- 35.34.050 Budget estimates—Submittal.
- 35.34.060 Budget estimates—Classification and segregation.
- 35.34.070 Proposed preliminary budget.
- 35.34.080 Preliminary budget.
- 35.34.090 Budget message—Hearings.
- 35.34.100 Budget—Notice of hearing.
- 35.34.110 Budget—Hearing.
- 35.34.120 Budget—Adoption.
- 35.34.130 Budget—Mid-biennial review and modification.
- 35.34.140 Emergency expenditures—Nondebatable emergencies.
- 35.34.150 Emergency expenditures—Other emergencies—Hearing.
- 35.34.160 Emergency expenditures—Warrants—Payment.
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- 35.34.180 Adjustment of wages, hours, and conditions of employment.
- 35.34.190 Forms—Accounting—Supervision by state.
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- 35.34.230 Revenue estimates—Amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes.
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- 35.34.250 Contingency fund—Creation.
- 35.34.260 Contingency fund—Withdrawals.
- 35.34.270 Unexpended appropriations.
- 35.34.280 Violations and penalties.

**RCW 35.34.010 Legislative intent.** The legislature hereby recognizes that the development and adoption of a budget by a city or town is a lengthy and intense process designed to provide adequate opportunities for public input and sufficient time for deliberation and enactment by the legislative authority. The legislature also recognizes that there are limited amounts of time available and that time committed for budgetary action reduces opportunities for deliberating other issues. It is, therefore, the intent of the legislature to authorize cities and towns to establish by ordinance a biennial budget and to provide the means for modification of such budget. This chapter and chapter 35A.34 RCW shall be known as the municipal biennial budget act. [1985 c 175 s 1.]



**RCW 35.34.020 Application of chapter.** This chapter applies to all cities of the first and second classes and to all towns, that have by ordinance adopted this chapter authorizing the adoption of a fiscal biennium budget. [1997 c 361 s 15; 1985 c 175 s 5.]

**RCW 35.34.030 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Clerk" includes the officer performing the functions of a finance or budget director, comptroller, auditor, or by whatever title the officer may be known in any city or town. However, for cities over three hundred thousand, "clerk" means the budget director as authorized under RCW 35.32A.020.

(2) "Department" includes each office, division, service, system, or institution of the city or town for which no other statutory or charter provision is made for budgeting and accounting procedures or controls.

(3) "Legislative body" includes the council, commission, or any other group of officials serving as the legislative body of a city or town.

(4) "Chief administrative officer" includes the mayor of cities or towns having a mayor-council form of government, the commissioners in cities or towns having a commission form of government, the manager, or any other city or town official designated by the charter or ordinances of such city or town under the plan of government governing the same, or the budget or finance officer designated by the mayor, manager, or commissioners, to perform the functions, or portions thereof, contemplated by this chapter.

(5) "Fiscal biennium" means the period from January 1 of each odd-numbered year through December 31 of the next succeeding even-numbered year.

(6) "Fund" and "funds" where clearly used to indicate the plural of "fund" means the budgeting or accounting entity authorized to provide a sum of money for specified activities or purposes.

(7) "Funds" where not used to indicate the plural of "fund" means money in hand or available for expenditure or payment of a debt or obligation.

(8) Except as otherwise defined in this chapter, municipal accounting terms used in this chapter have the meaning prescribed by the state auditor pursuant to RCW 43.09.200. [1985 c 175 s 6.]

*"Fiscal biennium" defined: RCW 1.16.020.*

**RCW 35.34.040 Biennial budget authorized—Limitations.** All first and second-class cities and towns are authorized to establish by ordinance a two-year fiscal biennium budget. The ordinance shall be enacted at least six months prior to commencement of the fiscal biennium and this chapter applies to all cities and towns which utilize a fiscal biennium budget. Cities and towns which establish a fiscal biennium budget are authorized to repeal such ordinance and provide for reversion to a fiscal year budget. The ordinance may only be repealed effective as of the conclusion of a fiscal biennium. However, the city or town shall comply with chapter 35.32A or 35.33 RCW, whichever the case may be, in developing and adopting the budget

for the first fiscal year following repeal of the ordinance. [1994 c 81 s 56; 1985 c 175 s 7.]

**RCW 35.34.050 Budget estimates—Submittal.** On or before the second Monday of the fourth month prior to the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal biennium, or at such other time as the city or town may provide by ordinance or charter, the clerk shall notify in writing the head of each department of a city or town to file with the clerk within fourteen days of the receipt of such notification, detailed estimates of the probable revenue from sources other than ad valorem taxation and of all expenditures required by the department for the ensuing fiscal biennium. The notice shall be accompanied by the proper forms provided by the clerk, prepared in accordance with the requirements and classification established by the state auditor. The clerk shall prepare the estimates for interest and debt redemption requirements and all other estimates, the preparation of which falls properly within the duties of the clerk's office. The chief administrative officers of the city or town shall submit to the clerk detailed estimates of all expenditures proposed to be financed from the proceeds of bonds or warrants not yet authorized, together with a statement of the proposed method of financing them. In the absence or disability of the official or person regularly in charge of a department, the duties required by this section shall devolve upon the person next in charge of such department. [1995 c 301 s 43; 1985 c 175 s 8.]

**RCW 35.34.060 Budget estimates—Classification and segregation.** All estimates of receipts and expenditures for the ensuing fiscal biennium shall be fully detailed in the biennial budget and shall be classified and segregated according to a standard classification of accounts to be adopted and prescribed by the state auditor after consultation with the Washington finance officers association, the association of Washington cities, and the association of Washington city managers. [1995 c 301 s 44; 1985 c 175 s 9.]

**RCW 35.34.070 Proposed preliminary budget.** On or before the first business day in the third month prior to the beginning of the biennium of a city or town or at such other time as the city or town may provide by ordinance or charter, the clerk or other person designated by the charter, by ordinances, or by the chief administrative officer of the city or town shall submit to the chief administrative officer a proposed preliminary budget which shall set forth the complete financial program of the city or town for the ensuing fiscal biennium, showing the expenditure program requested by each department and the sources of revenue by which each such program is proposed to be financed.

The revenue section shall set forth in comparative and tabular form for each fund the actual receipts for the last completed fiscal biennium, the estimated receipts for the current fiscal biennium, and the estimated receipts for the ensuing fiscal biennium, which shall include the amount to be raised from ad valorem taxes and unencumbered fund balances estimated to be available at the close of the current fiscal biennium. However, if the city or town was not utilizing a

fiscal biennium budget for the previous three years, it shall set forth its fiscal years' revenues to reflect actual and estimated receipts as if it had previously utilized a biennial budgetary process.

The expenditure section shall set forth in comparative and tabular form for each fund and every department operating within each fund the actual expenditures for the last completed fiscal biennium, the appropriations for the current fiscal biennium, and the estimated expenditures for the ensuing fiscal biennium. However, if the city or town was not utilizing a fiscal biennium budget for the previous three years, it shall set forth its fiscal years' expenditures to reflect actual and estimated levels as if it had previously utilized a biennial budgetary process. The expenditure section shall further set forth separately the salary or salary range for each office, position, or job classification together with the title or position designation thereof. However, salaries may be set out in total amounts under each department if a detailed schedule of such salaries and positions be attached and made a part of the budget document. [1985 c 175 s 10.]

**RCW 35.34.080 Preliminary budget.** The chief administrative officer shall prepare the preliminary budget in detail, making any revisions or additions to the reports of the department heads deemed advisable by such chief administrative officer. At least sixty days before the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal biennium the chief administrative officer shall file it with the clerk as the recommendation of the chief administrative officer for the final budget. The clerk shall provide a sufficient number of copies of such preliminary budget and budget message to meet the reasonable demands of taxpayers therefor and have them available for distribution not later than six weeks before the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal biennium. [1985 c 175 s 11.]

**RCW 35.34.090 Budget message—Hearings.** (1) In every city or town, a budget message prepared by or under the direction of the city's or town's chief administrative officer shall be submitted as a part of the preliminary budget to the city's or town's legislative body at least sixty days before the beginning of the city's or town's next fiscal biennium and shall contain the following:

- (a) An explanation of the budget document;
- (b) An outline of the recommended financial policies and programs of the city or town for the ensuing fiscal biennium;
- (c) A statement of the relation of the recommended appropriation to such policies and programs;
- (d) A statement of the reason for salient changes from the previous biennium in appropriation and revenue items; and
- (e) An explanation for any recommended major changes in financial policy.

(2) Prior to the final hearing on the budget, the legislative body or a committee thereof shall schedule hearings on the budget or parts thereof, and may require the presence of department heads to give information regarding estimates and programs. [1985 c 175 s 12.]

**RCW 35.34.100 Budget—Notice of hearing.** Immediately following the filing of the preliminary budget with the clerk, the clerk shall publish a notice once a week for two consecutive weeks stating that the preliminary budget for the ensuing fiscal biennium has been filed with the clerk, that a copy thereof will be made available to any taxpayer who will call at the clerk's office therefor, that the legislative body of the city or town will meet on or before the first Monday of the month next preceding the beginning of the ensuing fiscal biennium for the purpose of fixing the final budget, designating the date, time, and place of the legislative budget meeting, and that any taxpayer may appear thereat and be heard for or against any part of the budget. The publication of the notice shall be made in the official newspaper of the city or town if there is one, otherwise in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in the city or town, then notice may be made by posting in three public places fixed by ordinance as the official places for posting the city's or town's official notices. [1985 c 175 s 13.]

**RCW 35.34.110 Budget—Hearing.** The legislative body shall meet on the day fixed by RCW 35.34.100 for the purpose of fixing the final budget of the city or town at the time and place designated in the notice thereof. Any taxpayer may appear and be heard for or against any part of the budget. The hearing may be continued from day to day but not later than the twenty-fifth day prior to commencement of the city's or town's fiscal biennium. [1985 c 175 s 14.]

**RCW 35.34.120 Budget—Adoption.** Following conclusion of the hearing, and prior to the beginning of the fiscal biennium, the legislative body shall make such adjustments and changes as it deems necessary or proper and, after determining the allowance in each item, department, classification, and fund, shall by ordinance adopt the budget in its final form and content. Appropriations shall be limited to the total estimated revenues contained therein including the amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes and the unencumbered fund balances estimated to be available at the close of the current fiscal biennium. Such ordinances may adopt the final budget by reference. However, the ordinance adopting the budget shall set forth in summary form the totals of estimated revenues and appropriations for each separate fund and the aggregate totals for all such funds combined.

A complete copy of the final budget as adopted shall be transmitted to the state auditor and to the association of Washington cities. [1995 c 301 s 45; 1985 c 175 s 15.]

**RCW 35.34.130 Budget—Mid-biennial review and modification.** The legislative authority of a city or town having adopted the provisions of this chapter shall provide by ordinance for a mid-biennial review and modification of the biennial budget. The ordinance shall provide that such review and modification shall occur no sooner than eight months after the start nor later than conclusion of the first year of the fiscal biennium. The chief administrative officer shall prepare the proposed budget modification and shall provide for publication of notice of hearings consistent with publication of notices for adoption

of other city or town ordinances. City or town ordinances providing for a mid-biennium review and modification shall establish procedures for distribution of the proposed modification to members of the city or town legislative authority, procedures for making copies available to the public, and shall provide for public hearings on the proposed budget modification. The budget modification shall be by ordinance approved in the same manner as are other ordinances of the city or town.

A complete copy of the budget modification as adopted shall be transmitted to the state auditor and to the association of Washington cities. [1995 c 301 s 46; 1985 c 175 s 16.]

**RCW 35.34.140 Emergency expenditures—Nondebtable emergencies.**

Upon the happening of any emergency caused by violence of nature, casualty, riot, insurrection, war, or other unanticipated occurrence requiring the immediate preservation of order or public health, or for the property which has been damaged or destroyed by accident, or for public relief from calamity, or in settlement of approved claims for personal injuries or property damages, or to meet mandatory expenditures required by law enacted since the last budget was adopted, or to cover expenses incident to preparing for or establishing a new form of government authorized or assumed after adoption of the current budget, including any expenses incident to selection of additional or new officials required thereby, or incident to employee recruitment at any time, the city or town legislative body, upon the adoption of an ordinance, by the vote of one more than the majority of all members of the legislative body, stating the facts constituting the emergency and the estimated amount required to meet it, may make the expenditures therefor without notice or hearing. [1985 c 175 s 17.]

**RCW 35.34.150 Emergency expenditures—Other emergencies—Hearing.**

If a public emergency which could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of filing the preliminary budget requires the expenditure of money not provided for in the budget, and if it is not one of the emergencies specifically enumerated in RCW 35.34.140, the city or town legislative body before allowing any expenditure therefor shall adopt an ordinance stating the facts constituting the emergency and the estimated amount required to meet it and declaring that an emergency exists.

The ordinance shall not be voted on until five days have elapsed after its introduction, and for passage shall require the vote of one more than the majority of all members of the legislative body of the city or town.

Any taxpayer may appear at the meeting at which the emergency ordinance is to be voted on and be heard for or against the adoption thereof. [1985 c 175 s 18.]

**RCW 35.34.160 Emergency expenditures—Warrants—Payment.**

All expenditures for emergency purposes as provided in this chapter shall be paid by warrants from any available money in the fund properly chargeable with such expenditures. If, at any time, there is insufficient money on hand in a fund with which to pay such warrants

as presented, the warrants shall be registered, bear interest, and be called in the same manner as other registered warrants as prescribed in RCW 35.21.320. [1985 c 175 s 19.]

**RCW 35.34.170 Registered warrants—Payment.** In adopting the final budget for any fiscal biennium, the legislative body shall appropriate from estimated revenue sources available, a sufficient amount to pay the principal and interest on all outstanding registered warrants issued since the adoption of the last preceding budget except those issued and identified as revenue warrants and except those for which an appropriation previously has been made. However, no portion of the revenues which are restricted in use by law may be appropriated for the redemption of warrants issued against a utility or other special purpose fund of a self-supporting nature. In addition, all or any portion of the city's or town's outstanding registered warrants may be funded into bonds in any manner authorized by law. [1985 c 175 s 20.]

**RCW 35.34.180 Adjustment of wages, hours, and conditions of employment.** Notwithstanding the appropriations for any salary or salary range of any employee or employees adopted in a final budget, the legislative body of any city or town may, by ordinance, change the wages, hours, and conditions of employment of any or all of its appointive employees if sufficient funds are available for appropriation to such purposes. [1985 c 175 s 21.]

**RCW 35.34.190 Forms—Accounting—Supervision by state.** The state auditor is empowered to make and install the forms and classifications required by this chapter to define what expenditures are chargeable to each budget class and to establish the accounting and cost systems necessary to secure accurate budget information. [1995 c 301 s 47; 1985 c 175 s 22.]

**RCW 35.34.200 Funds—Limitations on expenditures—Transfers and adjustments.** (1) The expenditures as classified and itemized in the final budget shall constitute the city's or town's appropriations for the ensuing fiscal biennium. Unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, and subject to further limitations imposed by ordinance of the city or town, the expenditure of city or town funds or the incurring of current liabilities on behalf of the city or town shall be limited to the following:

(a) The total amount appropriated for each fund in the budget for the current fiscal biennium, without regard to the individual items contained therein, except that this limitation does not apply to wage adjustments authorized by RCW 35.34.180;

(b) The unexpended appropriation balances of a preceding budget which may be carried forward from prior fiscal periods pursuant to RCW 35.34.270;

(c) Funds received from the sale of bonds or warrants which have been duly authorized according to law;

(d) Funds received in excess of estimated revenues during the current fiscal biennium, when authorized by an ordinance amending the original budget; and

(e) Expenditures authorized by budget modification as provided by RCW 35.34.130 and those required for emergencies, as authorized by RCW 35.34.140 and 35.34.150.

(2) Transfers between individual appropriations within any one fund may be made during the current fiscal biennium by order of the city's or town's chief administrative officer subject to such regulations, if any, as may be imposed by the city or town legislative body. Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 43.09.210 or of any statute to the contrary, transfers, as authorized in this section, may be made within the same fund regardless of the various offices, departments, or divisions of the city or town which may be affected.

(3) The city or town legislative body, upon a finding that it is to the best interests of the city or town to decrease, revoke, or recall all or any portion of the total appropriations provided for any one fund, may, by ordinance, approved by the vote of one more than the majority of all members thereof, stating the facts and findings for doing so, decrease, revoke, or recall all or any portion of an unexpended fund balance, and by said ordinance, or a subsequent ordinance adopted by a like majority, the moneys thus released may be reappropriated for another purpose or purposes, without limitation to department, division, or fund, unless the use of such moneys is otherwise restricted by law, charter, or ordinance. [1985 c 175 s 23.]

**RCW 35.34.205 Administration, oversight, or supervision of utility—Reimbursement from utility budget authorized.** Whenever any city or town apportions a percentage of the city manager's, administrator's, or supervisor's time, or the time of other management or general government staff, for administration, oversight, or supervision of a utility operated by the city or town, or to provide services to the utility, the utility budget may identify such services and budget for reimbursement of the city's or town's current expense fund for the value of such services. [1991 c 152 s 2.]

**RCW 35.34.210 Liabilities incurred in excess of budget.** Liabilities incurred by any officer or employee of the city or town in excess of any budget appropriations shall not be a liability of the city or town. The clerk shall issue no warrant and the city or town legislative body or other authorized person shall approve no claim for an expenditure in excess of the total amount appropriated for any individual fund, except upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction or for emergencies as provided in this chapter. [1985 c 175 s 24.]

**RCW 35.34.220 Funds received from sales of bonds and warrants—Expenditure program—Federal tax law.** Moneys received from the sale of bonds or warrants must be used for no other purpose than that for which they were issued. If any unexpended fund balance remains from the proceeds realized from the bonds or warrants after the accomplishment of the purpose for which they were issued, it must be

used for the payment of principal of or interest on such indebtedness consistent with applicable provisions of federal tax law. Where a budget contains an expenditure program to be partially or wholly financed from a bond issue to be authorized thereafter, expenditures of amounts anticipated to be reimbursed from the proceeds of the issuance and sale of such bonds must be made or incurred consistent with any applicable federal tax law requirements. [2011 c 210 s 3; 1985 c 175 s 25.]

**Application to previously issued bonds—2011 c 210:** See note following RCW 39.46.040.

**RCW 35.34.230 Revenue estimates—Amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes.** At a time fixed by the city's or town's ordinance or city charter, not later than the first Monday in October of the second year of each fiscal biennium, the chief administrative officer shall provide the city's or town's legislative body with current information on estimates of revenues from all sources as adopted in the budget for the current biennium, together with estimates submitted by the clerk under RCW 35.34.070. The city's or town's legislative body and the city's or town's administrative officer or the officer's designated representative shall consider the city's or town's total anticipated financial requirements for the ensuing fiscal biennium, and the legislative body shall determine and fix by ordinance the amount to be raised the first year of the biennium by ad valorem taxes. The legislative body shall review such information as is provided by the chief administrative officer and shall adopt an ordinance establishing the amount to be raised by ad valorem taxes during the second year of the biennium. Upon adoption of the ordinance fixing the amount of ad valorem taxes to be levied, the clerk shall certify the same to the county legislative authority as required by RCW 84.52.020. [1985 c 175 s 26.]

**RCW 35.34.240 Funds—Quarterly report of status.** At such intervals as may be required by city charter or city or town ordinance, however, being not less than quarterly, the clerk shall submit to the city's or town's legislative body and chief administrative officer a report showing the expenditures and liabilities against each separate budget appropriation incurred during the preceding reporting period and like information for the whole of the current fiscal biennium to the first day of the current reporting period together with the unexpended balance of each appropriation. The report shall also show the receipts from all sources. [1985 c 175 s 27.]

**RCW 35.34.250 Contingency fund—Creation.** Every city or town may create and maintain a contingency fund to provide moneys with which to meet any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of adopting the annual budget, or from which to provide moneys for those emergencies described in RCW 35.34.140 and 35.34.150. Such fund may be supported by a budget appropriation from any tax or other revenue source not restricted in use by law, or also may be supported by a



transfer from other unexpended or decreased funds made available by ordinance as set forth in RCW 35.34.200. However, the total amount accumulated in such fund at any time shall not exceed the equivalent of thirty-seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of property within the city or town at such time. Any moneys in the emergency fund at the end of the fiscal biennium shall not lapse except upon reappropriation by the council to another fund in the adoption of a subsequent budget. [1985 c 175 s 28.]

**RCW 35.34.260 Contingency fund—Withdrawals.** No money shall be withdrawn from the contingency fund except by transfer to the appropriate operating fund authorized by a resolution or ordinance of the legislative body of the city or town, adopted by a majority vote of the entire legislative body, clearly stating the facts constituting the reason for the withdrawal or the emergency as the case may be, specifying the fund to which the withdrawn money shall be transferred. [1985 c 175 s 29.]

**RCW 35.34.270 Unexpended appropriations.** All appropriations in any current operating fund shall lapse at the end of each fiscal biennium. However, this shall not prevent payments in the following biennium upon uncompleted programs or improvements in progress or on orders subsequently filled or claims subsequently billed for the purchase of material, equipment, and supplies or for personal or contractual services not completed or furnished by the end of the fiscal biennium, all of which have been properly budgeted and contracted for prior to the close of such fiscal biennium, but furnished or completed in due course thereafter.

All appropriations in a special fund authorized by ordinance or by state law to be used only for the purpose or purposes therein specified, including any cumulative reserve funds lawfully established in specific or general terms for any municipal purpose or purposes, or a contingency fund as authorized by RCW 35.34.250, shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward from biennium to biennium until fully expended or the purpose has been accomplished or abandoned, without necessity of reappropriation.

The accounts for budgetary control for each fiscal biennium shall be kept open for twenty days after the close of such fiscal biennium for the purpose of paying and recording claims for indebtedness incurred during such fiscal biennium; any claim presented after the twentieth day following the close of the fiscal biennium shall be paid from appropriations lawfully provided for the ensuing period, including those made available by provisions of this section, and shall be recorded in the accounts for the ensuing fiscal biennium. [1985 c 175 s 30.]

**RCW 35.34.280 Violations and penalties.** Upon the conviction of any city or town official, department head, or other city or town employee of knowingly failing, or refusing, without just cause, to perform any duty imposed upon such officer or employee by this chapter, or city charter or city or town ordinance, in connection with the giving of notice, the preparing and filing of estimates of revenues or expenditures or other information required for preparing a

budget report in the time and manner required, or of knowingly making expenditures in excess of budget appropriations, the official or employee shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars for each separate violation. [1985 c 175 s 31.]

**Chapter 35.36 RCW**  
**EXECUTION OF BONDS BY PROXY—FIRST-CLASS CITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.36.010 Appointment of proxies.
- 35.36.020 Coupons—Printing facsimile signatures.
- 35.36.030 Deputies—Exemptions.
- 35.36.040 Designation of bonds to be signed.
- 35.36.050 Liability of officer.
- 35.36.060 Notice to council.
- 35.36.070 Revocation of proxy.

**RCW 35.36.010 Appointment of proxies.** The mayor, city comptroller and city clerk of every city of the first class may each severally designate one or more bonded persons to affix his or her signature to any bond or bonds requiring his or her signature.

If the signature of one of these officers is affixed to a bond during his or her continuance in office by a proxy designated by him or her whose authority has not been revoked, the bond shall be as binding upon the city and all concerned as though the officer had signed the bond in person.

This chapter shall apply to all bonds, whether they constitute obligations of the city as a whole or of any local improvement or other district or subdivision thereof, whether they call for payment from the general funds of the city or from a local, special or other fund, and whether negotiable or otherwise. [2009 c 549 s 2071; 1965 c 7 s 35.36.010. Prior: 1929 c 212 s 1; RRS s 9005-5.]

**RCW 35.36.020 Coupons—Printing facsimile signatures.** A facsimile reproduction of the signature of the mayor, city comptroller, or city clerk in every city of the first class may be printed, engraved, or lithographed upon bond coupons with the same effect as though the particular officer had signed the coupon in person. [1965 c 7 s 35.36.020. Prior: 1929 c 212 s 4; RRS s 9005-8.]

**RCW 35.36.030 Deputies—Exemptions.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the appointment of deputy comptrollers or deputy city clerks in first-class cities to be made in accordance herewith so far as concerns signatures or other doings which may be lawfully made or done by such deputy under the provisions of any other law. [1965 c 7 s 35.36.030. Prior: 1929 c 212 s 5; RRS s 9005-9.]

**RCW 35.36.040 Designation of bonds to be signed.** (1) The officer whose duty it is to cause any bonds to be printed, engraved, or lithographed, shall specify in a written order or requisition to the printer, engraver, or lithographer the number of bonds to be printed, engraved, or lithographed and the manner of numbering them.

(2) Every printer, engraver, or lithographer who prints, engraves, or lithographs a greater number of bonds than that specified or who prints, engraves, or lithographs more than one bond bearing the same number is guilty of a class B felony punishable according to

chapter 9A.20 RCW. [2003 c 53 s 199; 1965 c 7 s 35.36.040. Prior: 1929 c 212 s 6; RRS s 9005-10.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 35.36.050 Liability of officer.** A mayor, comptroller, or clerk authorizing the affixing of his or her signature to a bond by a proxy shall be subject to the same liability personally and on his or her bond for any signature so affixed and to the same extent as if he or she had affixed his or her signature in person. [2009 c 549 s 2072; 1965 c 7 s 35.36.050. Prior: 1929 c 212 s 3; RRS s 9005-7.]

**RCW 35.36.060 Notice to council.** In order to designate a proxy to affix his or her signature to bonds, a mayor, comptroller, or clerk shall address a written notice to the governing body of the city giving the name of the person whom he or she has selected therefor and stating generally or specifically what bonds are to be so signed.

Attached to or included in the notice shall be a written signature of the officer making the designation executed by the proposed proxy followed by the word "by" and his or her own signature; or, if the notice so states, the specimen signatures may consist of a facsimile reproduction of the officer's signature impressed by some mechanical process followed by the word "by" and the proxy's own signature.

If the authority is intended to include the signature upon bonds bearing an earlier date than the effective date of the notice, the prior dated bonds must be specifically described by reasonable reference thereto.

The notice designating a proxy shall be filed with the city comptroller or city clerk, together with the specimen signatures attached thereto and a record of the filing shall be made in the journal of the governing body. This record shall note the date and hour of filing and may be made by the official who keeps the journal at any time after filing of the notice, even during a period of recess or adjournment of the governing body. The notice shall be effective from the time of its recording. [2009 c 549 s 2073; 1965 c 7 s 35.36.060. Prior: 1929 c 212 s 2, part; RRS s 9005-6, part.]

**RCW 35.36.070 Revocation of proxy.** Any designation of a proxy may be revoked by written notice addressed to the governing body of the city signed by the officer who made the designation and filed and recorded in the same manner as the notice of designation. It shall be effective from the time of its recording but shall not affect the validity of any signature theretofore made. [1965 c 7 s 35.36.070. Prior: 1929 c 212 s 2, part; RRS s 9005-6, part.]

**Chapter 35.37 RCW**  
**FISCAL—CITIES UNDER TWENTY THOUSAND AND CITIES OTHER THAN FIRST CLASS**  
**—BONDS**

**Sections**

- 35.37.010 Accounting—Funds.
- 35.37.020 Accounting—Surplus and deficit in utility accounts.
- 35.37.027 Validation of preexisting obligations by former city.
- 35.37.030 Applicability of chapter.
- 35.37.040 Authority to contract debts—Limits.
- 35.37.050 Excess indebtedness—Authority to contract.
- 35.37.090 General indebtedness bonds—Issuance and sale.
- 35.37.110 General indebtedness bonds—Taxation to pay.
- 35.37.120 General indebtedness bonds—Taxation—Failure to levy—  
Remedy.

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2  
(Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW,  
RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.37.010 Accounting—Funds.** Every city and town having less than twenty thousand inhabitants shall maintain a current expense fund out of which it must pay current expenses. It shall also maintain an "indebtedness fund," and if it has outstanding general indebtedness bonds, it must maintain a sinking fund therefor. If it maintains waterworks, lighting plant, cemetery, or other public works or institutions from which rent or other revenue is derived it must maintain a separate fund for each utility or institution. All moneys collected by such cities and towns from licenses shall be credited to the current expense fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.37.010. Prior: (i) 1897 c 84 s 1; RRS s 5635. (ii) 1897 c 84 s 2; RRS s 5636. (iii) 1897 c 84 s 9; RRS s 5643. (iv) 1897 c 84 s 10, part; RRS s 5644, part.]

**RCW 35.37.020 Accounting—Surplus and deficit in utility accounts.** Any deficit for operation and maintenance of utilities and institutions owned and controlled by cities and towns having less than twenty thousand inhabitants, over and above the revenue therefrom, shall be paid out of the current expense fund. Any surplus in the waterworks fund, lighting fund, \*cemetery fund, or other like funds at the end of the fiscal year shall be paid into the current expense fund except such part as the council by a finding entered into the record of the proceedings may conclude to be necessary for the purpose of:

- (1) Extending or repairing the particular utility or institution;  
or
- (2) Paying interest or principal of any indebtedness incurred in the construction or purchase of the particular utility or institution;  
or
- (3) Creating or adding to a sinking fund for the payment of any indebtedness incurred in the construction or purchase of the particular utility or institution. [1965 c 7 s 35.37.020. Prior: 1897 c 84 s 10, part; RRS s 5644, part.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "cemetery fund" was renamed the "cemetery account" by 2005 c 365 s 67.

**RCW 35.37.027 Validation of preexisting obligations by former city.** All elections for the validation of any debt created by any city or town which has since become consolidated with any other city or town shall be by ballot, and the vote shall be taken in the new consolidated city as constituted at the time of the election. [1965 c 7 s 35.37.027. Prior: 1897 c 84 s 12; RRS s 5646.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.37.030 Applicability of chapter.** The provisions of the remainder of this chapter shall not be applied to cities of the first class nor to borrowing money and issuing bonds by any city or town for the purpose of supplying it with water, artificial light, or sewers if the works for supplying the water, artificial light, or sewers are to be owned and controlled by the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.37.030. Prior: (i) 1891 c 128 s 10; RRS s 9548. (ii) 1891 c 128 s 11; RRS s 9549.]

**RCW 35.37.040 Authority to contract debts—Limits.** Every city and town, may, without a vote of the people, contract indebtedness or borrow money for strictly municipal purposes on the credit of the city or town and issue negotiable bonds therefor in an amount which when added to its existing nonvoter approved indebtedness will not exceed the amount of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters.

When bonds are issued under this section the ordinance providing therefor shall contain a statement showing the value of the taxable property in the city or town, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, together with the amount of the existing nonvoter approved and total indebtedness of the city or town, which indebtedness shall include the amount for which such bonds are issued. [1984 c 186 s 15; 1970 ex.s. c 42 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.37.040. Prior: (i) 1891 c 128 s 1; RRS s 9538. (ii) 1891 c 128 s 6, part; RRS s 9544, part.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.37.050 Excess indebtedness—Authority to contract.** Every city and town may, when authorized by the voters of the city or town pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution at an election held pursuant to RCW 39.36.050, contract indebtedness or borrow money for strictly municipal purposes on the credit of the city or town and issue negotiable bonds therefor in an amount which when added to its existing indebtedness will exceed the amount of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters but will not

exceed the amounts of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred with the assent of the voters. [1984 c 186 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.37.050. Prior: (i) 1891 c 128 s 2; RRS s 9539. (ii) 1891 c 128 s 4, part; RRS s 9542, part.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Validation—1969 ex.s. c 191:** "Any city or town, which has prior to the effective date of this act [April 25, 1969], submitted to the voters thereof for their ratification or rejection the proposition of incurring indebtedness by the issuance of negotiable bonds in an amount when added to its existing indebtedness will exceed the amount of indebtedness authorized to be incurred without the assent of the voters, but will not exceed the amount of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred with the assent of the voters, may incur such indebtedness and issue such bonds even though the amount of money desired to be borrowed and the amount of negotiable bonds to be issued therefor were stated in a resolution adopted by the city or town council submitting such proposition to the voters, instead of in an ordinance passed by such council, if all other requirements of law, including, but not limited to the other provisions of RCW 35.37.050 are complied with." [1969 ex.s. c 191 s 1.]

**RCW 35.37.090 General indebtedness bonds—Issuance and sale.**

All general indebtedness bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 s 17; 1983 c 167 s 36; 1965 c 7 s 35.37.090. Prior: (i) 1891 c 128 s 5, part; RRS s 9543, part. (ii) 1891 c 128 s 6, part; RRS s 9544, part.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.37.110 General indebtedness bonds—Taxation to pay.** So long as any general indebtedness bonds are outstanding an amount sufficient to pay the interest upon them as it accrues shall be included in each annual levy for municipal purposes and a sufficient amount shall be included in each annual levy for payment of principal so that all bonds may be paid serially as they mature. [1965 c 7 s 35.37.110. Prior: 1891 c 128 s 8; RRS s 9546.]

**RCW 35.37.120 General indebtedness bonds—Taxation—Failure to levy—Remedy.** If the council of any city or town which has issued general indebtedness bonds fails to make any levy necessary to make principal or interest payments due on the bonds, the owner of any bond or interest payment which has been presented to the treasurer and payment thereof refused because of the failure to make a levy may file the bond together with any unpaid coupons with the county auditor, taking his or her receipt therefor.

The county auditor shall register bonds so filed, and the county legislative authority at its next session at which it levies the

annual county tax shall add to the city's or town's levy a sum sufficient to realize the amount of principal and interest past due and to become due prior to the next annual levy to be collected and held by the county treasurer and paid out only upon warrants drawn by the county auditor as the payments mature in favor of the owner of the bond as shown by the auditor's register. Similar levies shall be made in each succeeding year until the bonds and any coupons or interest payments are fully satisfied.

This remedy is alternative and in addition to any other remedy which the owner of such a bond or coupon may have. [2009 c 549 s 2074; 1983 c 167 s 38; 1965 c 7 s 35.37.120. Prior: 1891 c 128 s 9; RRS s 9547.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.



**Chapter 35.38 RCW**  
**FISCAL—DEPOSITARIES**

**Sections**

- 35.38.010 Designation of depositaries.
- 35.38.040 Segregation of collateral.
- 35.38.050 Treasurer's official bond not affected.
- 35.38.055 City official as officer, employee, or stockholder of depositary.
- 35.38.060 Definition—"Financial institution."

*Deposit of public funds: State Constitution Art. 11 s 15.*

*State fiscal agencies: Chapter 43.80 RCW.*

**RCW 35.38.010 Designation of depositaries.** The treasurer in all cities and towns shall annually at the end of each fiscal year, or at such other times as may be deemed necessary, designate one or more financial institutions which are qualified public depositaries as set forth by the public deposit protection commission as depositary or depositaries for the moneys required to be kept by the treasurer. [1984 c 177 s 1; 1973 c 126 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 193 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.38.010. Prior: 1905 c 103 s 1; RRS s 5568.]

**Construction—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 193:** See notes following RCW 39.58.010.

*Liability of treasurers and state treasurer, public deposits: RCW 39.58.140.*

*Public depositaries, deposit and investment of public funds: Chapter 39.58 RCW.*

**RCW 35.38.040 Segregation of collateral.** Before any such designation shall entitle the treasurer to make deposits in any financial institution, each financial institution so designated shall segregate eligible securities as collateral as provided by RCW 39.58.050 as now or hereafter amended. [1984 c 177 s 2; 1973 c 126 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 193 s 25; 1967 c 132 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.38.040. Prior: 1945 c 240 s 2; 1935 c 45 s 3; 1931 c 87 s 5; 1909 c 40 s 1; 1907 c 22 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 5572.]

**Construction—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 193:** See notes following RCW 39.58.010.

**RCW 35.38.050 Treasurer's official bond not affected.** The foregoing provisions of this chapter shall in no way affect the duty of a city or town treasurer to give bond to the city or town for the faithful performance of his or her duties in such amount as may be fixed by the city or town council or other governing body by ordinance. [2009 c 549 s 2075; 1965 c 7 s 35.38.050. Prior: (i) 1905 c 103 s 3; RRS s 5570. (ii) 1907 c 22 s 3; RRS s 5573.]

**RCW 35.38.055 City official as officer, employee, or stockholder of depository.** Whenever a financial institution is designated by the treasurer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, as a depository for funds to be kept by the treasurer of such city or town and such financial institution has filed and had approved a contract with such city or town and complied with chapter 39.58 RCW, such contract shall not be invalid by reason of any official of the city being also an officer, employee, or stockholder of such financial institution. [1984 c 177 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.38.055. Prior: 1955 c 81 s 1.]

**RCW 35.38.060 Definition—"Financial institution."** "Financial institution," as used in the foregoing provisions of this chapter, means a branch of a bank engaged in banking in this state in accordance with \*RCW 30.04.300, and any state bank or trust company, national banking association, stock savings bank, mutual savings bank, or savings and loan association, which institution is located in this state and lawfully engaged in business. [1984 c 177 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.38.060. Prior: 1907 c 22 s 4; RRS s 5574.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 30.04.300 was recodified as RCW 30A.04.300 pursuant to 2014 c 37 s 4, effective January 5, 2015.

**Chapter 35.39 RCW**  
**FISCAL—INVESTMENT OF FUNDS**

**Sections**

- 35.39.030 Excess or inactive funds—Investment.
- 35.39.032 Approval of legislative authority—Delegation of authority—Reports.
- 35.39.034 Investment by individual fund or commingling of funds—Investment in United States securities—Validation.
- 35.39.050 Construction—1965 c 7.
- 35.39.060 Investment of pension funds.
- 35.39.070 City retirement system—Registration and custody of securities.
- 35.39.080 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee.
- 35.39.090 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee—Powers and duties.
- 35.39.100 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee—Employment of members.
- 35.39.110 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee—Liability of members.

*Investment of*

*funds in federal agency bonds: Chapter 39.60 RCW.*

*municipal funds in savings and loan associations by county or other municipal corporation treasurer: RCW 36.29.020.*

*Municipal revenue bond act: Chapter 35.41 RCW.*

**RCW 35.39.030 Excess or inactive funds—Investment.** Every city and town may invest any portion of the moneys in its inactive funds or in other funds in excess of current needs in:

- (1) United States bonds;
- (2) United States certificates of indebtedness;
- (3) Bonds or warrants of this state;
- (4) General obligation or utility revenue bonds or warrants of its own or of any other city or town in the state;
- (5) Its own bonds or warrants of a local improvement district which are within the protection of the local improvement guaranty fund law; and
- (6) In any other investments authorized by law for any other taxing districts. [1975 1st ex.s. c 11 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 33 s 1; 1965 ex.s. c 46 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.39.030. Prior: 1943 c 92 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 5646-13.]

**Effective date—1969 ex.s. c 33:** "This 1969 amendatory act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing political subdivisions; and shall take effect July 1, 1969." [1969 ex.s. c 33 s 4.] This applies to RCW 35.39.030 through 35.39.034.

**Construction—1965 c 7:** See RCW 35.39.050.

**RCW 35.39.032 Approval of legislative authority—Delegation of authority—Reports.** No investment shall be made without the approval of the legislative authority of the city or town expressed by ordinance: PROVIDED, That except as otherwise provided by law, the legislative authority may by ordinance authorize a city official or a committee composed of several city officials to determine the amount of money available in each fund for investment purposes and make the investments authorized as indicated in RCW 35.39.030 as now or hereafter amended and the provisions of RCW 35.39.034, without the consent of the legislative authority for each investment. The responsible official or committee shall make a monthly report of all investment transactions to the city legislative authority. The legislative authority of a city or town or city official or committee authorized to invest city or town funds may at any time convert any of its investment securities, or any part thereof, into cash. [1969 ex.s. c 33 s 2.]

**RCW 35.39.034 Investment by individual fund or commingling of funds—Investment in United States securities—Validation.** Moneys thus determined available for this purpose may be invested on an individual fund basis or may, unless otherwise restricted by law be commingled within one common investment portfolio for investment. All income derived from such investment shall be apportioned and used for the benefit of the various participating funds or for the benefit of the general or current expense fund as the governing body of the city of [or] town shall determine by ordinance or resolution: PROVIDED, That funds derived from the sale of general obligation bonds or revenue bonds or similar instruments of indebtedness shall be invested, or used in such manner as the initiating ordinances, resolutions, or bond covenants may lawfully prescribe.

Any excess or inactive funds on hand in the city treasury not otherwise invested, or required to be invested by this section, as now or hereafter amended, may be invested by the city treasurer in United States government bonds, notes, bills, certificates of indebtedness, or interim financing warrants of a local improvement district which is within the protection of the local improvement guaranty fund law for the benefit of the general or current expense fund.

All previous or outstanding investments of city or town funds for the benefit of the city's or town's general or current expense fund which have been or could be made in accordance with the provisions of this section, as now or hereafter amended, are declared valid. [1981 c 218 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 11 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 33 s 3.]

**RCW 35.39.050 Construction—1965 c 7.** RCW 35.39.030 shall be deemed cumulative and not exclusive and shall be additional to any other power or authority granted any city or town. [1983 c 3 s 56; 1965 c 7 s 35.39.050. Prior: 1943 c 92 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 5646-15.]

**RCW 35.39.060 Investment of pension funds.** Any city or town now or hereafter operating an employees' pension system with the approval of the board otherwise responsible for management of its respective funds may invest, reinvest, manage, contract, sell, or exchange

investments acquired. Investments shall be made in accordance with investment policy duly established and published by the board. In discharging its duties under this section, the board shall act with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims; shall diversify the investments of the employees' pension system so as to minimize the risk of large losses; and shall act in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the employees' pension system, insofar as such documents and instruments are consistent with the provisions of this title. [2013 c 23 s 62; 2009 c 549 s 2076; 1982 c 166 s 1.]

**Effective date—1982 c 166:** "This act shall take effect July 1, 1982." [1982 c 166 s 9.]

**RCW 35.39.070 City retirement system—Registration and custody of securities.** The city treasurer may cause any securities in which the city retirement system deals to be registered in the name of a nominee without mention of any fiduciary relationship, except that adequate records shall be maintained to identify the actual owner of the security so registered. The securities so registered shall be held in the physical custody of the city treasurer, the federal reserve system, the designee of the city treasurer, or at the election of the designee and upon approval of the city treasurer, the Pacific Securities Depository Trust Company Inc. or the Depository Trust Company of New York City or its designees.

With respect to the securities, the nominee shall act only on the direction of the retirement board. All rights to the dividends, interest, and sale proceeds from the securities and all voting rights of the securities shall be vested in the actual owners of the securities, and not in the nominee. [1982 c 166 s 2.]

**Effective date—1982 c 166:** See note following RCW 35.39.060.

**RCW 35.39.080 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee.** The retirement board of any city which is responsible for the management of an employees' retirement system established to provide retirement benefits for nonpublic safety employees shall appoint an investment advisory committee consisting of at least three members who are considered experienced and qualified in the field of investments. [1982 c 166 s 3.]

**Effective date—1982 c 166:** See note following RCW 35.39.060.

**RCW 35.39.090 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee—Powers and duties.** In addition to its other powers and duties, the investment advisory committee shall:

- (1) Make recommendations as to general investment policies, practices, and procedures to the retirement board;
- (2) Review the investment transactions of the retirement board annually;

(3) Prepare a written report of its activities during each fiscal year. Each report shall be submitted not more than thirty days after the end of each fiscal year to the retirement board and to any other person who has submitted a request therefor. [1982 c 166 s 4.]

**Effective date—1982 c 166:** See note following RCW 35.39.060.

**RCW 35.39.100 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee—Employment of members.** No advisory committee member during the term of appointment may be employed by any investment brokerage or mortgage servicing firm doing business with the retirement board. [1982 c 166 s 5.]

**Effective date—1982 c 166:** See note following RCW 35.39.060.

**RCW 35.39.110 City retirement system—Investment advisory committee—Liability of members.** No member of the investment advisory committee is liable for the negligence, default, or failure of any other person or other member of the committee to perform the duties of his or her office, and no member of the committee may be considered or held to be an insurer of the funds or assets of the retirement system nor shall any member be liable for actions performed with the exercise of reasonable diligence within the scope of his or her duly authorized activities as a member of the committee. [1982 c 166 s 6.]

**Effective date—1982 c 166:** See note following RCW 35.39.060.

**Chapter 35.40 RCW**  
**FISCAL—VALIDATION AND FUNDING OF DEBTS**

**Sections**

35.40.030      Ratification and funding after consolidation or annexation.

*Funding indebtedness in counties, cities and towns: Chapter 39.52 RCW.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporations, funding and refunding bonds: RCW 35.58.470.*

**RCW 35.40.030      Ratification and funding after consolidation or annexation.** If, in any case where any city or town in this state has been or may hereafter be formed by the consolidation of two or more cities or towns, or has annexed or may hereafter annex any new territory, an election shall be held, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of this state, for the purpose of submitting to the voters residing within the former corporate limits of either such former city or town, or of such city or town prior to such annexation, for ratification or disapproval, the attempted incurring on the part of such former city or town or of such city or town prior to such annexation by the corporate authorities thereof, of any indebtedness thereof, such consolidated or existing city or town may submit to all of the voters therein, at the same or a separate election, any proposition to fund such indebtedness so sought to be ratified or any part thereof or any existing indebtedness of such consolidated or existing city or town, or both. The proposition to ratify any such indebtedness so previously attempted to be incurred on the part of either such former city or town, or on the part of such city or town prior to such annexation, and the proposition to fund the same may be submitted, respectively, to the voters residing within the corporate limits of such former city or town or in such city or town prior to such annexation, and to all the voters in such consolidated city or town, respectively, in the same or in separate ordinances, as may be required or permitted by law; but the proposition to fund shall be the subject of a distinct vote in favor of or against the same, separate from the vote upon the proposition to ratify, and separate from the vote upon a proposition to fund any part of such indebtedness as to which a proposition to ratify is not submitted. [1965 c 7 s 35.40.030. Prior: 1893 c 58 s 1; RRS s 9556.]

*Annexation of unincorporated areas: Chapter 35.13 RCW.*

*Consolidation including annexation of third-class city or town to first-class city: Chapter 35.10 RCW.*

**Chapter 35.41 RCW**  
**FISCAL—MUNICIPAL REVENUE BOND ACT**

**Sections**

- 35.41.010 Special funds—Authorized—Composition.
- 35.41.030 Revenue bonds authorized—Form, term, etc.
- 35.41.050 Revenue warrants.
- 35.41.060 Sale of revenue bonds and warrants—Contract provisions.
- 35.41.070 Suit to compel city to pay amount into special fund.
- 35.41.080 Rates and charges for services, use, or benefits—Waiver of connection charges for low-income persons.
- 35.41.090 Rates and charges for services, use or benefits—Costs, expenses, interest may be included.
- 35.41.095 Revenue bonds for water or sewerage system—Pledge of utility local improvement district assessments.
- 35.41.100 Chapter is alternative and additional method.
- 35.41.900 Short title.

*Industrial development revenue bonds: Chapter 39.84 RCW.*

*Municipal utilities: Chapter 35.92 RCW.*

**RCW 35.41.010 Special funds—Authorized—Composition.** For the purpose of providing funds for defraying all or a portion of the costs of planning, purchase, leasing, condemnation, or other acquisition, construction, reconstruction, development, improvement, extension, repair, maintenance, or operation of any municipally owned public land, building, facility, or utility, for which the municipality now has or hereafter is granted authority to acquire, condemn, develop, repair, maintain, or operate, the legislative body of any city or town may authorize, by ordinance, the creation of a special fund or funds into which the city or town shall be obligated to set aside and pay: Any or all municipal license fees specified in such ordinance creating such special fund, and/or any and all revenues derived from any utility or facility specified in said ordinance creating such special fund. The ordinance may provide that the city or town shall be obligated to set aside and pay into a special fund or funds so created:

- (1) A fixed proportion of any revenues or fees, or
- (2) A fixed amount of, and not to exceed, a fixed proportion of any revenues or fees, or
- (3) A fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion of any revenues or fees, or
- (4) An amount of such revenues sufficient, together with any other moneys lawfully pledged to be paid into such fund or funds, to meet principal and interest requirements and to accumulate any reserves and additional funds that may be required.

The legislative body may also authorize the creation of a special fund or funds to defray all or part of the costs of planning, purchase, condemnation, or other acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance or operation of any public park in, upon or above property used or to be used as municipally owned off-street parking space and facilities, whether or not revenues are received or fees charged in the course of public use of such park. Part or all of



the otherwise unpledged revenues, fees or charges arising from municipal ownership, operation, lease or license of any off-street parking space and facilities, or arising from municipal license of any off-street parking space, shall be set aside and paid into such special fund or funds in accordance with this section. [1971 ex.s. c 223 s 1; 1967 ex.s. c 144 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.41.010. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 1.]

**Severability—1967 ex.s. c 144:** See note following RCW 36.900.030.

*Bids for operation of parking space or facilities in or beneath public parks: RCW 35.86.010.*

*"Facilities" defined: RCW 35.86.010.*

*General obligation bonds, use in financing off-street parking space and facilities: RCW 35.86.020.*

**RCW 35.41.030 Revenue bonds authorized—Form, term, etc.** If the legislative body of a city or town deems it advisable to purchase, lease, condemn, or otherwise acquire, construct, develop, improve, extend, or operate any land, building, facility, or utility, and adopts an ordinance authorizing such purchase, lease, condemnation, acquisition, construction, development, improvement and to provide funds for defraying all or a portion of the cost thereof from the proceeds of the sale of revenue bonds, and such ordinance has been ratified by the voters of the city or town in those instances where the original acquisition, construction, or development of such facility or utility is required to be ratified by the voters under the provisions of RCW 35.67.030 and 35.92.070, such city or town may issue revenue bonds against the special fund or funds created solely from revenues. The revenue bonds so issued shall:

- (1) Be registered bonds, as provided in RCW 39.46.030, or bearer bonds;
- (2) Be issued in such denominations as determined by the legislative body of the city or town;
- (3) Be numbered from one upwards consecutively;
- (4) Bear the date of their issue;
- (5) Be serial or term bonds and the final maturity thereof shall not extend beyond the reasonable life expectancy of the facility or utility;
- (6) Bear interest at such rate or rates as authorized by the legislative body of the city or town, with interest coupons attached unless such bonds are registered as to interest, in which no case no interest coupons need be attached;
- (7) Be payable as to principal and interest at such place or time as may be designated therein;
- (8) State upon their face that they are payable from a special fund, naming it, and the ordinance creating it, and that they do not constitute a general indebtedness of the city or town;
- (9) Be signed by the mayor and bear the seal of the city or town and be attested by the clerk: PROVIDED, That the facsimile signatures of the mayor and clerk may be used when the ordinance authorizing the

issuance of such bonds provides for the signatures thereof by an authenticating officer; and

(10) Be printed upon good bond paper: PROVIDED, That notwithstanding the provisions of this section, such revenue bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 39; 1971 ex.s. c 223 s 2; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 34; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.41.030. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 3.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 35.41.050 Revenue warrants.** (1) Revenue warrants may be issued and such warrants and interest thereon may be payable out of the special fund or refunded through the proceeds of the sale of revenue bonds. Every revenue warrant and the interest thereon issued against the special fund shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against that fund and the amount of revenue pledged to the fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the city or town. Every revenue warrant shall state on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming it and the ordinance creating it. Such warrants may be in any form, including bearer warrants or registered warrants as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 40; 1965 c 7 s 35.41.050. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 5.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.41.060 Sale of revenue bonds and warrants—Contract provisions.** Revenue bonds and warrants may be sold by negotiation or by public or private sale in any manner and for any price the legislative body of any city or town deems to be for the best interest of the city or town. Such legislative body may provide in any contract, for the construction or acquisition of the proposed facility or utility or the maintenance and operation thereof, and that payment therefor shall be made only in revenue bonds and/or warrants at their par value. [1965 c 7 s 35.41.060. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 6.]

**RCW 35.41.070 Suit to compel city to pay amount into special fund.** If a city or town fails to set aside and pay into the special fund created for the payment of revenue bonds and warrants the amount which it has obligated itself in the ordinance creating the fund to set aside and pay therein, the holder of any bond or warrant issued against the bond may bring suit against the city or town to compel it to do so. [1965 c 7 s 35.41.070. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 7.]

**RCW 35.41.080 Rates and charges for services, use, or benefits—Waiver of connection charges for low-income persons.** (1) The legislative body of any city or town may provide by ordinance for revenues by fixing rates and charges for the furnishing of service, use, or benefits to those to whom service, use, or benefits from such facility or utility is available, which rates and charges shall be uniform for the same class of service. The legislative body may waive connection charges for properties purchased by low-income persons from organizations exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code as amended prior to July 23, 1995. Waivers of connection charges for the same class of electric or gas utility service must be uniformly applied to all qualified property. Nothing in this subsection (1) authorizes the impairment of a contract.

(2) If revenue bonds or warrants are issued against the revenues collected under subsection (1) of this section, the legislative body of the city or town shall fix charges at rates which will be sufficient, together with any other moneys lawfully pledged therefor, to provide for the payment of bonds and warrants, principal and interest, sinking fund requirements and expenses incidental to the issuance of such revenue bonds or warrants; in fixing such charges the legislative body of the city or town may establish rates sufficient to pay, in addition, the costs of operating and maintaining such facility or utility. [1995 c 140 s 2; 1971 ex.s. c 223 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.41.080. Prior: 1959 c 203 s 1; 1957 c 117 s 8.]

**RCW 35.41.090 Rates and charges for services, use or benefits—Costs, expenses, interest may be included.** In setting the rates to be charged for the service, use, or benefits derived from such facility or utility, or in determining the cost of the planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, development, improvement, extension, repair, maintenance, or operation thereof the legislative body of the city or town may include all costs and estimated costs of the issuance of said bonds, all engineering, inspection, fiscal and legal expense and interest which it is estimated will accrue during the construction period and for such period of time thereafter deemed by the legislative body to be necessary or desirable on money borrowed, or which it is estimated will be borrowed in connection therewith. [1971 ex.s. c 223 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.41.090. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 9.]

**RCW 35.41.095 Revenue bonds for water or sewerage system—Pledge of utility local improvement district assessments.** The legislative body of any city or town may provide as an additional method for securing the payment of any such bonds issued to pay the whole or a portion of the cost of providing the city or town with a system of water or sewerage as set forth in RCW 35.43.042, that utility local improvement district assessments authorized to be made for the purposes and subject to the limitations contained in RCW 35.43.042 may be pledged to secure the payment of such bonds. [1967 c 52 s 26.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.41.100 Chapter is alternative and additional method.** The authority granted by this chapter shall be considered an alternative and additional method of issuing revenue bonds or warrants by cities and towns and no restriction, limitation, or regulation relative to the issuance of such bonds contained in any other law shall apply to the bonds issued hereunder. [1965 c 7 s 35.41.100. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 10.]

**RCW 35.41.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known as "the municipal revenue bond act." [1965 c 7 s 35.41.900. Prior: 1957 c 117 s 11.]

**Chapter 35.42 RCW**  
**LEASES**

**Sections**

LEASING OF SPACE WITH OPTION  
TO PURCHASE—1959 ACT

- 35.42.010 Purpose.
- 35.42.020 Building defined.
- 35.42.030 Authority to lease.
- 35.42.040 Renewals—Option to purchase.
- 35.42.050 Provisions to pay taxes, insurance, make repairs, improvements, etc.
- 35.42.060 Execution of lease prior to construction—Lessor's bond—City not obligated for construction costs.
- 35.42.070 Lease of city land for building purposes and lease back of building by city.
- 35.42.080 Lease of city land for building purposes and lease back of building by city—Bids.
- 35.42.090 Leases exempted from certain taxes.

LEASES OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR  
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- 35.42.200 Leases authorized—Ballot proposition.
- 35.42.210 Exercise of option to purchase.
- 35.42.220 Budgeting rental payments—Bids—Construction of agreement where rental equals purchase price.

LEASING OF SPACE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE—1959 ACT

**RCW 35.42.010 Purpose.** It is the purpose of RCW 35.42.010 through 35.42.090 to supplement existing law for the leasing of space by cities and towns to provide for the leasing of such space through leases with an option to purchase and the acquisition of buildings erected upon land owned by a city or town upon the expiration of a lease of such land. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.010. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 1.]

**RCW 35.42.020 Building defined.** The term "building" as used in RCW 35.42.010 through 35.42.090 shall be construed to mean any building or buildings used as a part of, or in connection with, the operation of a city or town, and shall include the site and appurtenances, including but not limited to, heating facilities, water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, and drives. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.020. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 2.]

**RCW 35.42.030 Authority to lease.** Any city or town may, as lessee, lease a building for its use for a term of not to exceed fifty years. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.030. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 3.]

**RCW 35.42.040 Renewals—Option to purchase.** A lease of a building executed pursuant to RCW 35.42.010 through 35.42.090 may grant the lessee city or town an option to renew for a further term on like conditions, or an option to purchase the building covered by the lease at any time prior to the expiration of the term. A lease with an option to purchase shall provide that all sums paid as rent up to the time of exercising the option shall be credited toward the payment of the purchase price as of the date of payment. No lease shall provide, nor be construed to provide, that any city or town shall be under any obligation to purchase the leased building. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.040. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 4.]

**RCW 35.42.050 Provisions to pay taxes, insurance, make repairs, improvements, etc.** A lease of a building may provide that as a part of the rental, the lessee city or town may pay taxes and assessments on the leased building, maintain insurance thereon for the benefit of the lessor, and assume responsibilities for repair, replacement, alterations, and improvements during the term of the lease. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.050. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 5.]

**RCW 35.42.060 Execution of lease prior to construction—Lessor's bond—City not obligated for construction costs.** A city or town may, in anticipation of the acquisition of a site and the construction of a building, execute a lease, as lessee, prior to the actual acquisition of a site and the construction of a building, but the lease shall not require payment of rental by the lessee until the building is ready for occupancy. The lessor shall furnish a bond satisfactory to the lessee conditioned on the delivery of possession of the completed building to the lessee city or town at the time prescribed in the lease, unavoidable delay excepted. The lease shall provide that no part of the cost of construction of the building shall ever become an obligation of the lessee city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.060. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 6.]

**RCW 35.42.070 Lease of city land for building purposes and lease back of building by city.** Any city or town desiring to have a building for its use erected on land owned, or to be acquired, by it, may, as lessor, lease the land for a reasonable rental for a term of not to exceed fifty years: PROVIDED, That the city or town shall lease back the building or a portion thereof for the same term. The leases shall contain terms as agreed upon between the parties, and shall include the following provisions:

(1) No part of the cost of construction of the building shall ever be or become an obligation of the city or town.

(2) The city or town shall have a prior right to occupy any or all of the building upon payment of rental as agreed upon by the parties, which rental shall not exceed prevailing rates for comparable space.

(3) During any time that all or any portion of the building is not required for occupancy by the city or town, the lessee of the land may rent the unneeded portion to suitable tenants approved by the city or town.

(4) Upon the expiration of the lease, all buildings and improvements on the land shall become the property of the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.070. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 7.]

**RCW 35.42.080 Lease of city land for building purposes and lease back of building by city—Bids.** A lease and lease back agreement requiring a lessee to build on city or town property shall be made pursuant to a call for bids upon terms most advantageous to the city or town. The call for bids shall be given by posting notice thereof in a public place in the city or town and by publication in the official newspaper of the city or town once each week for two consecutive weeks before the date fixed for opening the bids. The city council or commission of the city or town may by resolution reject all bids and make further calls for bids in the same manner as the original call. If no bid is received on the first call, the city council or commission may readvertise and make a second call, or may execute a lease without any further call for bids. [1985 c 469 s 28; 1965 c 7 s 35.42.080. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 8.]

**RCW 35.42.090 Leases exempted from certain taxes.** All leases executed pursuant to RCW 35.42.010 through 35.42.090 shall be exempt from the tax imposed by chapter 19, Laws of 1951 second extraordinary session, as amended, and \*chapter 82.45 RCW; section 5, chapter 389, Laws of 1955, and RCW 82.04.040; and section 9, chapter 178, Laws of 1941, and RCW 82.08.090, and by rules and regulations of the department of revenue issued pursuant thereto. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.42.090. Prior: 1959 c 80 s 9.]

**\*Reviser's note:** This internal reference has been changed from chapter 28A.45 RCW to chapter 82.45 RCW in accordance with 1981 c 148 s 13 and 1981 c 93 s 2. See note following RCW 82.45.010.

**Construction—Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 278:** See notes following RCW 11.08.160.

LEASES OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR PROPERTY RIGHTS WITH OR WITHOUT  
OPTION TO PURCHASE—1963 ACT

**RCW 35.42.200 Leases authorized—Ballot proposition.** Any city or town may execute leases for a period of years with or without an option to purchase with the state or any of its political subdivisions, with the government of the United States, or with any private party for the lease of any real or personal property, or property rights: PROVIDED, That with respect only to leases that finance the acquisition of property by the lessee, the aggregated portions of lease payments over the term of the lease which are allocable to principal shall constitute debt, which shall not result in a total indebtedness in excess of one and one-half percent of the taxable property of such city or town computed in accordance with RCW 39.36.030, unless a proposition in regard to whether or not such a lease may be executed is submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are

submitted, and the voters approve the same. [1990 c 205 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.42.200. Prior: 1963 c 170 s 1.]

**RCW 35.42.210 Exercise of option to purchase.** If at the time an option to purchase is exercised the remaining amount to be paid in order to purchase the real or personal property leased after crediting the rental payments toward the total purchase price therefor does not result in a total indebtedness in excess of one and one-half percent of the taxable property of such city or town computed in accordance with RCW 39.36.030, such a city or town may exercise its option to purchase such property. If such remaining amount to be paid to purchase such leased property will result in a total indebtedness in excess of one and one-half percent of the taxable property of such city or town, a proposition in regard to whether or not to purchase the property shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are submitted to the voters. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.210. Prior: 1963 c 170 s 2.]

**RCW 35.42.220 Budgeting rental payments—Bids—Construction of agreement where rental equals purchase price.** The annual budget of a city shall provide for the payment of rental that falls due in the year for which the budget is applicable: PROVIDED, That if the cost of the real or personal property to be leased exceeds the amounts specified in RCW 35.23.352 prior to the execution of a lease with option to purchase therefor, the city or town shall call for bids in accordance with RCW 35.23.352: PROVIDED, That if at the expiration of a lease with option to purchase a city or town exercises such an option, the fact that the rental payments theretofore made equal the amount of the purchase price of the real or personal property involved in such lease shall not preclude the agreement from being a lease with option to purchase up to the date of the exercising of the option. [1965 c 7 s 35.42.220. Prior: 1963 c 170 s 3.]



**Chapter 35.43 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—AUTHORITY—INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Sections**

- 35.43.005 Municipal local improvement statutes applicable to public corporations.
- 35.43.010 Terms defined.
- 35.43.020 Construction.
- 35.43.030 Charters superseded—Application—Ordinances—Districts outside city authorized, within city authorized for transportation and infrastructure purposes.
- 35.43.035 Creation of district outside city subject to review by boundary review board.
- 35.43.040 Authority generally.
- 35.43.042 Authority to establish utility local improvement districts—Procedure.
- 35.43.043 Conversion of local improvement district into utility local improvement district.
- 35.43.045 Open canals or ditches—Safeguards.
- 35.43.050 Authority—Noncontinuous improvements.
- 35.43.060 Consolidated cities—Procedure.
- 35.43.070 Ordinance—Action on petition or resolution.
- 35.43.075 Petition for district outside city may be denied.
- 35.43.080 Ordinance—Creation of district.
- 35.43.100 Ordinance—Finality—Limitation upon challenging jurisdiction or authority to proceed.
- 35.43.110 Petition—Mandatory, when.
- 35.43.120 Petition—Requirements.
- 35.43.125 Petition—Notice and public hearing required.
- 35.43.130 Preliminary estimates and assessment roll.
- 35.43.140 Resolutions—Contents, publication—Hearing, by whom held.
- 35.43.150 Resolutions—Hearing upon—Notice.
- 35.43.180 Restraint by protest.
- 35.43.182 Waivers of protest—Recording—Limits on enforceability.
- 35.43.184 Preformation expenditures.
- 35.43.186 Credits for other assessments.
- 35.43.188 Assessment reimbursement accounts.
- 35.43.190 Work—By contract or by city or public corporation.
- 35.43.200 Street railways at expense of property benefited.
- 35.43.210 Street railways at expense of property benefited—Petition—Assessment district.
- 35.43.220 Street railways at expense of property benefited—Assessment of cost.
- 35.43.230 Street railways at expense of property benefited—Procedure.
- 35.43.250 Deferral of collection of assessments for economically disadvantaged persons—Authorized.
- 35.43.260 Service fees for sewers not constructed within ten years after voter approval—Credit against future assessments, service charges.
- 35.43.270 Sanitary sewer or potable water facilities—Notice to certain property owners.
- 35.43.280 Settlement of Indian claims.

*Assessment rolls, eminent domain improvements, objections to: RCW 8.12.330.*

*Assessments*

*fire protection districts: RCW 52.20.010.*

*first-class cities, special: RCW 35.22.280(10).*

*local improvements, may be made by: State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.*

*public utility districts: RCW 54.16.160, 54.16.165.*

*Authority of cities to levy special taxes for: State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.*

*Bonds, savings and loan associations may invest in: RCW 33.24.080.*

*Bridges, elevated, ordinance ordering improvement: RCW 35.85.020.*

*Curbs along streets, construction, reconstruction and repair: Chapter 35.68 RCW.*

*Eminent domain: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

*First-class cities, authority for special assessments: RCW 35.22.280 (10), (13).*

*Foreclosure of assessments*

*curbs and gutter construction and repair: RCW 35.68.070.*

*sidewalk construction, second-class cities: RCW 35.70.090.*

*sidewalks and driveways across: RCW 35.68.070.*

*Local improvement districts*

*bridges, elevated: RCW 35.85.020.*

*metropolitan municipal corporations, effect on: RCW 35.58.500.*

*roadways, elevated: RCW 35.85.020.*

*subways: RCW 35.85.050.*

*tunnels: RCW 35.85.050.*

*viaducts: RCW 35.85.020.*

*water rights acquisition: RCW 35.92.220.*

*Metropolitan park districts, assessment against lands adjoining: RCW 35.61.220.*

*Parking, off-street facilities: RCW 35.86.020.*

*Pedestrian malls, financing: RCW 35.71.060.*

*Prepayment of taxes and assessments: RCW 35.21.650.*

*Roadways, elevated, ordinance ordering improvement: RCW 35.85.020.*

*Sanitary fills: Chapter 35.73 RCW.*

*Second-class cities, providing for improvements: RCW 35.23.440(47).*

*Special assessments: State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.*

*Streets and alleys*

*agreements with county: RCW 35.77.020.*

*county furnishing construction and maintenance: RCW 35.77.020.*

*county use of road fund: RCW 35.77.030.*

*establishing grade, procedure: Chapter 35.73 RCW.*

*Subways, authority to construct: RCW 35.85.050.*

*Tunnels, authority to construct: RCW 35.85.050.*

*Unfit dwellings, assessments for: RCW 35.80.030(1)(h).*

*Viaducts, ordinance ordering improvement: RCW 35.85.020.*

*Water rights, acquisition of: RCW 35.92.220.*

**RCW 35.43.005 Municipal local improvement statutes applicable to public corporations.** The provisions of this and the following chapters relating to municipal local improvements apply to local improvements owned or operated by a public corporation or by a public corporation and a city, town, or another public corporation as if they were owned or operated by a city or town. Whenever a section in such chapters refers to improvements made by, ordered by, owned by, operated by, constructed by, acquired by, or otherwise provided for or undertaken by a city or town or other municipality, it shall be construed to refer also to improvements made by, ordered by, owned by, operated by, constructed by, acquired by, or otherwise provided for or undertaken by a public corporation. [1987 c 242 s 6.]

**Policy—1987 c 242:** "It is declared to be the public policy of the state that public improvements owned and operated by public corporations that confer special benefits on property, including without limitation museum, cultural, or arts facilities or structures, should be able to use the local improvement district financing of municipalities." [1987 c 242 s 1.]

**RCW 35.43.010 Terms defined.** Whenever the words "city council" or "town council" are used in this and the following chapters relating to municipal local improvements, they shall be construed to mean the council or other legislative body of such city or town. Whenever the word "mayor" is used therein, it shall be construed to mean the presiding officer of said city or town. Whenever the words "installment" or "installments" are used therein, they shall be construed to include installment or installments of interest. Whenever the words "local improvement," "local improvements," or "municipal local improvements" are used therein, they shall be construed to include improvements owned or operated by a public corporation or by a public corporation and a city, town, or another public corporation. Whenever the words "public corporation" are used therein, they shall mean a public corporation, commission, or authority created pursuant to RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755. [1987 c 242 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.010. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 117 s 2; 1911 c 98 s 68; RRS s 9421.]

**Policy—1987 c 242:** See note following RCW 35.43.005.

**RCW 35.43.020 Construction.** The rule that statutes in derogation of the common law are to be strictly construed shall have no application to this and the following chapters relating to municipal local improvements but the same shall be liberally construed for the purpose of carrying out the objects for which intended. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.020. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 69; RRS s 9422.]

**RCW 35.43.030 Charters superseded—Application—Ordinances—Districts outside city authorized, within city authorized for transportation and infrastructure purposes.** This and the following chapters relating to municipal local improvements shall supersede the provisions of the charter of any city of the first class.

They shall apply to all incorporated cities and towns, including unclassified cities and towns operating under special charters.

The council of each city and town shall pass such general ordinance or ordinances as may be necessary to carry out their provisions and thereafter all proceedings relating to local improvements shall be conducted in accordance with this and the following chapters relating to municipal local improvements and the ordinance or ordinances of such city or town.

Cities or towns may form local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts composed entirely or in part of unincorporated territory outside of such city or town's corporate limits in the manner provided in this chapter, or, upon approval of the legislative authority of an adjoining city or town, may form local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts for transportation and infrastructure purposes that are composed entirely or in part of territory within that adjoining city or town. [2009 c 237 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 116 s 4; 1967 c 52 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.030. Prior: 1963 c 56 s 1; prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 60; 1899 c 146 s 1; RRS s 9413. (ii) 1911 c 98 s 67; RRS s 9420. (iii) 1911 c 98 s 71; RRS s 9424.]

**Effective date—2009 c 237:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 25, 2009]." [2009 c 237 s 2.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.43.035 Creation of district outside city subject to review by boundary review board.** The creation of a local improvement district outside of the boundaries of a city or town to provide water or sewer facilities may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 30.]

**RCW 35.43.040 Authority generally.** Whenever the public interest or convenience may require, the legislative authority of any city or town may order the whole or any part of any local improvement

including but not restricted to those, or any combination thereof, listed below to be constructed, reconstructed, repaired, or renewed and landscaping including but not restricted to the planting, setting out, cultivating, maintaining, and renewing of shade or ornamental trees and shrubbery thereon; may order any and all work to be done necessary for completion thereof; and may levy and collect special assessments on property specially benefited thereby to pay the whole or any part of the expense thereof, viz:

(1) Alleys, avenues, boulevards, lanes, park drives, parkways, parking facilities, public places, public squares, public streets, their grading, regrading, planking, replanking, paving, repaving, macadamizing, remacadamizing, graveling, regravelling, piling, repiling, capping, recapping, or other improvement; if the management and control of park drives, parkways, and boulevards is vested in a board of park commissioners, the plans and specifications for their improvement must be approved by the board of park commissioners before their adoption;

(2) Auxiliary water systems;

(3) Auditoriums, field houses, gymnasiums, swimming pools, or other recreational, playground, museum, cultural, or arts facilities or structures;

(4) Bridges, culverts, and trestles and approaches thereto;

(5) Bulkheads and retaining walls;

(6) Dikes and embankments;

(7) Drains, sewers, and sewer appurtenances which as to trunk sewers shall include as nearly as possible all the territory which can be drained through the trunk sewer and subsewers connected thereto;

(8) Escalators or moving sidewalks together with the expense of operation and maintenance;

(9) Parks and playgrounds;

(10) Sidewalks, curbing, and crosswalks;

(11) Street lighting systems together with the expense of furnishing electrical energy, maintenance, and operation;

(12) Underground utilities transmission lines;

(13) Water mains, hydrants, and appurtenances which as to trunk water mains shall include as nearly as possible all the territory in the zone or district to which water may be distributed from the trunk water mains through lateral service and distribution mains and services;

(14) Fences, culverts, syphons, or coverings or any other feasible safeguards along, in place of, or over open canals or ditches to protect the public from the hazards thereof;

(15) Roadbeds, trackage, signalization, storage facilities for rolling stock, overhead and underground wiring, and any other stationary equipment reasonably necessary for the operation of an electrified public streetcar line;

(16) Systems of surface, underground, or overhead railways, tramways, buses, or any other means of local transportation except taxis, and including passenger, terminal, station parking, and related facilities and properties, and such other facilities as may be necessary for passenger and vehicular access to and from such terminal, station, parking, and related facilities and properties, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment, and accessories necessary for such systems and facilities;

(17) Convention center facilities or structures in cities incorporated before January 1, 1982, with a population over sixty thousand located in a county with a population over one million, other

than the city of Seattle. Assessments for purposes of convention center facilities or structures may be levied only to the extent necessary to cover a funding shortfall that occurs when funds received from special excise taxes imposed pursuant to chapter 67.28 RCW are insufficient to fund the annual debt service for such facilities or structures, and may not be levied on property exclusively maintained as single-family or multifamily permanent residences whether they are rented, leased, or owner occupied;

(18) Programs of aquatic plant control, lake or river restoration, or water quality enhancement. Such programs must identify all the area of any lake or river which will be improved and must include the adjacent waterfront property specially benefited by such programs of improvements. Assessments may be levied only on waterfront property including any waterfront property owned by the department of natural resources or any other state agency. Notice of an assessment on a private leasehold in public property must comply with provisions of chapter 79.44 RCW. Programs under this subsection shall extend for a term of not more than five years;

(19) Railroad crossing protection devices, including maintenance and repair. Assessments for purposes of railroad crossing protection devices may not be levied on property owned or maintained by a railroad, railroad company, street railroad, or street railroad company, as defined in RCW 81.04.010, or a regional transit authority as defined in RCW 81.112.020; and

(20) Research laboratories, testing facilities, incubation facilities, and training centers built in areas designated as innovation partnership zones under RCW 43.330.270. [2011 c 85 s 1; 2009 c 435 s 1; 1997 c 452 s 16; 1989 c 277 s 1; 1985 c 397 s 1; 1983 c 291 s 1; 1981 c 17 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.040. Prior: 1959 c 75 s 1; 1957 c 144 s 2; prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 1; RRS s 9352. (ii) 1945 c 190 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 6, part; 1913 c 131 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 9357, part. (iii) 1911 c 98 s 15; RRS s 9367. (iv) 1911 c 98 s 58, part; RRS s 9411, part.]

**Intent—Severability—1997 c 452:** See notes following RCW 67.28.080.

**Savings—1997 c 452:** See note following RCW 67.28.181.

**Authority supplemental—1985 c 397:** See RCW 35.51.900.

**RCW 35.43.042 Authority to establish utility local improvement districts—Procedure.** Whenever the legislative authority of any city or town has provided pursuant to law for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, purchase, condemnation and purchase, addition to, repair, or renewal of the whole or any portion of a:

(1) System for providing the city or town and the inhabitants thereof with water, which system includes as a whole or as a part thereof water mains, hydrants or appurtenances which are authorized subjects for local improvements under RCW 35.43.040(13) or other law; or a

(2) System for providing the city or town with sewerage and storm or surface water disposal, which system includes as a whole or as a part thereof drains, sewers or sewer appurtenances which are

authorized subjects for local improvements under RCW 35.43.040(7) or other law; or

(3) Off-street parking facilities; and

Has further provided in accordance with any applicable provisions of the Constitution or statutory authority for the issuance and sale of revenue bonds to pay the cost of all or a portion of any such system, such legislative authority shall have the authority to establish utility local improvement districts, and to levy special assessments on all property specially benefited by any such local improvement to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of any local improvements so provided for.

The initiation and formation of such utility local improvement districts and the levying, collection and enforcement of assessments shall be in the manner and subject to the same procedures and limitations as are now or hereafter provided by law for the initiation and formation of local improvement districts in cities and towns and the levying, collection and enforcement of assessments pursuant thereto.

It must be specified in any petition or resolution initiating the formation of such a utility local improvement district in a city or town and in the ordinance ordered pursuant thereto, that the assessments shall be for the sole purpose of payment into such revenue bond fund as may be specified by the legislative authority for the payment of revenue bonds issued to defray the cost of such system or facilities or any portion thereof as provided for in this section.

Assessments in any such utility local improvement district may be made on the basis of special benefits up to but not in excess of the total cost of the local improvements portion of any system or facilities payable by issuance of revenue bonds. No warrants or bonds shall be issued in any such utility local improvement district, but the collection of interest and principal on all assessments in such utility local improvement district, when collected, shall be paid into any such revenue bond fund.

When in the petition or resolution for establishment of a local improvement district and in the ordinance ordered pursuant thereto, it is specified or provided that the assessments shall be for the sole purpose of payment into a revenue bond fund for the payment of revenue bonds, then the local improvement district shall be designated a "utility local improvement district".

The provisions of chapters 35.45, 35.47 and 35.48 RCW shall have no application to utility local improvement districts created under authority of this section. [1969 ex.s. c 258 s 2; 1967 c 52 s 1.]

**Construction—1967 c 52:** "The authority granted by this 1967 amendatory act shall be considered an alternative and additional method of securing payment of revenue bonds issued for the purposes specified in RCW 35.43.042 and shall not be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any other method for providing for the payment of any such revenue bonds." [1967 c 52 s 27.]

**Severability—1967 c 52:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1967 c 52 s 29.]

**RCW 35.43.043 Conversion of local improvement district into utility local improvement district.** The legislative authority of any city or town may by ordinance convert any then existing local improvement district into a utility local improvement district at any time prior to the adoption of an ordinance approving and confirming the final assessment roll of such local improvement district. The ordinance so converting the local improvement district shall provide for the payment of the special assessments levied in that district into the special fund established or to be established for the payment of revenue bonds issued to defray the cost of the local improvement in that district. [1967 c 52 s 28.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.43.045 Open canals or ditches—Safeguards.** Every city or town shall have the right of entry upon all irrigation, drainage, or flood control canal or ditch rights-of-way within its limits for all purposes necessary to safeguard the public from the hazards of such open canals or ditches, and the right to cause to be constructed, installed, and maintained upon or adjacent to such rights-of-way safeguards as provided in RCW 35.43.040: PROVIDED, That such safeguards must not unreasonably interfere with maintenance of the canal or ditch or with the operation thereof. The city or town, at its option, notwithstanding any laws to the contrary, may require the irrigation, drainage, flood control, or other district, agency, person, corporation, or association maintaining the canal or ditch to supervise the installation and construction of such safeguards, or to maintain the same. If such option is exercised reimbursement must be made by the city or town for all actual costs thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.045. Prior: 1959 c 75 s 2.]

*Safeguarding open canals or ditches, assessments: RCW 35.43.040, 35.43.045, 36.88.015, 36.88.350, 36.88.380 through 36.88.400, 87.03.480, 87.03.526.*

**RCW 35.43.050 Authority—Noncontinuous improvements.** When the legislative body of any city or town finds that all of the property within a local improvement district or utility local improvement district will be benefited by the improvements as a whole, a local improvement district or utility local improvement district may include adjoining, vicinal, or neighboring streets, avenues, and alleys or other improvements even though the improvements thus made are not connected or continuous. The assessment rates may be ascertained on the basis of the special benefit of the improvements as a whole to the properties within the entire local improvement district or utility local improvement district, or on the basis of the benefit of each unit of the improvements to the properties specially benefited by that unit, or the assessment rates may be ascertained by a combination of the two bases. Where no finding is made by the legislative body as to the benefit of the improvements as a whole to all of the property within a local improvement district or utility local improvement district, the cost and expense of each continuous unit of the improvements shall be ascertained separately, as near as may be, and



the assessment rates shall be computed on the basis of the cost and expense of each unit. In the event of the initiation of a local improvement district authorized by this section or a utility local improvement district authorized by this section, the legislative body may, in its discretion, eliminate from the district any unit of the improvement which is not connected or continuous and may proceed with the balance of the improvement within the local improvement district or utility local improvement district, as fully and completely as though the eliminated unit had not been included within the improvement district, without the giving of any notices to the property owners remaining within the district, other than such notices as are required by the provisions of this chapter to be given subsequent to such elimination. [1985 c 397 s 2; 1967 c 52 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.050. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 14; prior: 1947 c 155 s 1, part; 1941 c 90 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 2, part; 1911 c 98 s 13, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9365, part.]

**Authority supplemental—1985 c 397:** See RCW 35.51.900.

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.43.060 Consolidated cities—Procedure.** The city council of any city which is composed of two or more cities or towns which have been or may hereafter be consolidated may make and pass all resolutions, orders and ordinances necessary for any assessment where the improvement was made or was being made by a component city or town prior to consolidation. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.060. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 64; RRS s 9417.]

**RCW 35.43.070 Ordinance—Action on petition or resolution.** A local improvement may be ordered only by an ordinance of the city or town council, pursuant to either a resolution or petition therefor. The ordinance must receive the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members of the council.

Charters of cities of the first class may prescribe further limitations. In cities and towns other than cities of the first class, the ordinance must receive the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the council if, prior to its passage, written objections to its enactment are filed with the city clerk by or on behalf of the owners of a majority of the lineal frontage of the improvement and of the area within the limits of the proposed improvement district. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.070. Prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 8; RRS s 9359. (ii) 1911 c 98 s 66; RRS s 9419.]

**RCW 35.43.075 Petition for district outside city may be denied.** Whenever the formation of a local improvement district or utility local improvement district which lies entirely or in part outside of a city or town's corporate limits is initiated by petition the legislative authority of the city or town may by a majority vote deny the petition and refuse to form the local improvement district or utility local improvement district. [1967 c 52 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.075. Prior: 1963 c 56 s 3.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.43.080 Ordinance—Creation of district.** Every ordinance ordering a local improvement to be paid in whole or in part by assessments against the property specially benefited shall describe the improvement and establish a local improvement district to be known as "local improvement district No. . . . .," or a utility local improvement district to be known as "utility local improvement district No. . . . ." which shall embrace as nearly as practicable all the property specially benefited by the improvement. [1969 ex.s. c 258 s 3; 1967 c 52 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.080. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 15; prior: (i) 1947 c 155 s 1, part; 1941 c 90 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 2, part; 1911 c 98 s 13, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9365, part. (ii) 1929 c 97 s 2; 1911 c 98 s 14; RRS s 9366.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.43.100 Ordinance—Finality—Limitation upon challenging jurisdiction or authority to proceed.** The council may continue the hearing upon any petition or resolution provided for in this chapter and shall retain jurisdiction thereof until it is finally disposed of. The action and decision of the council as to all matters passed upon by it in relation to any petition or resolution shall be final and conclusive. No lawsuit whatsoever may be maintained challenging the jurisdiction or authority of the council to proceed with the improvement and creating the local improvement district or in any way challenging the validity thereof or any proceedings relating thereto unless that lawsuit is served and filed no later than thirty days after the date of passage of the ordinance ordering the improvement and creating the district or, when applicable, no later than thirty days after the expiration of the thirty-day protest period provided in RCW 35.43.180. [1969 ex.s. c 258 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.100. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 19; RRS s 9371.]

**RCW 35.43.110 Petition—Mandatory, when.** Proceedings to establish local improvement districts must be initiated by petition in the following cases:

- (1) Any local improvement payable in whole or in part by special assessments which includes a charge for the cost and expense of operation and maintenance of escalators or moving sidewalks shall be initiated only upon a petition signed by the owners of two-thirds of the lineal frontage upon the improvement to be made and two-thirds of the area within the limits of the proposed improvement district;
- (2) If the management of park drives, parkways, and boulevards of a city has been vested in a board of park commissioners or similar authority: PROVIDED, That the proceedings may be initiated by a resolution, if the ordinance is passed at the request of the park board or similar authority therefor specifying the particular drives, parkways, or boulevards, or portions thereof to be improved and the nature of the improvement. [1981 c 313 s 10; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.110. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 3; prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 58, part; RRS s 9411,

part. (ii) 1945 c 190 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 6, part; 1913 c 131 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 9357, part.]

**Severability—1981 c 313:** See note following RCW 36.94.020.

**RCW 35.43.120 Petition—Requirements.** Any local improvement may be initiated upon a petition signed by the owners of property aggregating a majority of the area within the proposed district. The petition must briefly describe: (1) The nature of the proposed improvement, (2) the territorial extent of the proposed improvement, (3) what proportion of the area within the proposed district is owned by the petitioners as shown by the records in the office of the county auditor, and (4) the fact that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement, or street lighting, adds to the property.

If any of the property within the area of the proposed district stands in the name of a deceased person, or of any person for whom a guardian has been appointed and not discharged, the signature of the executor, administrator, or guardian, as the case may be, shall be equivalent to the signature of the owner of the property on the petition. The petition must be filed with the clerk or with such other officer as the city or town by charter or ordinance may require. [1989 c 243 s 1; 1981 c 323 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.120. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 6; prior: 1911 c 98 s 9, part; RRS s 9360, part.]

**RCW 35.43.125 Petition—Notice and public hearing required.** A public hearing shall be held on the creation of a proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district that is initiated by petition. Notice requirements for this public hearing shall be the same as for the public hearing on the creation of a proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district that is initiated by resolution. [1987 c 315 s 2.]

**RCW 35.43.130 Preliminary estimates and assessment roll.** Upon the filing of a petition or upon the adoption of a resolution, as the case may be, initiating a proceeding for the formation of a local improvement district or utility local improvement district, the proper board, officer, or authority designated by charter or ordinance to make the preliminary estimates and assessment roll shall cause an estimate to be made of the cost and expense of the proposed improvement and certify it to the legislative authority of the city or town together with all papers and information in its possession touching the proposed improvement, a description of the boundaries of the district, and a statement of what portion of the cost and expense of the improvement should be borne by the property within the proposed district.

If the proceedings were initiated by petition the designated board, officer or authority shall also determine the sufficiency of the petition and whether the facts set forth therein are true. If the petition is found to be sufficient and in all proceedings initiated by resolution of the legislative authority of the city or town, the

estimates must be accompanied by a diagram showing thereon the lots, tracts, and parcels of land and other property which will be specially benefited by the proposed improvement and the estimated amount of the cost and expense thereof to be borne by each lot, tract, or parcel of land or other property: PROVIDED, That no such diagram shall be required where such estimates are on file in the office of the city engineer, or other designated city office, together with a detailed copy of the preliminary assessment roll and the plans and assessment maps of the proposed improvement.

For the purpose of estimating and levying local improvement assessments, the value of property of the United States, of the state, or of any county, city, town, school district, or other public corporation whose property is not assessed for general taxes shall be computed according to the standards afforded by similarly situated property which is assessed for general taxes. [1983 c 303 s 1; 1967 c 52 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.130. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 7; prior: 1953 c 26 s 1. (i) 1911 c 98 s 9, part; RRS s 9360, part. (ii) 1929 c 97 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 10, part; RRS s 9361, part. (iii) 1949 c 28 s 1, part; 1931 c 85 s 1, part; 1927 c 109 s 1, part; 1923 c 135 s 1, part; 1921 c 128 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 12, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9363, part. (iv) 1927 c 209 s 4, part; 1923 c 141 s 4, part; RRS s 9351-4, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.43.140 Resolutions—Contents, publication—Hearing, by whom held.** Any local improvement to be paid for in whole or in part by the levy and collection of assessments upon the property within the proposed improvement district may be initiated by a resolution of the city or town council or other legislative authority of the city or town, declaring its intention to order the improvement, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of the improvement, containing a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement, or street lighting, adds to the property, and notifying all persons who may desire to object thereto to appear and present their objections at a time to be fixed therein.

In the case of trunk sewers and trunk water mains the resolution must describe the routes along which the trunk sewer, subsewer and branches of trunk water main and laterals are to be constructed.

In case of dikes or other structures to protect the city or town or any part thereof from overflow or to open, deepen, straighten, or enlarge watercourses, waterways and other channels the resolution must set forth the place of commencement and ending thereof and the route to be used.

In the case of auxiliary water systems, or extensions thereof or additions thereto for protection of the city or town or any part thereof from fire, the resolution must set forth the routes along which the auxiliary water system or extensions thereof or additions thereto are to be constructed and specifications of the structures or works necessary thereto or forming a part thereof.

The resolution shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of the official newspaper of the city or town, the first

publication to be at least fifteen days before the day fixed for the hearing.

The hearing herein required may be held before the city or town council, or other legislative authority, or before a committee thereof. The legislative authority of a city or town may designate an officer to conduct the hearings. The committee or hearing officer shall report recommendations on the resolution to the legislative authority for final action. [1994 c 71 s 2; 1989 c 243 s 2; 1985 c 469 s 29; 1984 c 203 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.140. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 8; prior: 1953 c 177 s 1. (i) 1929 c 97 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 10, part; RRS s 9361, part. (ii) 1911 c 98 s 16, part; RRS s 9368, part. (iii) 1911 c 98 s 17, part; RRS s 9369, part. (iv) 1911 c 98 s 18, part; RRS s 9370, part.]

**Severability—1984 c 203:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1984 c 203 s 10.]

**RCW 35.43.150 Resolutions—Hearing upon—Notice.** Notice of the hearing upon a resolution declaring the intention of the legislative authority of a city or town to order an improvement shall be given by mail at least fifteen days before the day fixed for hearing to the owners or reputed owners of all lots, tracts, and parcels of land or other property to be specially benefited by the proposed improvement, as shown on the rolls of the county assessor, directed to the address thereon shown.

The notice shall set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the estimated cost, a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement, or street lighting, adds to the property, and the estimated benefits of the particular lot, tract, or parcel. [1989 c 243 s 3; 1983 c 303 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.150. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 9; prior: 1929 c 97 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 10, part; RRS s 9361, part.]

**RCW 35.43.180 Restraint by protest.** The jurisdiction of the legislative authority of a city or town to proceed with any local improvement initiated by resolution shall be divested by a protest filed with the city or town council within thirty days from the date of passage of the ordinance ordering the improvement, signed by the owners of the property within the proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district subject to sixty percent or more of the total cost of the improvement including federally-owned or other nonassessable property as shown and determined by the preliminary estimates and assessment roll of the proposed improvement district or, if all or part of the local improvement district or utility local improvement district lies outside of the city or town, such jurisdiction shall be divested by a protest filed in the same manner and signed by the owners of property which is within the proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district but outside the boundaries of the city or town, and which is subject to sixty percent or more of that part of the total cost of the improvement allocable to property within the proposed local

improvement district or utility local improvement district but outside the boundaries of the city or town, including federally-owned or other nonassessable property: PROVIDED, That such restraint by protest shall not apply to any of the following local improvements, if the legislative body finds and recites in the ordinance or resolution authorizing the improvement that such improvement is necessary for the protection of the public health and safety and such ordinance or resolution is passed by unanimous vote of all members present: (1) Sanitary sewers or watermains where the health officer of the city or town, or department of ecology, files with the legislative authority a report showing the necessity for such improvement; and (2) fire hydrants where the chief of the fire department files a report showing the necessity for such improvement. [1983 c 303 s 3; 1967 c 52 s 8; 1965 c 58 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.180. Prior: 1963 c 56 s 2; 1957 c 144 s 12; prior: 1949 c 28 s 1, part; 1931 c 85 s 1, part; 1927 c 109 s 1, part; 1923 c 135 s 1, part; 1921 c 128 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 12, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9363, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.43.182 Waivers of protest—Recording—Limits on enforceability.** If an owner of property enters into an agreement with a city or town waiving the property owner's right under RCW 35.43.180 to protest formation of a local improvement district, the agreement must specify the improvements to be financed by the district and shall set forth the effective term of the agreement, which shall not exceed ten years. The agreement must be recorded with the auditor of the county in which the property is located. It is against public policy and void for an owner, by agreement, as a condition imposed in connection with proposed property development, or otherwise, to waive rights to object to the property owner's individual assessment (including the determination of special benefits allocable to the property), or to appeal to the superior court the decision of the city or town council affirming the final assessment roll. [1988 c 179 s 8.]

**Severability—Prospective application—Section captions—1988 c 179:** See RCW 39.92.900 and 39.92.901.

**RCW 35.43.184 Preformation expenditures.** The city or town engineer or other designated official may contract with owners of real property to provide for payment by the owners of the cost of the preparation of engineering plans, surveys, studies, appraisals, legal services, and other expenses associated with improvements to be financed in whole or in part by a local improvement district (not including the cost of actual construction of such improvements), that the owners elect to undertake. The contract may provide for reimbursement to the owner of such costs from the proceeds of bonds issued by the district after formation of a district under this chapter, from assessments paid to the district as appropriate, or by a credit in the amount of such costs against future assessments assessed against such property under the district. Such reimbursement shall be made to the owner of the property at the time of reimbursement. The

contract shall also provide that such costs shall not be reimbursed to the owner if a district to construct the specified improvements (as the project may be amended) is not formed within six years of the date of the contract. The contract shall provide that any preformation work shall be conducted only under the direction of the city or town engineer or other appropriate city or town authority. [1988 c 179 s 9.]

**Severability—Prospective application—Section captions—1988 c 179:** See RCW 39.92.900 and 39.92.901.

**RCW 35.43.186 Credits for other assessments.** A city or town ordering a local improvement upon which special assessments on property specifically benefited by the improvement are levied and collected, may provide as part of the ordinance creating the local improvement district that moneys paid or the cost of facilities constructed by a property owner in the district in satisfaction of obligations under chapter 39.92 RCW, shall be credited against assessments due from the owner of such property at the time the credit is made, if those moneys paid or facilities constructed directly defray the cost of the specified improvements under the district and if credit for such amounts is reflected in the final assessment roll confirmed for the district. [1988 c 179 s 10.]

**Severability—Prospective application—Section captions—1988 c 179:** See RCW 39.92.900 and 39.92.901.

**RCW 35.43.188 Assessment reimbursement accounts.** A city or town ordering a local improvement upon which special assessments on property specifically benefited by the improvement are levied and collected, may provide as part of the ordinance creating the local improvement district that the payment of an assessment levied for the district on underdeveloped properties may be made by owners of other properties within the district, if they so elect, subject to terms of reimbursement set forth in the ordinance. The terms for reimbursement shall require the owners of underdeveloped properties on whose behalf payments of assessments have been made to reimburse all such assessment payments to the party who made them when those properties are developed or redeveloped, together with interest at a rate specified in the ordinance. The ordinance may provide that reimbursement shall be made on a one-time, lump sum basis, or may provide that reimbursement shall be made over a period not to exceed five years. The ordinance may provide that reimbursement shall be made no later than the time of dissolution of the district, or may provide that no reimbursement is due if the underdeveloped properties are not developed or redeveloped before the dissolution of the district. Reimbursement amounts due from underdeveloped properties under this section are liens upon the underdeveloped properties in the same manner and with like effect as assessments made under this chapter. For the purposes of this section, "underdeveloped properties" may include those properties that, in the discretion of the legislative body of the city or town, (1) are undeveloped or are not developed to their highest and best use, and (2) are likely to be developed or

redeveloped before the dissolution of the district. [1988 c 179 s 11.]

**Severability—Prospective application—Section captions—1988 c 179:** See RCW 39.92.900 and 39.92.901.

**RCW 35.43.190 Work—By contract or by city or public corporation.** All local improvements, the funds for the making of which are derived in whole or in part from assessments upon property specially benefited shall be made by contract on competitive bids whenever the estimated cost of such improvement including the cost of materials, supplies, labor, and equipment will exceed the sum of five thousand dollars. The city, town, or public corporation may reject any and all bids. The city, town, or public corporation itself may make the local improvements if all the bids received exceed by ten percent preliminary cost estimates prepared by an independent consulting engineer or registered professional engineer retained for that purpose by the city, town, or public corporation. [1987 c 242 s 3; 1971 ex.s. c 116 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.43.190. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 59; RRS s 9412.]

**Policy—1987 c 242:** See note following RCW 35.43.005.

**RCW 35.43.200 Street railways at expense of property benefited.** Any city or town in this state owning and operating a municipal street railway over one hundred miles of track shall have power to provide for purchasing, or otherwise acquiring, or constructing and equipping surface, subway and elevated street railways and extensions thereof, and to levy and collect special assessments on property specially benefited thereby, for paying the cost and expense of the same or any portion thereof, as hereinafter provided. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.200. Prior: 1923 c 176 s 1; RRS s 9425-1.]

**RCW 35.43.210 Street railways at expense of property benefited—Petition—Assessment district.** Any improvement district created under RCW 35.43.200-35.43.230 shall be created only by ordinance defining its boundaries as specified and described in the petition therefor and specifying the plan or system therein provided for; and shall be initiated only upon a petition therefor, specifying and describing the boundaries of such district and specifying the plan or system of proposed improvement, signed by the owners of at least sixty percent of the lineal frontage upon the proposed improvement and of at least fifty percent of the area within the limits of the proposed improvement district: PROVIDED, That the city council may in its discretion reject any such petition. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.210. Prior: 1923 c 176 s 2; RRS s 9425-2.]

**RCW 35.43.220 Street railways at expense of property benefited—Assessment of cost.** The cost and expense of any such improvement shall be distributed and assessed against all the property included in such local improvement district, in accordance with the special benefits conferred thereon. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.220. Prior: 1923 c 176 s 3; RRS s 9425-3.]



**RCW 35.43.230 Street railways at expense of property benefited—Procedure.** Except as herein otherwise provided all matters and proceedings relating to such local improvement district, the levying and collecting of assessments, the issuance and redemption of local improvement warrants and bonds, and the enforcement of local assessment liens hereunder shall be governed by the laws relating to local improvements; and all matters and proceedings relating to the purchase, acquisition, or construction and equipment of the improvement and the operation of the same hereunder and the issuance and redemption of utility bonds and warrants, if any, and the use of general or utility funds, if any, in connection with the purchase, acquisition, construction, equipping, or operation of the improvement shall be governed by the laws relating to municipal public utilities. [1965 c 7 s 35.43.230. Prior: 1923 c 176 s 4; RRS s 9425-4.]

**RCW 35.43.250 Deferral of collection of assessments for economically disadvantaged persons—Authorized.** Any city of the first class in this state ordering any local improvement upon which shall be levied and collected special assessments on property specifically benefited thereby may provide as part of the ordinance creating any local improvement district that the collection of any assessment levied therefor may be deferred until a time previous to the dissolution of the district for those economically disadvantaged property owners or other persons who, under the terms of a recorded contract of purchase, recorded mortgage, recorded deed of trust transaction or recorded lease are responsible under penalty of forfeiture, foreclosure or default as between vendor/vendee, mortgagor/mortgagee, grantor and trustor/trustee and grantee, and beneficiary and lender, or lessor and lessee for the payment of local improvement district assessments, and in the manner specified in the ordinance qualify for such deferment, upon assurance of property security for the payment thereof. [1972 ex.s. c 137 s 2.]

**Severability—1972 ex.s. c 137:** See note following RCW 35.49.010.

**RCW 35.43.260 Service fees for sewers not constructed within ten years after voter approval—Credit against future assessments, service charges.** Any municipal corporation, quasi municipal corporation, or political subdivision which has the authority to install sewers by establishing local improvement districts, which has charged and collected monthly service fees for sewers, that have been authorized and approved by the voters and have not been constructed for a period of ten or more years since the voter approval, is hereby authorized and directed to grant a credit against the future assessment to be assessed at the time of actual completion of construction of the sewers for each parcel of real property in an amount equal in dollars to the total amount of service fees charged and collected since voter approval for each such parcel, plus interest at six percent compounded annually: PROVIDED, That if such service fees and interest exceed the future assessment for construction of the sewers, such excess funds shall be used to defray future sewer service charge fees.

It is the intent of the legislature that the provisions of this section are procedural and remedial and shall have retroactive effect. [1977 c 72 s 3.]

**RCW 35.43.270 Sanitary sewer or potable water facilities—Notice to certain property owners.** Whenever it is proposed that a local improvement district or utility local improvement district finance sanitary sewers or potable water facilities, additional notice of the public hearing on the proposed improvement district shall be mailed to the owners of any property located outside of the proposed improvement district that would be required as a condition of federal housing administration loan qualification, at the time of notice, to be connected to the specific sewer or water facilities installed by the local improvement district. The notice shall include information about this restriction. [1987 c 315 s 1.]

**RCW 35.43.280 Settlement of Indian claims.** (1) The settlement of Indian land and other claims against public and private property owners is declared to be in the interest of public health and safety, orderly government, environmental protection, economic development, and the social well-being of the citizens of this state, and to specifically benefit the properties released from those claims.

It is the purpose of chapter 4, Laws of 1989 1st ex. sess. to encourage the settlement of such Indian land and other claims lawsuits by permitting the establishment and use of local improvement districts to finance all or a portion of the settlement costs of such lawsuits.

(2) A local improvement district may be established by a local government legislative authority to finance all or part of the settlement costs in an Indian land and other claims settlement related to public and private property located within the local government. The settlement of an Indian land claim lawsuit shall be deemed to be an improvement that may be financed in whole or in part through use of a local improvement district.

Except as expressly provided in this section, all matters relating to the establishment and operation of such a local improvement district, the levying and collection of special assessments, the issuance of local improvement district bonds and other obligations, and all related matters, shall be subject to the provisions of chapters 35.43 through 35.54 RCW. The resolution or petition initiating the creation of a local improvement district used to finance all or a portion of an Indian land and other claims settlement shall describe the general nature of the Indian land and other claims and the proposed settlement. The value of a contribution by any person, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or the state of money, real property, or personal property to the settlement of Indian land and other claims shall be credited to any assessment for a local improvement district under this section. [1989 1st ex.s. c 4 s 2.]

**Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 4:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1989 1st ex.s. c 4 s 4.]

**Chapter 35.44 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—ASSESSMENTS AND REASSESSMENTS**

**Sections**

- 35.44.010 Assessment district—All property to be assessed—Basis.
- 35.44.015 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land  
—Exemption from assessments, etc.
- 35.44.020 Assessment district—Cost items to be included.
- 35.44.030 Assessment district—Zones.
- 35.44.040 Assessment rate per square foot.
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supplemental assessments—Provisions governing.
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- 35.44.370 Assessments on omitted property—Resolution—Notice.
- 35.44.380 Assessments on omitted property—Confirmation ordinance—  
Collection.
- 35.44.390 Supplemental assessments—When authorized.
- 35.44.400 Supplemental assessments—Limitation of time for.

35.44.410 Segregation of assessments.  
35.44.420 Property donations—Credit against assessments.

*Alternative method of assessment—Classification of property: RCW 35.51.030.*

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Deferral of special assessments: Chapter 84.38 RCW.*

**RCW 35.44.010 Assessment district—All property to be assessed—Basis.** All property included within the limits of a local improvement district or utility local improvement district shall be considered to be the property specially benefited by the local improvement and shall be the property to be assessed to pay the cost and expense thereof or such part thereof as may be chargeable against the property specially benefited. The cost and expense shall be assessed upon all the property in accordance with the special benefits conferred thereon. [1985 c 397 s 3; 1967 c 52 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.010. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 16; prior: 1947 c 155 s 1, part; 1941 c 90 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 2, part; 1911 c 98 s 13, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9365, part.]

**Authority supplemental—1985 c 397:** See RCW 35.51.900.

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.44.015 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land—Exemption from assessments, etc.** See RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922.

**RCW 35.44.020 Assessment district—Cost items to be included.** There shall be included in the cost and expense of every local improvement for assessment against the property in the district created to pay the same, or any part thereof:

(1) The cost of all of the construction or improvement authorized for the district including, but not limited to, that portion of the improvement within the street intersections;

(2) The estimated cost and expense of all engineering and surveying necessary for the improvement done under the supervision of the city or town engineer;

(3) The estimated cost and expense of ascertaining the ownership of the lots or parcels of land included in the assessment district;

(4) The estimated cost and expense of advertising, mailing, and publishing all necessary notices;

(5) The estimated cost and expense of accounting, clerical labor, and of books and blanks extended or used on the part of the city or town clerk and city or town treasurer in connection with the improvement;

(6) All cost of the acquisition of rights-of-way, property, easements, or other facilities or rights, including without limitation rights to use property, facilities, or other improvements appurtenant, related to, and/or useful in connection with the local improvement,

whether by eminent domain, purchase, gift, payment of connection charges, capacity charges, or other similar charges or in any other manner;

(7) The cost for legal, financial, and appraisal services and any other expenses incurred by the city, town, or public corporation for the district or in the formation thereof, or by the city, town, or public corporation in connection with such construction or improvement and in the financing thereof, including the issuance of any bonds and the cost of providing for increases in the local improvement guaranty fund, or providing for a separate reserve fund or other security for the payment of principal of and interest on such bonds.

Any of the costs set forth in this section may be excluded from the cost and expense to be assessed against the property in such local improvement district and may be paid from any other moneys available therefor if the legislative body of the city or town so designates by ordinance at any time. [1995 c 382 s 1; 1987 c 242 s 4; 1985 c 397 s 4; 1971 ex.s. c 116 s 8; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.020. Prior: 1955 c 364 s 1; 1911 c 98 s 55; RRS s 9408.]

**Policy—1987 c 242:** See note following RCW 35.43.005.

**Authority supplemental—1985 c 397:** See RCW 35.51.900.

**RCW 35.44.030 Assessment district—Zones.** For the purpose of ascertaining the amount to be assessed against each separate lot, tract, parcel of land or other property therein, the local improvement district or utility local improvement district shall be divided into subdivisions or zones paralleling the margin of the street, avenue, lane, alley, boulevard, park drive, parkway, public place or public square to be improved, numbered respectively first, second, third, fourth, and fifth.

The first subdivision shall include all lands within the district lying between the street margins and lines drawn parallel therewith and thirty feet therefrom.

The second subdivision shall include all lands within the district lying between lines drawn parallel with and thirty and sixty feet respectively from the street margins.

The third subdivision shall include all lands within the district lying between lines drawn parallel with and sixty and ninety feet respectively from the street margins.

The fourth subdivision shall include all lands, if any, within the district lying between lines drawn parallel with and ninety and one hundred twenty feet respectively from the street margins.

The fifth subdivision shall include all lands, if any, within the district lying between a line drawn parallel with and one hundred twenty feet from the street margin and the outer limit of the improvement district. [1967 c 52 s 10; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.030. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 17; prior: 1947 c 155 s 1, part; 1941 c 90 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 2, part; 1911 c 98 s 13, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9365, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.44.040 Assessment rate per square foot.** The rate of assessment per square foot in each subdivision of an improvement district shall be fixed on the basis that the special benefits conferred on a square foot of land in subdivisions first, second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively, are related to each other as are the numbers, forty-five, twenty-five, twenty, ten, and five, respectively, and shall be ascertained in the following manner:

(1) The products of the number of square feet in subdivisions first, second, third, fourth, and fifth, respectively, and the numbers forty-five, twenty-five, twenty, ten, and five, respectively, shall be ascertained;

(2) The aggregate sum thereof shall be divided into the total cost and expense of the improvement;

(3) The resultant quotient multiplied by forty-five, twenty-five, twenty, ten, and five, respectively, shall be the respective rate of assessment per square foot for subdivisions first, second, third, fourth and fifth: PROVIDED, That in lieu of the above formula the rate of assessment per square foot in each subdivision of an improvement district may be fixed on the basis that the special benefits conferred on a square foot of land in subdivisions first, second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively, are related to each other as are the numbers 0.015000, 0.008333, 0.006666, 0.003333, and 0.001666, respectively; and the method of determining the assessment on each lot, tract, or parcel of land in the improvement district may be ascertained in the following manner:

(1) The products of the number of square feet in subdivisions first, second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively, for each lot, tract or parcel of land in the improvement district and the numbers 0.015000, 0.008333, 0.006666, 0.003333 and 0.001666, respectively, shall be ascertained. The sum of all such products for each such lot, tract or parcel of land shall be the number of "assessable units of frontage" therein;

(2) The rate for each assessable unit of frontage shall be determined by dividing that portion of the total cost of the improvement representing special benefits by the aggregate sum of all assessable units of frontage;

(3) The assessment for each lot, tract or parcel of land in the improvement district shall be the product of the assessable units of frontage therefor, multiplied by the rate per assessable unit of frontage. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.040. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 18; prior: 1947 c 155 s 1, part; 1941 c 90 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 2, part; 1911 c 98 s 13, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9365, part.]

**RCW 35.44.045 Open canals or ditches—Safeguards—Ascertaining assessments.** As an alternative to other methods of ascertaining assessments for local improvements, in a local improvement district established for safeguarding open canals or ditches, the district may be sectioned into subdivisions or zones paralleling the canal or ditch, numbered respectively, first, second, third and fourth. Each subdivision shall be equal to one-quarter of the width of the district as measured back from the margin of the canal right-of-way. The rate of assessment per square foot in each subdivision so formed shall be fixed on the basis that the special benefits conferred on a square foot of land in subdivisions first, second, third, and fourth, respectively, are related to each other as are the numbers, forty,

thirty, twenty, and ten, respectively, and shall be ascertained in the following manner:

(1) The products of the number of square feet in subdivisions first, second, third, and fourth, respectively, and the numbers forty, thirty, twenty, and ten, respectively, shall be ascertained;

(2) The aggregate sum thereof shall be divided into the total cost and expense of the local improvement;

(3) The resultant quotient multiplied by forty, thirty, twenty, and ten, respectively, shall be the respective rate of assessment per square foot for each subdivision. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.045. Prior: 1959 c 75 s 3.]

*Safeguarding open canals or ditches, assessments: RCW 35.43.040, 35.43.045, 36.88.015, 36.88.350, 36.88.380 through 36.88.400, 87.03.480, 87.03.526.*

**RCW 35.44.047 Other methods of computing assessments may be used.** Notwithstanding the methods of assessment provided in RCW 35.44.030, 35.44.040 and 35.44.045, the city or town may use any other method or combination of methods to compute assessments which may be deemed to more fairly reflect the special benefits to the properties being assessed. The failure of the council to specifically recite in its ordinance ordering the improvement and creating the local improvement district that it will not use the zone and termini method of assessment shall not invalidate the use of any other method or methods of assessment. [1969 ex.s. c 258 s 7.]

**RCW 35.44.050 Assessment roll—Entry of assessments against property.** The total assessment thus ascertained against each separate lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property in the district shall be entered upon the assessment roll as the amount to be levied and assessed against each separate lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.050. Prior: 1957 c 144 s 19; prior: 1947 c 155 s 1, part; 1941 c 90 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 2, part; 1911 c 98 s 13, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9365, part.]

**RCW 35.44.060 Assessment roll—Diagram on preliminary survey not conclusive.** The diagram or print directed to be submitted to the council shall be in the nature of a preliminary determination by the designated administrative board, officer, or authority upon the method and relative estimated amounts of assessments to be levied upon the property specially benefited by the improvement and shall not be binding or conclusive in any way upon the board, officer, or authority in the preparation of the assessment roll for the improvement or upon the council in any hearing affecting the assessment roll. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.060. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 11; RRS s 9362.]

**RCW 35.44.070 Assessment roll—Filing—Hearing, date, by whom held.** The assessment roll for local improvements when prepared as provided by law shall be filed with the city or town clerk. The council or other legislative authority shall thereupon fix a date for a hearing thereon before such legislative authority or may direct that

the hearing shall be held before a committee thereof or the legislative authority of any city or town may designate an officer to conduct such hearings. The committee or officer designated shall hold a hearing on the assessment roll and consider all objections filed following which the committee or officer shall make recommendations to such legislative authority which shall either adopt or reject the recommendations of the committee or officer. If a hearing is held before such a committee or officer it shall not be necessary to hold a hearing on the assessment roll before such legislative authority. A local ordinance shall provide for an appeal by any person protesting his or her assessment to the legislative authority of a decision made by such officer. The same procedure may if so directed by such legislative authority be followed with respect to any assessment upon the roll which is raised or changed to include omitted property. Such legislative authority shall direct the clerk to give notice of the hearing and of the time and place thereof. [1994 c 71 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 100 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.070. Prior: 1953 c 177 s 2; 1929 c 97 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 21, part; RRS s 9373, part.]

**RCW 35.44.080 Assessment roll—Notice of hearing.** The notice of hearing upon the assessment roll shall specify the time and place of hearing and shall notify all persons who may desire to object thereto:

(1) To make their objections in writing and to file them with the city or town clerk at or prior to the date fixed for the hearing;

(2) That at the time and place fixed and at times to which the hearing may be adjourned, the council will sit as a board of equalization for the purpose of considering the roll; and

(3) That at the hearing the council or committee or officer will consider the objections made and will correct, revise, raise, lower, change, or modify the roll or any part thereof or set aside the roll and order the assessment to be made de novo.

Following the hearing the council shall confirm the roll by ordinance. [1979 ex.s. c 100 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.080. Prior: 1929 c 97 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 21, part; RRS s 9373, part.]

**RCW 35.44.090 Assessment roll—Notice—Mailing—Publication.** At least fifteen days before the date fixed for hearing, notice thereof shall be mailed to the owner or reputed owner of the property whose name appears on the assessment roll, at the address shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer for each item of property described on the list. In addition thereto the notice shall be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the city or town, the last publication to be at least fifteen days before the date fixed for hearing. [1986 c 278 s 48; 1985 c 469 s 30; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.090. Prior: 1929 c 97 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 21, part; RRS s 9373, part.]

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**RCW 35.44.100 Assessment roll—Hearing—Objections—Authority of council.** At the time fixed for hearing objections to the confirmation of the assessment roll, and at the times to which the hearing may be adjourned, the council may correct, revise, raise, lower, change, or



modify the roll or any part thereof, or set aside the roll and order the assessment to be made de novo and at the conclusion thereof confirm the roll by ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.100. Prior: 1929 c 97 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 21, part; RRS s 9373, part.]

**RCW 35.44.110 Assessment roll—Objections—Timeliness.** All objections to the confirmation of the assessment roll shall state clearly the grounds of objections. Objections not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in this chapter shall be conclusively presumed to have been waived. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.110. Prior: 1929 c 97 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 21, part; RRS s 9373, part.]

**RCW 35.44.120 Assessment roll—Amendment—Procedure.** If an assessment roll is amended so as to raise any assessment appearing thereon or to include omitted property, a new time and place for hearing shall be fixed and a new notice of hearing on the roll given as in the case of an original hearing: PROVIDED, That as to any property originally entered upon the roll the assessment upon which has not been raised, no objections to confirmation of the assessment roll shall be considered by the council or by any court on appeal unless the objections were made in writing at or prior to the date fixed for the original hearing upon the assessment roll. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.120. Prior: 1929 c 97 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 21, part; RRS s 9373, part.]

**RCW 35.44.130 City property—Assessment.** Every city and town shall include in its annual tax levy an amount sufficient to pay all unpaid assessments with all interest, penalties, and charges thereon levied against all lands belonging to the city or town. The proceeds of such a portion of the tax levy shall be placed in a separate fund to be known as the "city (or town) property assessments redemption fund" and by the city or town treasurer inviolably applied in payment of any unpaid assessment liens on any lands belonging to the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.130. Prior: (i) 1929 c 183 s 1; 1909 c 130 s 1; RRS s 9344. (ii) 1929 c 183 s 2, part; 1909 c 130 s 2, part; RRS s 9345, part.]

**RCW 35.44.140 County property assessment.** All lands held or owned by any county in fee simple, in trust, or otherwise within the limits of a local improvement district or utility local improvement district of a city or town shall be assessed and charged for their proportion of the cost of the local improvement in the same manner as other property in the district and the county commissioners are authorized to cause the assessments to be paid at the times and in the manner provided by law and the ordinances of the city or town. This section shall apply to all cities and towns, any charter or ordinance provision to the contrary notwithstanding. [1971 ex.s. c 116 s 9; 1967 c 52 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.140. Prior: (i) 1905 c 29 s 1; RRS s 9340. (ii) 1907 c 61 s 1; 1905 c 29 s 2; RRS s 9341. (iii) 1929 c 139 s 2; 1905 c 29 s 4; RRS s 9343.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.44.150 Harbor area leaseholds—Assessment.** All leasehold rights and interests of private individuals, firms or corporations in or to harbor areas located within the limits of a city or town are declared to be real property for the purpose of assessment for the payment of the cost of local improvements. They may be assessed and reassessed in accordance with the special benefits received, which shall be limited to benefits accruing during the term of the lease, to the property subject to lease immediately abutting upon the improvement and extending one-half block therefrom not exceeding, however, three hundred fifty feet. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.150. Prior: 1915 c 134 s 1; RRS s 9364.]

**RCW 35.44.160 Leases on tidelands—Assessment.** All leases of tidelands owned in fee by the state are declared to be real property for the purpose of assessment for the payment of the cost of local improvements. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.160. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 56; RRS s 9409.]

**RCW 35.44.170 Metropolitan park district property—Assessment.** All lands held by a metropolitan park district in fee simple, in trust, or otherwise within the limits of a local improvement district in a city or town shall be assessed and charged for their proportion of the cost of all local improvements in the same manner as other property in the district. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.170. Prior: (i) 1929 c 204 s 1; RRS s 9343-1. (ii) 1929 c 204 s 2; RRS s 9343-2.]

**RCW 35.44.180 Notices—Mailing—Proof.** The mailing of any notice required in connection with municipal local improvements shall be conclusively proved by the written certificate of the officer, board, or authority directed by the provisions of the charter or ordinance of a city or town to give the notice. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.180. Prior: 1929 c 97 s 4; RRS s 9373-1.]

**RCW 35.44.190 Proceedings conclusive—Exceptions—Adjustments to assessments if other funds become available.** Whenever any assessment roll for local improvements has been confirmed by the council, the regularity, validity, and correctness of the proceedings relating to the improvement and to the assessment therefor, including the action of the council upon the assessment roll and the confirmation thereof shall be conclusive in all things upon all parties. They cannot in any manner be contested or questioned in any proceeding by any person unless he or she filed written objections to the assessment roll in the manner and within the time required by the provisions of this chapter and unless he or she prosecutes his or her appeal in the manner and within the time required by the provisions of this chapter.

No proceeding of any kind shall be commenced or prosecuted for the purpose of defeating or contesting any assessment or the sale of any property to pay an assessment or any certificate of delinquency

issued therefor, or the foreclosure of any lien therefor, except that injunction proceedings may be brought to prevent the sale of any real estate upon the ground (1) that the property about to be sold does not appear upon the assessment roll or, (2) that the assessment has been paid.

If federal, local, or state funds become available for a local improvement after the assessment roll has been confirmed by the city legislative authority, the funds may be used to lower the assessments on a uniform basis. Any adjustments to the assessments because of the availability of federal or state funds may be made on the next annual payment. [2009 c 549 s 2077; 1985 c 397 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.190. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 23; RRS s 9375.]

**RCW 35.44.200 Procedure on appeal—Perfecting appeal.** The decision of the council or other legislative body, upon any objections made in the manner and within the time herein prescribed, shall be final and conclusive, subject however to review by the superior court upon appeal. The appeal shall be made by filing written notice of appeal with the city or town clerk and with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the city or town is situated. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.200. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 2; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**RCW 35.44.210 Procedure on appeal—Notice of appeal.** The notice of appeal must be filed within ten days after the ordinance confirming the assessment roll becomes effective and shall describe the property and set forth the objections of the appellant to the assessment. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.210. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 3; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**RCW 35.44.220 Procedure on appeal—Bond.** At the time of filing the notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall execute and file with him or her a sufficient bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars, with at least two sureties to be approved by the judge of the court, conditioned to prosecute the appeal without delay and, if unsuccessful, to pay all reasonable costs and expenses which the city or town incurs by reason of the appeal. Upon application therefor, the court may order the appellant to execute and file such additional bonds as the necessity of the case may require. [2009 c 549 s 2078; 1971 ex.s. c 116 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.220. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 4; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**RCW 35.44.230 Procedure on appeal—Transcript.** Within ten days from the filing of the notice of appeal, the appellant shall file with the clerk of the superior court a transcript consisting of the assessment roll and his or her objections thereto, together with the ordinance confirming the assessment roll and the record of the council with reference to the assessment. This transcript, upon payment of the necessary fees therefor, shall be furnished by the city or town clerk and shall be certified by him or her to contain full, true and correct copies of all matters and proceedings required to be included in the

transcript. The fees payable therefor shall be the same as those payable to the clerk of the superior court for the preparation and certification of transcripts on appeal to the supreme court or the court of appeals in civil actions. [2009 c 549 s 2079; 1971 c 81 s 90; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.230. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 5; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**RCW 35.44.240 Procedure on appeal—Notice of hearing.** Within three days after the filing of the transcript with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall give notice to the head of the legal department of the city or town and to its clerk that the transcript has been filed. The notice shall also state a time (not less than three days from the date of service thereof) when the appellant will call up the cause for hearing. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.240. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 6; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**RCW 35.44.250 Procedure on appeal—Hearing by superior court.** At the time fixed for hearing in the notice thereof or at such further time as may be fixed by the court, the superior court shall hear and determine the appeal without a jury and the cause shall have preference over all other civil causes except proceedings relating to eminent domain in cities and towns and actions of forcible entry and detainer. The judgment of the court shall confirm, unless the court shall find from the evidence that such assessment is founded upon a fundamentally wrong basis and/or the decision of the council or other legislative body thereon was arbitrary or capricious; in which event the judgment of the court shall correct, change, modify, or annul the assessment insofar as it affects the property of the appellant. [1969 ex.s. c 258 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.250. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 7; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**RCW 35.44.260 Procedure on appeal—Appellate review.** Appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be obtained as in other cases if sought within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment in the superior court. [1988 c 202 s 36; 1971 c 81 s 91; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.260. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 8; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**Rules of court:** *Appeal procedures superseded by RAP 2.1, 2.2, 18.22.*

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**RCW 35.44.270 Procedure on appeal—Certified copy of decision or order.** A certified copy of the decision of the superior court pertaining to assessments for local improvements shall be filed with the officer having custody of the assessment roll and he or she shall modify and correct the assessment roll in accordance with the decision. In the event appellate review of the decision is sought, a certified copy of the court's order shall be filed with the officer having custody of the assessment roll and the officer shall thereupon modify and correct the assessment roll in accordance with the order. [2009 c 549 s 2080; 1988 c 202 s 37; 1971 c 81 s 92; 1965 c 7 s

35.44.270. Prior: 1957 c 143 s 9; prior: 1911 c 98 s 22, part; RRS s 9374, part.]

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**RCW 35.44.280 Reassessments—When authorized.** In all cases of special assessments for local improvements wherein the assessments are not valid in whole or in part for want of form, or insufficiency, informality, irregularity, or nonconformance with the provisions of law, charter, or ordinance, the city or town council may reassess the assessments and enforce their collection in accordance with the provisions of law and ordinance existing at the time the reassessment is made. This shall apply not only to an original assessment but also to any reassessment, to any assessment upon omitted property and to any supplemental assessment which is declared void and its enforcement refused by any court or which for any cause has been set aside, annulled or declared void by any court either directly or by virtue of any decision thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.280. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 42, part; 1893 c 96 s 3; RRS s 9395, part.]

**RCW 35.44.290 Reassessments—Basis—Property included.** Every reassessment shall be made upon the property which has been or will be specially benefited by the local improvement and may be made upon property whether or not it abuts upon, is adjacent to, or proximate to the improvement or was included in the original assessment district.

Property not included in the original improvement district when so assessed shall become a part of the improvement district and all payments of assessments shall be paid into and become part of the local improvement fund to pay for the improvement.

Property in the original local improvement district which is excluded in reassessment need not be entered upon the assessment roll.

Every reassessment must be based upon the actual cost of the improvement at the time of its completion. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.290. Prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 42, part; 1893 c 96 s 3, part; RRS s 9395, part. (ii) 1911 c 98 s 43, part; 1909 c 71 s 1, part; 1893 c 95 s 2, part; RRS s 9396, part.]

**RCW 35.44.300 Reassessments—Irregularities not fatal.** The fact that the contract has been let or that the improvement has been made and completed in whole or in part shall not prevent the reassessment from being made, nor shall the omission or neglect of any office or officers to comply with the law, the charter, or ordinances governing the city or town as to petition, notice, resolution to improve, estimate, survey, diagram, manner of letting contract, or execution of work or any other matter connected with the improvement and the first assessment thereof operate to invalidate or in any way affect the making of a reassessment. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.300. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 43, part; 1909 c 71 s 1, part; 1893 c 95 s 2, part; RRS s 9396, part.]

**RCW 35.44.310 Reassessments—Amount thereof.** The reassessment shall be for an amount which shall not exceed the actual cost and expense of the improvement, together with the accrued interest

thereon, it being the true intent and meaning of the statutes relating to local improvements to make the cost and expense of local improvements payable by the property specially benefited thereby, notwithstanding the proceedings of the council, board of public works or other board, officer, or authority may be found to be irregular or defective, whether jurisdictional or otherwise. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.310. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 43, part; 1909 c 71 s 1, part; 1893 c 95 s 2, part; RRS s 9396, part.]

**RCW 35.44.320 Reassessments—Credit for prior payments.** In case of reassessment, all sums paid on the former attempted assessments shall be credited to the property on account of which they were paid. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.320. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 43, part; 1909 c 71 s 1, part; 1893 c 95 s 2, part; RRS s 9396, part.]

**RCW 35.44.330 Reassessments—Payment.** In case of reassessment after the certification of the assessment roll to the city or town treasurer for collection, the same length of time for payment of the assessment thereon without the imposition of any penalties or interest and the notice that the assessments are in the hands of the treasurer for collection shall be given as in case of an original assessment. After delinquency, penalties and interest may be charged as in cases of original assessment and if the original assessment was payable in installments, the new assessment may be divided into equal installments and made payable at such times as the city or town council may prescribe in the ordinance ordering the new assessment. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.330. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 43, part; 1909 c 71 s 1, part; 1893 c 95 s 2, part; RRS s 9396, part.]

**RCW 35.44.340 Reassessments—Limitation of time for.** No city or town shall have jurisdiction to proceed with any reassessment unless the ordinance ordering it is passed by the city or town council within ten years from and after the time the original assessment for the same improvement was finally held to be invalid, insufficient or for any cause set aside, in whole or in part or its enforcement denied directly or indirectly by the courts. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.340. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 45, part; RRS s 9398, part.]

**RCW 35.44.350 Reassessments, assessments on omitted property, supplemental assessments—Provisions governing.** All of the provisions of law relating to the filing of assessment rolls, time and place for hearing thereon, notice of hearing, the hearing upon the roll, the confirmation of the assessment roll, the time when the assessments become a lien upon the property assessed, the proceedings on appeal from any such assessment, the method of collecting the assessment and all proceedings for enforcing the lien thereof shall be had and conducted the same in the case of reassessments, assessments on omitted property, or supplemental assessments as in the case of an original assessment. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.350. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 44; 1893 c 95 s 1; RRS s 9397.]

**RCW 35.44.360 Assessments on omitted property—Authority.** If by reason of mistake, inadvertence, or for any cause, property in a local improvement district or utility local improvement district which except for its omission would have been subject to assessment has been omitted from the assessment roll, the city or town council, upon its own motion, or upon the application of the owner of any property in the district which has been assessed for the improvement, may proceed to assess the property so omitted in accordance with the benefits accruing to it by reason of the improvement in proportion to the assessments levied upon other property in the district. [1967 c 52 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.44.360. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 37, part; RRS s 9390, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.44.370 Assessments on omitted property—Resolution—Notice.** In case of assessments on omitted property the city or town council shall pass a resolution:

(1) Setting forth that the property therein described was omitted from the assessment;

(2) Notifying all persons who may desire to object thereto to appear at a meeting of the city or town council at a time specified in the resolution and present their objections thereto, and

(3) Directing the proper board, officer, or authority to report to the council at or prior to the date fixed for the hearing the amount which should be borne by each lot, tract, or parcel of land or other property so omitted. The resolution shall be published in all respects as provided for publishing the resolutions for an original assessment. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.370. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 37, part; RRS s 9390, part.]

**RCW 35.44.380 Assessments on omitted property—Confirmation ordinance—Collection.** At the conclusion of the hearing or any adjournment thereof upon proposed assessments on omitted property the council shall consider the matter as though the property were included in the original roll and may confirm the roll or any portion thereof by ordinance. Thereupon the roll of omitted property shall be certified to the treasurer for collection as other assessments. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.380. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 37, part; RRS s 9390, part.]

**RCW 35.44.390 Supplemental assessments—When authorized.** If by reason of any mistake, inadvertence, or other cause, the amount assessed was not equal to the cost and expense of a local improvement or that portion thereof to be paid by assessment of the property benefited the city or town council shall make supplemental assessments on all the property in the district. The property found to be specially benefited shall not be limited to the property included in the original assessment district.

These assessments shall be made in accordance with the provisions of law, charter, and ordinances existing at the time of the levy. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.390. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 42, part; 1893 c 96 s 3, part; RRS s 9395, part.]

**RCW 35.44.400 Supplemental assessments—Limitation of time for.**

No city or town shall have jurisdiction to proceed with any supplemental assessment unless the ordinance ordering it is passed by the city or town council within ten years from and after the time that it was finally determined that the total amount of valid assessments levied and assessed on account of a local improvement was insufficient to pay the whole or that portion of the cost and expense thereof to be paid by special assessment. [1965 c 7 s 35.44.400. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 45, part; RRS s 9398, part.]

**RCW 35.44.410 Segregation of assessments.**

Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by any city or town shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the legislative authority of that city or town shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment.

Any person desiring to have such a special assessment against a tract of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply to the city or town which levied the assessment. If the legislative authority thereof determines that a segregation should be made, it shall by resolution order the city or town treasurer to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. The segregation shall be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied, and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation. The resolution shall describe the original tract, the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the city or town treasurer who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered upon being tendered a fee of ten dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. In addition to such charge the legislative authority of the city or town may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the city or town the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. No segregation need be made if the legislative authority of the city or town shall find that by such segregation the security of the lien for such assessment will be so jeopardized as to reduce the security for any outstanding local improvement district obligations payable from such assessment. [1969 ex.s. c 258 s 10.]

**RCW 35.44.420 Property donations—Credit against assessments.**

A city legislative authority may give credit for all or any portion of any property donation against an assessment, charge, or other required financial contribution for transportation improvements within a local improvement district. The credit granted is available against any assessment, charge, or other required financial contribution for any transportation purpose that uses the donated property. [1987 c 267 s 9.]

*Right-of-way donations: Chapter 47.14 RCW.*



**Chapter 35.45 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—BONDS AND WARRANTS**

**Sections**

- 35.45.010 Authority to issue bonds.
- 35.45.020 Bond issue—Due date—Interest.
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**RCW 35.45.010 Authority to issue bonds.** The city or town council may provide by ordinance for the payment of the whole or any portion of the cost and expense of any local improvement by bonds of the improvement district, but no bonds shall be issued in excess of the cost and expense of the improvement, nor shall they be issued prior to twenty days after the thirty days allowed for the payment of assessments without penalty or interest. [1965 c 7 s 35.45.010. Prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 46, part; 1899 c 124 s 1; RRS s 9399, part. (ii) 1917 c 139 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 4, part; 1911 c 98 s 47, part; 1899 c 124 s 2, part; RRS s 9400, part. (iii) 1911 c 98 s 50, part; RRS s 9403, part.]

**RCW 35.45.020 Bond issue—Due date—Interest.** Local improvement bonds shall be issued pursuant to ordinance and shall be made payable on or before a date not to exceed thirty years from and after the date of issue, which latter date may be fixed by ordinance or resolution of the council, and bear interest at such rate or rates as authorized by the council. The council may, in addition to issuing bonds callable under the provisions of RCW 35.45.050 whenever sufficient moneys are available, issue bonds with a fixed maturity schedule or with a fixed maximum annual retirement schedule. [1971 ex.s. c 116 s 10; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 35; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 11; 1969 c 81 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.020. Prior: 1917 c 139 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 4, part; 1911 c 98 s 47, part; 1899 c 124 s 2, part; RRS s 9400, part.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Rights not impaired—1969 c 81:** "No phrase, clause, subdivision or section of this 1969 amendatory act shall be construed to impair the rights of bondholders as to any bonds issued prior to the effective date of this 1969 amendatory act." [1969 c 81 s 2.]

**RCW 35.45.030 Bonds—Form—Content.** (1) Local improvement bonds shall be in such denominations as may be provided in the ordinance authorizing their issue and shall be numbered from one upwards consecutively. Each bond shall (a) be signed by the mayor and attested by the clerk, (b) have the seal of the city or town affixed thereto, (c) refer to the improvement to pay for which it is issued and the ordinance ordering it, (d) provide that the principal sum therein named and the interest thereon shall be payable out of the local improvement fund created for the cost and expense of the improvement and out of the local improvement guaranty fund, unless the ordinance under which it was issued provides that the bonds shall not be secured by the local improvement guaranty fund; and out of a reserve fund, if one is established for such bonds pursuant to RCW 35.51.040; or, with respect to interest only, shall be payable out of the general revenues of the city or town, but only if pledged to the payment of such interest pursuant to RCW 35.45.065, and not otherwise, (e) provide that the bond owners' remedy in case of nonpayment shall be confined to the enforcement of the special assessments made for the improvement and to the guaranty fund and reserve fund, as applicable, and (f) be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

Any interest coupons may be signed by the mayor and attested by the clerk, or in lieu thereof, may have printed thereon a facsimile of their signatures.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, but subject to RCW 35.45.010, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2002 c 41 s 1; 1983 c 167 s 41; 1967 ex.s. c 44 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.030. Prior: (i) 1917 c 139 s 1, part; 1915 c 168 s 4, part; 1911 c 98 s 47, part; 1899 c 124 s 2; RRS s 9400, part. (ii) 1927 c 209 s 5, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 5, part; 1923 c 141 s 5, part; RRS s 9351-5, part. (iii) 1911 c 98 s 52, part; RRS s 9405, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.45.040 Bonds—Sale of.** (1) Local improvement bonds may be issued to the contractor or sold by the officers authorized by the ordinance directing their issue to do so, in the manner prescribed therein at the price established by the legislative authority of the city or town. Any portion of the bonds of any issue remaining unsold may be issued to the contractor constructing the improvement in payment thereof.

The proceeds of all sales of bonds shall be applied in payment of the cost and expense of the improvement.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 42; 1981 c 323 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.040. Prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 46, part;

1899 c 124 s 1; RRS s 9399, part. (ii) 1911 c 98 s 48; 1899 c 124 s 3; RRS s 9401.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.45.050 Call of bonds.** Except when bonds have been issued with a fixed maturity schedule or with a fixed maximum annual retirement schedule as authorized in RCW 35.45.020, the city or town treasurer shall call in and pay the principal of one or more bonds of any issue (1) in their numerical order; or (2) where bonds are issued with an estimated redemption schedule, in either numerical order or chronological order by maturity and within each maturity by date of estimated redemption as determined in the bond authorizing ordinance, whenever there is sufficient money in any local improvement fund, against which the bonds have been issued, over and above that which is sufficient for the payment of interest on all unpaid bonds of that issue. The call shall be made for publication in the city or town official newspaper in its first publication following the date of delinquency of any installment of the assessment or as soon thereafter as practicable. The call shall state that bonds No. . . . (giving the serial number or numbers of the bonds called) will be paid on the day the next interest payments are due and that interest on those bonds will cease upon that date. [2003 c 139 s 2; 1983 c 167 s 43; 1971 ex.s. c 116 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.050. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 54, part; RRS s 9407, part.]

**Effective date—2003 c 139:** See note following RCW 35.45.180.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.45.060 Interest on bonds—How payable.** The city or town treasurer shall pay interest on the bonds issued against local improvement funds out of the local improvement fund from which the bonds are payable. [1965 c 7 s 35.45.060. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 54, part; RRS s 9407, part.]

**RCW 35.45.065 Interest on bonds—Payment from general revenues—Authority—Procedure.** The city or town council may provide by ordinance that all or part of the interest upon said bonds shall be paid from the general revenues of the city or town and may create a local improvement district bond interest fund for this purpose. If the city or town council determine that the city or town shall pay all interest on such bonds from its general revenues, the interest coupons attached to the bond shall recite that the interest thereby evidenced is payable from general revenues. If the city or town council determines that the city or town council shall pay a part of the interest on such bonds from its general revenues, the interest coupons representing interest payable from the general revenues of the city or town shall be denominated as "B" coupons and shall recite that the interest payable thereunder is payable from the general revenues of the city or town. [1967 ex.s. c 44 s 2.]

**RCW 35.45.070 Nonliability of city or town.** (1)(a) Neither the holder nor owner of any bond, interest coupon, warrant, or other short-term obligation issued against a local improvement fund shall have any claim therefor against the city or town by which it is issued, except for payment from the special assessments made for the improvement for which the bond or warrant was issued and except also for payment from the local improvement guaranty fund of the city or town as to bonds issued after the creation of a local improvement guaranty fund of that city or town. The city or town shall not be liable to the holder or owner of any bond, interest coupon, warrant, or other short-term obligation for any loss to the local improvement guaranty fund occurring in the lawful operation thereof.

(b) A copy of the foregoing in (a) of this subsection shall be plainly written, printed, or engraved on each bond, interest coupon, warrant, or other short-term obligation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, with respect to bonds, interest coupons, warrants, or other short-term obligations issued under an ordinance providing that the obligations are not secured by the local improvement guaranty fund:

(a) Neither the holder nor owner of any obligation issued against a local improvement fund shall have any claim against the city or town by which it is issued, except for payment from the special assessments made for the improvement for which the obligation was issued.

(b) A copy of the foregoing in (a) of this subsection shall be plainly written, printed, or engraved on each bond, interest coupon, warrant, or other short-term obligation. [2002 c 41 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.070. Prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 52, part; RRS s 9405, part. (ii) 1927 c 209 s 5; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 5; 1923 c 141 s 5, part; RRS s 9351-5, part.]

**RCW 35.45.080 Remedy of bondholders.** If a city or town fails to pay any bonds or to promptly collect any local improvement assessments when due, the owner of the bonds may proceed in his or her own name to collect the assessment and foreclose the lien thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction and shall recover in addition to the amount of the bond and interest thereon, five percent, together with the cost of suit. Any number of holders of bonds for any single improvement may join as plaintiffs and any number of owners of property upon which the assessments are liens may be joined as defendants in the same suit.

The owners of local improvement bonds issued by a city or town after the creation of a local improvement guaranty fund therein, shall also have recourse against the local improvement guaranty fund of such city or town unless the ordinance under which the bonds were issued provides that the bonds are not secured by the local improvement guaranty fund. [2009 c 549 s 2081; 2002 c 41 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.080. Prior: (i) 1927 c 209 s 5, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 5, part; 1923 c 141 s 5, part; RRS s 9351-5, part. (ii) 1911 c 98 s 51; 1899 c 124 s 6; RRS s 9404.]

**RCW 35.45.090 Excess to be refunded—Demand—Right of action.** Any funds in the treasury of any municipal corporation belonging to the fund of any local improvement district after the payment of the whole cost and expense of such improvement, in excess of the total sum required to defray all the expenditures by such municipal corporation

on account thereof, shall be refunded, on demand, to the payers into such fund. Each such payer shall be entitled to such proportion of such excess as his or her original assessment bears to the entire original assessment levied for such improvement. Such municipal corporation may, after one year from the date on which the last installment becomes due, transfer any balance remaining on hand to the general fund of such municipal corporation, but shall, notwithstanding such transfer remain liable for the refund herein provided for until such refund shall have been made, unless the actual cost involved in making such refund shall exceed the excess in such fund.

Such demand shall be made in writing to the treasurer of such municipal corporation. No action shall be commenced in any court to obtain any such refund, except upon such demand, and until ninety days after making such demand. No excess shall be recovered in any action where the excess in the fund does not average the sum of one dollar in favor of all payers into such fund.

This section shall not be deemed to require the refunding of any balance left in any local improvement fund after the payment of all outstanding obligations issued against such fund, where such balance accrues from any saving in interest or from penalties collected upon delinquent assessments, but any such balance, whether accruing heretofore or hereafter, may be turned into the general fund or otherwise disposed of, as the legislative authority of the city may direct.

The provisions of this chapter relating to the refund of excess local improvement district funds shall not apply to any district whose obligations are guaranteed by the local improvement guaranty fund. [2009 c 549 s 2082; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.090. Prior: 1917 c 140 s 1; 1909 c 108 s 1; RRS s 9351.]

**RCW 35.45.130 Warrants against local improvement fund authorized.** Every city and town may provide by ordinance for the issuance of warrants in payment of the cost and expense of any local improvement, payable out of the local improvement district fund. The warrants shall bear interest at a rate or rates established by the issuing officer under the direction of the legislative authority of the city or town and shall be redeemed either in cash or by local improvement bonds for the same improvement authorized by ordinance.

All warrants against any local improvement fund sold by the city or town or issued to a contractor and by him or her sold or hypothecated for a valuable consideration shall be claims and liens against the improvement fund against which they are drawn prior and superior to any right, lien, or claim of any surety upon the bond or bonds given to the city or town by or for the contractor to secure the performance of his or her contract or to secure the payment of persons who have performed work thereon, furnished materials therefor, or provisions and supplies for the carrying on of the work. [2009 c 549 s 2083; 1981 c 323 s 3; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 36; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.130. Prior: 1953 c 117 s 1; prior: 1915 c 168 s 3; 1911 c 98 s 72; 1899 c 146 s 7; RRS 9425.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 35.45.140 Warrants acceptable in payment of assessments.**

Cities and towns may accept warrants drawn against any local improvement fund upon such conditions as they may by ordinance or resolution prescribe, in satisfaction of:

(1) Assessments levied to supply such fund, in due order of priority of right;

(2) Judgments rendered against property owners who have become delinquent in the payment of assessments levied to supply such fund; and

(3) In payment of certificates of purchase in cases where property of delinquents has been sold under execution or at tax sale for failure to pay assessments levied to supply such fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.45.140. Prior: (i) 1899 c 97 s 1; RRS s 9346. (ii) 1899 c 97 s 2; RRS s 9347. (iii) 1899 c 97 s 3; RRS s 9348. (iv) 1899 c 97 s 4; RRS s 9349. (v) 1899 c 97 s 5; RRS s 9350.]

**RCW 35.45.150 Installment notes—Interest certificates.**

In addition to the issuance of bonds and warrants in payment of the cost and expense of any local improvement, any city or town may also issue and sell installment notes payable out of the local improvement district fund. Such installment notes may be issued any time after the thirty day period allowed by law for the payment of assessments of any district without penalty or interest, and may bear any denomination or denominations, the aggregate of which shall represent the balance of the cost and expense of the local improvement district which is to be borne by the property owners therein.

Application of local improvement district funds for the reduction of the principal and interest amounts due on any notes herein provided to finance said improvement shall be made not less than once each year beginning with the issue date thereof. Appropriate notification of such application of funds shall be made by the city or town treasurer to the registered payees of said notes, except those notes owned by funds of the issuing municipality. Such notes may be registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030. If more than one local improvement installment note is issued for a single district, said notes shall be numbered consecutively. All notes issued shall bear on the face thereof: (1) The name of the payee; (2) the number of the local improvement district from whose funds the notes are payable; (3) the date of issue of each note; (4) the date on which the note, or the final installment thereon shall become due; (5) the rate or rates of interest, as provided by the city or town legislative authority, to be paid on the unpaid balance thereof, and; (6) such manual or facsimile signatures and attestations as are required by state statute or city charter to appear on the warrants of each issuing municipality.

The reverse side of each installment note issued pursuant to this section shall bear a tabular payment record which shall indicate at prescribed installment dates, the receipt of any local improvement district funds for the purpose of servicing the debt evidenced by said notes. Such receipts shall first be applied toward the interest due on the unpaid balance of the note, and any additional moneys shall thereafter apply as a reduction of the principal amount thereof. The tabular payment record shall, in addition to the above, show the unpaid principal balance due on each installment note, together with sufficient space opposite each transaction affecting said note for the manual signature of the city's or town's clerk, treasurer or other

properly designated receiving officer of the municipality, or of any other registered payee presenting said note for such installment payments.

Whenever there are insufficient funds in a local improvement district to meet any payment of installment interest due on any note herein authorized, a noninterest-bearing defaulted installment interest certificate shall be issued by the city or town treasurer which shall consist of a written statement certifying the amount of such defaulted interest installment; the name of the payee of the note to whom the interest is due and the number of the local improvement district from whose funds the note and interest thereon is payable. Such certificates may be registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The certificate herein provided shall bear the manual signature of the city or town treasurer or his or her authorized agent. The defaulted installment interest certificate so issued shall be redeemed for the face amount thereof with any available funds in the local improvement guaranty fund.

Whenever at the date of maturity of any installment note issued pursuant to this section, there are insufficient funds in a local improvement district, due to delinquencies in the collection of assessments, to pay the final installment of the principal due thereon, the note shall be redeemed with any available funds in the local improvement guaranty fund for the amount of said final installment.

All certificates and notes issued pursuant to this section are to become subject to the same redemption privileges as apply to any local improvement district bonds and warrants now accorded the protection of the local improvement guaranty fund as provided in chapter 35.54 RCW, and whenever the certificates or notes issued as herein provided are redeemed by said local improvement guaranty fund, they shall be held therein as investments thereof in the same manner as prescribed for other defaulted local improvement district obligations.

Notwithstanding any other statutory provisions, local improvement installment notes authorized by this section which are within the protection of the local improvement guaranty fund law shall be considered legal investments for any available surplus funds of the issuing municipality which now or hereafter may be authorized to be invested in the city's or town's local improvement districts' bonds or warrants and shall be considered legal investments for all national and state banks, savings and loan institutions, and any and all other commercial banking or financial institutions to the same extent that the local improvement district bonds and any coupons issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter have been and are legal investments for such institutions. Any such local improvement installment notes may be transferred or sold by said city or town upon such terms or conditions and in such manner as the local governing body of said city or town may determine, or may be issued to another fund of the city or town: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the same shall not be sold at less than par plus accrued interest.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, such notes and certificates may be issued, and such notes may be sold, in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2009 c 549 s 2084; 1983 c 167 s 44. Prior: 1981 c 323 s 4; 1981 c 156 s 2; prior: 1970 ex.s. c 93 s 2; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 37; 1965 c 7 s 35.45.150; prior: 1961 c 165 s 1.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—1970 ex.s. c 93:** See note following RCW 39.60.050.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

*Investment of public funds in notes, debentures: RCW 39.60.050.*

**RCW 35.45.155 Installment notes—Refunding.** Any city or town having issued one or more installment notes pursuant to RCW 35.45.150 may refund all of such notes or the principal thereof then outstanding payable from any one local improvement district fund by the issuance of local improvement district bonds pursuant to chapter 35.45 RCW and by the payment into the city or town fund or funds holding such notes the then outstanding principal amount of such notes plus the interest thereon accrued to the date of such refunding. The bonds shall be payable from the same local improvement district fund from which such notes were payable; shall be payable no later than the final payment date of the notes being refunded; shall be in the same total principal amount as the outstanding principal amount of the notes being refunded less any sums in the local improvement district fund the city or town applies to the redemption of such notes; and shall be sold at not less than par plus accrued interest to date of delivery. Any interest payable on the bonds in excess of the interest payable on assessment installments payable into the local improvement district fund shall be paid from the general fund of the city or town in accordance with RCW 35.45.065. The principal proceeds and interest accrued to date of delivery of the bonds shall be paid into the local improvement district fund and the notes shall be redeemed on that date. The city or town shall pay all costs and expenses of such refunding from moneys available therefor. [1969 ex.s. c 258 s 12.]

**RCW 35.45.160 Consolidated local improvement districts—Authorized—Purpose.** For the purpose of issuing bonds only, the governing body of any municipality may authorize the establishment of consolidated local improvement districts. The local improvements within such consolidated districts need not be adjoining, vicinal or neighboring. If the governing body orders the creation of such consolidated local improvement districts, the moneys received from the installment payment of the principal of and interest on assessments levied within original local assessment districts shall be deposited in a consolidated local improvement district bond redemption fund to be used to redeem outstanding consolidated local improvement district bonds. [1967 ex.s. c 44 s 3.]

**RCW 35.45.170 Refunding bonds—Limitations.** The legislative authority of any city or town may issue and sell bonds to refund outstanding local improvement district or consolidated local improvement district bonds issued after June 7, 1984, on the earliest date such outstanding bonds may be redeemed following the date of issuance of such refunding bonds. Such refunding shall be subject to the following:



(1) The refunding shall result in a net interest cost savings after paying the costs and expenses of the refunding, and the principal amount of the refunding bonds may not exceed the principal balance of the assessment roll or rolls pledged to pay the bonds being refunded at the time of the refunding.

(2) The refunding bonds shall be paid from the same local improvement fund or bond redemption fund as the bonds being refunded.

(3) The costs and expenses of the refunding shall be paid from the proceeds of the refunding bonds, or the same local improvement district fund or bond redemption fund for the bonds being refunded, except the city or town may advance such costs and expenses to such fund pending the receipt of assessment payments available to reimburse such advances.

(4) The last maturity of the refunding bonds shall be no later than one year after the last maturity of bonds being refunded.

(5) The refunding bonds may be exchanged for the bonds being refunded or may be sold in the same manner permitted at the time of sale for local improvement district bonds.

(6) All other provisions of law applicable to the refunded bonds shall apply to the refunding bonds. [1984 c 186 s 66.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**RCW 35.45.180 Transfer from general fund to local improvement fund authorized—Ordinance.** Any city or town, when authorized by ordinance, may transfer permanently or temporarily, money from its general fund, or from any other municipal fund as its council shall specify in that ordinance, to its local improvement guaranty fund or any of its local improvement funds to be used for the purposes of these local improvement funds, including the payment of bonds, interest coupons, warrants, or other short-term obligations. The powers granted by this section are to be exercised at the discretion of a council when found to be in the public interest, but money transferred by means of these powers shall not be pledged to the payment of any local improvement district obligations. [2003 c 139 s 1.]

**Effective date—2003 c 139:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 7, 2003]." [2003 c 139 s 4.]

Chapter 35.47 RCW

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—PROCEDURE FOR CANCELLATION OF NONGUARANTEED BONDS

Sections

- 35.47.010 Distribution of moneys in local improvement funds to holders of bonds and warrants—Notice—Time limitation—Abandonment and transfer to general fund.
- 35.47.020 Declaration of obsolescence and cancellation upon distribution of moneys, untimely presentment, or lack of money in local improvement fund.
- 35.47.030 Cancellation procedure where no money in local improvement fund.
- 35.47.040 Action under RCW 35.47.010 through 35.47.030 unaffected by chapter 35.48 RCW or other law.

**RCW 35.47.010 Distribution of moneys in local improvement funds to holders of bonds and warrants—Notice—Time limitation—Abandonment and transfer to general fund.** Any city or town having any outstanding and unpaid local improvement bonds or warrants issued in connection with a local improvement therein to which the local guaranty fund law is not applicable and that have been delinquent for more than fifteen years, by ordinance, may direct that the money, if any, remaining in a given local improvement fund for which no real property is held in trust shall be distributed by the city or town on a pro rata basis, without any reference to numerical order, to the holders of outstanding bonds or warrants for each such fund, excluding the accrued interest thereon. If the outstanding bonds or warrants are not presented for payment within one year after the last date of publication of notice provided for herein, the money being held in the local improvement fund of a city or town shall be deemed abandoned, and shall be transferred to the city or town general fund: PROVIDED, That the city or town shall publish a notice once each week for two successive weeks in the official newspaper of the city or town in which it is indicated that L.I.D. bonds for . . . . . L.I.D. improvement Nos. . . . . to . . . . . inclusive must be presented to the city or town for payment not later than one year from this date or the money being held in the local improvement fund of the city or town shall be transferred to the city or town general fund. [1985 c 469 s 31; 1965 ex.s. c 6 s 1.]

**RCW 35.47.020 Declaration of obsolescence and cancellation upon distribution of moneys, untimely presentment, or lack of money in local improvement fund.** After the city or town having said bonds or warrants referred to in RCW 35.47.010 has distributed the money in a local improvement district fund in accordance with RCW 35.47.010, or such bonds or warrants are not presented for payment within one year after the last date of publication of notice provided for in RCW 35.47.010, such city or town may, by ordinance, declare such bonds and warrants, without any reference to numerical order, to be obsolete, cancel the same, and terminate all accounting thereon, and clear such bonds and warrants off their records including any unguaranteed bonds or warrants outstanding against districts in which there remains no money in the given local improvement fund. [1965 ex.s. c 6 s 2.]

**RCW 35.47.030 Cancellation procedure where no money in local improvement fund.** If the bonds or warrants outstanding against a district are unguaranteed and if there remains no money in the appropriate local improvement fund to pay them, and if no real property is held in trust for the fund, the city or town shall give notice in the same manner as provided in RCW 35.47.010, stating that L.I.D. . . . . (bonds or warrants) for . . . . L.I.D. improvement Nos. . . . . to . . . . inclusive will be canceled as provided in RCW 35.47.020, unless such bonds or warrants are presented to the city or town within one year from the date of last publication of the notice, together with good cause shown as to why such cancellation should not take place. If such bonds or warrants are not presented, with good cause shown, within one year after the last date of publication of such notice, they may be canceled as provided in RCW 35.47.020. [1965 ex.s. c 6 s 3.]

**RCW 35.47.040 Action under RCW 35.47.010 through 35.47.030 unaffected by chapter 35.48 RCW or other law.** Nothing in chapter 35.48 RCW or other existing law to the contrary shall preclude the action authorized herein. [1965 ex.s. c 6 s 4.]

**Chapter 35.48 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—NONGUARANTEED BONDS**

**Sections**

- 35.48.010 Special revolving fund for delinquent nonguaranteed bonds and warrants—Composition.
- 35.48.020 Use of revolving fund—Maximum bond price.
- 35.48.030 Subrogation—Refund of surplus.
- 35.48.040 Refund to revolving fund.
- 35.48.050 Purchase of warrants on previous funds—Transfer of assets to revolving fund—Disposition.
- 35.48.060 Procedure governed by ordinance.

**RCW 35.48.010 Special revolving fund for delinquent nonguaranteed bonds and warrants—Composition.** If any city or town has issued bonds or warrants payable from a local improvement or condemnation award fund, to which the local improvement guaranty fund law is not applicable, and if the assessment, or last installment thereof, against which the bonds or warrants were issued has been delinquent not more than thirty-two years, the city or town may create a special revolving fund and may provide moneys therefor by general tax levy, if the levy, together with other levies made or authorized by such city or town, will not exceed the levy which is legally allowed; or such city or town may place in said fund or advance or loan to said fund any money which it is not prohibited by law from advancing, loaning to or placing in said fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.48.010. Prior: 1961 c 46 s 1; 1943 c 244 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9351-11.]

**Purpose—1943 c 244:** "WHEREAS, there are many millions of dollars of delinquent and unpaid local improvement district and condemnation award bonds and warrants issued by various cities of the state and not protected by the Local Improvement Guaranty Fund, only a small part of which for the present at least can be paid and many of which will never be paid because of inability of property owners to pay the special assessments levied to provide funds for payment thereof and the depreciated value of the real estate which is the only security provided by present law from which payment of the assessments may be enforced; and, WHEREAS, the cities are not legally liable under existing law for payment of such bonds and warrants except as there are moneys available in the special fund from which the same are payable; and, WHEREAS, such cities and its citizens as a whole have derived benefit from the improvements installed with the proceeds or as a result of the issuance of such bonds and warrants; and, WHEREAS, the nonpayment of such unpaid and delinquent bonds and warrants not only causes great hardship and suffering on those who have invested money in such bonds and warrants, but also reflects discredit on the financial structure of the various cities involved, to the detriment of the cities as a whole and also the entire state; NOW, THEREFORE, this law is enacted to enable cities to provide some relief from the hardship imposed by such conditions." [1943 c 244 s 1.]

**RCW 35.48.020 Use of revolving fund—Maximum bond price.** Any moneys in such revolving fund may be used for the purchase of unpaid

delinquent local improvement warrants, or bonds and interest payments, or bonds and interest coupons thereon, issued by the city or town, payable from a local improvement district fund or condemnation award fund, to which the local improvement guaranty fund law is not applicable, if the assessment, or last installment thereof, against which the bonds or warrants have been issued, has been delinquent not more than thirty-two years. The maximum purchase price to be paid for said bonds or warrants shall be fixed by the municipality, and may from time to time be changed but shall never exceed fifty percent of the face value of the bonds, interest payments, interest coupons, or warrants: PROVIDED, That no warrants shall be issued payable from the revolving fund unless there is sufficient cash in said fund available for payment of such warrants. [1983 c 167 s 45; 1965 c 7 s 35.48.020. Prior: 1961 c 46 s 2; 1943 c 244 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9351-12.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.48.030 Subrogation—Refund of surplus.** The purchase of any such bonds or warrants shall not relieve the local improvement or condemnation award fund from which the same are payable from liability for payment of the same, but the city or town upon purchase thereof shall become subrogated to all the rights of the former owners thereof and may proceed to enforcement of said bonds or warrants as any owner thereof might do. The city or town may sell any property acquired by it in such proceedings upon such terms and for such prices as it sees fit, or it may resell any of the bonds or warrants for such prices as it shall fix.

Any excess in any local improvement district fund or condemnation award fund which will average a payment of one dollar to each payer into said fund shall, after payment, retirement, or cancellation of all bonds or warrants payable from said fund, be refunded and paid to the payers into the fund in the proportion that their respective assessments bear to the entire original assessment levied for such improvement, and any unpaid assessments, or portion thereof, shall be reduced in the same proportion. Any proceeds derived from the sale of any bonds or warrants, or from the sale of real estate, shall be placed in the revolving fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.48.030. Prior: 1943 c 244 s 4; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9351-13.]

**RCW 35.48.040 Refund to revolving fund.** If there are funds in any local improvement district fund or condemnation award fund sufficient to pay or retire any bond or warrant issued and payable from said fund, and the city or town is the owner and holder of the bond or warrant next payable from the fund, the city or town treasurer shall from the moneys in the local improvement or condemnation award fund place in the revolving fund a sum of money equivalent to the amount paid by the city or town for such bond or warrant and shall thereupon cancel, mark paid and remove from said revolving fund such bond or warrant. [1965 c 7 s 35.48.040. Prior: 1943 c 244 s 5; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9351-14.]

**RCW 35.48.050 Purchase of warrants on previous funds—Transfer of assets to revolving fund—Disposition.** Whenever a city or town has heretofore by ordinance created a fund for use in purchasing delinquent local improvement or condemnation award bonds or warrants not protected by the local improvement guaranty fund law, and has purchased any such bonds or warrants and issued warrants payable from said fund, which warrants are unpaid because of lack of funds and have remained unpaid for a period of less than thirty-two years from date of issue thereof, the city or town may use any funds available in the revolving fund to purchase said warrants at such price as it may determine, but in no event at more than fifty percent of the face value, without interest.

Whenever all such warrants have been purchased or paid, the city or town may transfer to the revolving fund any bonds, warrants or other assets belonging to said fund first above mentioned, and thereafter such bonds, warrants or other assets shall be held and disposed of for the benefit of said revolving fund in the same manner as other funds and assets therein: PROVIDED, That nothing contained in this chapter shall legalize any warrants heretofore issued or render any city or town liable thereunder. [1965 c 7 s 35.48.050. Prior: 1961 c 46 s 3; 1943 c 244 s 6; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9351-15.]

**RCW 35.48.060 Procedure governed by ordinance.** All actions of a city or town respecting the purchase of bonds and warrants or sales of bonds, warrants or assets of the revolving fund shall be as directed by general or special ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.48.060. Prior: 1943 c 244 s 7; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9351-16.]

**Chapter 35.49 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS**

**Sections**

- 35.49.010 Collection by city treasurer—Notices.
- 35.49.020 Installments—Number—Due date.
- 35.49.030 Ordinance to prescribe time of payment—Interest—  
Penalties.
- 35.49.040 Payment without interest or penalty.
- 35.49.050 Prepayment of installments subsequently due.
- 35.49.060 Payment by city or town.
- 35.49.070 Payment by county.
- 35.49.080 Payment by metropolitan park district.
- 35.49.090 Payment by joint owner.
- 35.49.100 Payment in error—Remedy.
- 35.49.110 Record of payment.
- 35.49.130 Tax liens—City may protect assessment lien at foreclosure  
sale.
- 35.49.140 Tax liens—Payment by city after taking property on  
foreclosure of local assessments.
- 35.49.150 Tax title property—City may acquire from county before  
resale.
- 35.49.160 Tax title property—Disposition of proceeds upon resale.
- 35.49.170 Acquisition of property by state or political subdivisions  
which is subject to unpaid assessments and  
delinquencies.

*Prepayment of taxes and assessments: RCW 35.21.650.*

**RCW 35.49.010 Collection by city treasurer—Notices.** All assessments for local improvements in local improvement districts shall be collected by the city treasurer and shall be kept in a separate fund to be known as "local improvement fund, district No. . . . ." and shall be used for no other purpose than the redemption of warrants drawn upon and bonds issued against the fund to provide payment for the cost and expense of the improvement.

All assessments for local improvements in a utility local improvement district shall be collected by the city treasurer, shall be paid into the appropriate revenue bond fund, and shall be used for no other purpose than the redemption of revenue bonds issued to provide funds for the cost and expense of the improvement.

As soon as the assessment roll has been placed in the hands of the city or town treasurer for collection, he or she shall publish a notice in the official newspaper of the city or town once a week for two consecutive weeks, that the roll is in his or her hands for collection and that all or any portion of the assessment may be paid within thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice without penalty, interest or costs.

Within fifteen days of the first newspaper publication, the city or town treasurer shall notify each owner or reputed owner whose name appears on the assessment roll, at the address shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer for each item of property described on the list, of the nature of the assessment, of the amount of his or her real property subject to such assessment, of the total amount of

assessment due, and of the time during which such assessment may be paid without penalty, interest, or costs. [2009 c 549 s 2085; 1972 ex.s. c 137 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 13; 1967 c 52 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.010. Prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 28; RRS s 9380. (ii) 1911 c 98 s 50, part; RRS s 9403, part.]

**Severability—1972 ex.s. c 137:** "If any provision of this 1972 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1972 ex.s. c 137 s 6.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**Saving—1927 c 275:** "All local improvement initiated or proceedings commenced by any city or town before the taking effect of this act, relating to the making of any local improvement, or the collection and foreclosure of local improvement, or the collection and foreclosure of local improvement assessments, and the sale of property therefor, shall proceed without being in any manner affected by the passage of this act; PROVIDED, That any city or town may at its option foreclose in the manner provided in this act the lien of any local improvement assessment created prior to the effective date of this act, and cause deed to issue, but as to any such property purchased by such city or town at such foreclosure the same shall be held and sold by such city or town under and pursuant to the provisions of law in force and effect prior to the taking effect of this act." [1927 c 275 s 8.]

**RCW 35.49.020 Installments—Number—Due date.** In all cases where bonds are issued to pay the cost and expense of a local improvement, the ordinance levying the assessments shall provide that the sum charged against any lot, tract, and parcel of land or other property, or any portion thereof, may be paid during the thirty day period allowed for the payment of assessments without penalty or interest and that thereafter the sum remaining unpaid may be paid in equal annual principal installments or in equal annual installments of principal and interest. The number of installments shall be less by two than the number of years which the bonds issued to pay for the improvement are to run. The estimated interest rate may be stated in the ordinance confirming the assessment roll. Where payment is required in equal annual principal installments, interest on the whole amount unpaid at the rate fixed by the ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of the bonds shall be due on the due date of the first installment of principal and each year thereafter on the due date of each installment of principal: PROVIDED, That the legislative authority of any city or town having made a bond issue payable on or before twenty-two years after the date of issue may provide by ordinance that all assessments and portions of assessments unpaid after the thirty day period allowed for payment of assessments without penalty or interest may be paid in ten equal installments beginning with the eleventh year and ending with the twentieth year from the expiration of said thirty day period, together with interest on the unpaid installments at the rate fixed by such ordinance, and that in each year after the said thirty day



period, to and including the tenth year thereafter, one installment of interest on the principal sum of the assessment at the rate so fixed shall be paid and collected, and that beginning with the eleventh year after the thirty day period one installment of the principal, together with the interest due thereon, and on all installments thereafter to become due shall be paid and collected. [1982 c 96 s 1; 1981 c 323 s 5; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.020. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 117 s 1; 1915 c 168 s 5; 1911 c 98 s 49; 1899 c 124 s 4; RRS s 9402.]

**RCW 35.49.030 Ordinance to prescribe time of payment—Interest—Penalties.** Every city and town shall prescribe by ordinance within what time assessments or installments thereof shall be paid, and shall provide for the payment and collection of interest thereon at a rate as shall be fixed by the legislative body of the city or town. Assessments or installments thereof, when delinquent, in addition to such interest, shall bear such penalty not less than five percent as shall be by general ordinance prescribed. [1971 ex.s. c 116 s 5; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.030. Prior: 1955 c 353 s 3; prior: 1927 c 275 s 1, part; 1921 c 92 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 24, part; RRS s 9376, part.]

**RCW 35.49.040 Payment without interest or penalty.** The owner of any lot, tract, or parcel of land or other property charged with local improvement assessment may redeem it from all or any portion thereof by paying to the city or town treasurer all or any portion thereof without interest within thirty days after the first publication by the treasurer of notice that the assessment roll is in his or her hands for collection. [2009 c 549 s 2086; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.040. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 50, part; RRS s 9403, part.]

**RCW 35.49.050 Prepayment of installments subsequently due.** The owner of any lot, tract, or parcel of land or other property charged with a local improvement assessment may redeem it from all liability for the unpaid amount of the assessment at any time after the thirty day period allowed for payment of assessments without penalty or interest by paying the entire installments of the assessment remaining unpaid to the city or town treasurer with interest thereon to the date of maturity of the installment next falling due. [1965 c 7 s 35.49.050. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 50, part; RRS s 9403, part.]

**RCW 35.49.060 Payment by city or town.** On or before the fifteenth day of August of each year, the city or town treasurer shall certify to the city or town council a detailed statement showing:

- (1) The proceedings authorizing and confirming any local improvement assessments or utility local improvement assessments affecting city or town property,
- (2) The lots, tracts, or parcels of lands of the city or town so assessed,
- (3) The several assessments against each,
- (4) The interest, penalties, and charges thereon,
- (5) The penalties and charges which will accrue upon the assessments to the date of payment, and

(6) The total of all such assessments, interest, penalty, and charges.

The longest outstanding liens shall be paid first, but if the money in the "city (or town) property assessments redemption fund" is insufficient at any time to discharge all such liens against the lands of the city or town upon a given assessment roll, the city or town treasurer may pay such portion thereof as may be possible from the funds available.

If deemed necessary, the city or town council may transfer money from the general fund to the redemption fund as a loan to be repaid when the money is available for repayment. [1967 c 52 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.060. Prior: 1929 c 183 s 2, part; 1909 c 130 s 2; RRS s 9345, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.49.070 Payment by county.** Upon the confirmation of the assessment roll for a local improvement district or utility local improvement district, the city or town treasurer shall certify and forward to the board of county commissioners a statement of all the lots, tracts, or parcels of land held or owned by the county assessed thereon, separately describing each lot, tract, or parcel, with the amount of the assessment charged against it.

The board of county commissioners shall cause the amount of such local assessments to be paid to the city or town as other claims against the county are paid.

If title to any property thus described was acquired by the county through foreclosure of general tax liens, the county shall:

(1) Pay the assessment from the proceeds of the sale of the property; or

(2) Sell the property subject to the lien of the assessment. [1967 c 52 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.070. Prior: 1929 c 139 s 1; 1905 c 29 s 3; RRS s 9342.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.49.080 Payment by metropolitan park district.** Upon the confirmation of the assessment roll for a local improvement district or utility local improvement district, the city treasurer shall certify and forward to the board of park commissioners of any metropolitan park district in which the city is located, a statement of all the lots, tracts, and parcels of land or other property held or owned by the district, assessed thereon, separately describing each lot, tract, or parcel with the amount of the assessment charged against it.

The board of park commissioners shall cause the amount of the local assessments to be paid as other claims against the metropolitan park district are paid. [1967 c 52 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.080. Prior: 1929 c 204 s 3; RRS s 9343-3.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.49.090 Payment by joint owner.** If any assessment for a local improvement, or an installment thereof, or judgment for either of them is paid, or a certificate of sale for either of them is redeemed by a joint owner of any of the property so assessed, he or she may, after demand and refusal, recover from his or her co-owners, by an action brought in superior court, the respective portions of the payment which each co-owner should bear. He or she shall have a lien upon the undivided interests of his or her co-owners from the date of the payment made by him or her and in the action shall recover interest at ten percent from the date of payment by him or her and the costs of the action in addition to the principal sum due him or her. [2009 c 549 s 2087; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.090. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 62; RRS s 9415.]

**RCW 35.49.100 Payment in error—Remedy.** If, through error or inadvertence, a person pays any assessment for a local improvement or an installment thereof upon the lands of another, he or she may, after demand and refusal, recover from the owner of such lands, by an action in the superior court, the amount so paid and the costs of the action. [2009 c 549 s 2088; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.100. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 65; RRS s 9418.]

**RCW 35.49.110 Record of payment.** If the amount of any assessment for a local improvement with interest, penalty, costs, and charges accrued thereon is paid to the treasurer before sale of the property in foreclosure of the lien thereon, the city or town treasurer shall mark it paid upon the assessment roll with the date of payment thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.49.110. Prior: 1927 c 275 s 2; 1911 c 98 s 30; RRS s 9382.]

**RCW 35.49.130 Tax liens—City may protect assessment lien at foreclosure sale.** If any property situated in a local improvement district or utility local improvement district created by a city or town is offered for sale for general taxes by the county treasurer, the city or town shall have power to protect the lien or liens of any local improvement assessments outstanding against the whole or portion of such property by purchase at the treasurer's foreclosure sale. [1995 c 38 s 2; 1994 c 301 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.130. Prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 63; RRS s 9416. (ii) 1929 c 143 s 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 170 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 40, part; RRS s 9393, part.]

**Acts of municipal officers ratified and confirmed—1995 c 38:** See note following RCW 3.02.045.

**RCW 35.49.140 Tax liens—Payment by city after taking property on foreclosure of local assessments.** If a city or town has bid in any property on sale for local improvement assessments, it may satisfy the lien of any outstanding general taxes upon the property by payment of the face of such taxes and costs, without penalty or interest, but this shall not apply where certificates of delinquency against the property have been issued to private persons. [1965 c 7 s 35.49.140.]

Prior: 1929 c 143 s 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 170 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 40, part; RRS s 9393, part.]

**RCW 35.49.150 Tax title property—City may acquire from county before resale.** If property is struck off to or bid in by a county at a sale for general taxes, and is subject to local improvement assessments in any city or town, or has been taken over by the city or town on the foreclosure of local improvement assessments, the city or town may acquire the property from the county at any time before resale and receive a deed therefor upon paying the face of such taxes and costs, without penalty or interest. [1965 c 7 s 35.49.150. Prior: 1929 c 143 s 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 170 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 40, part; RRS s 9393, part.]

**RCW 35.49.160 Tax title property—Disposition of proceeds upon resale.** Whenever property struck off to or bid in by a county at a sale for general taxes is subsequently sold by the county, the proceeds of the sale must be applied as follows:

(1) First, to reimburse the county for the costs of foreclosure and sale as defined in RCW 36.35.110;

(2) Any remaining proceeds must next be applied to pay any amounts deferred under chapter 84.37 or 84.38 RCW on the property, including accrued interest, and outstanding at the time the county acquired the property by tax deed;

(3) Any remaining proceeds must next be applied to discharge in full the lien or liens for general taxes for which the property was sold;

(4) Any remaining proceeds must be paid to the city or town to discharge all local improvement assessment liens against the property; and

(5) Any surplus proceeds must be distributed among the proper county funds. [2013 c 221 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.49.160. Prior: 1929 c 143 s 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 170 s 1, part; 1911 c 98 s 40, part; RRS s 9393, part.]

**RCW 35.49.170 Acquisition of property by state or political subdivisions which is subject to unpaid assessments and delinquencies.** See RCW 79.44.190.

**Chapter 35.50 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—FORECLOSURE OF ASSESSMENTS**

**Sections**

- 35.50.005 Filing of title, diagram, expense—Posting proposed roll.
- 35.50.010 Assessment lien—Attachment—Priority.
- 35.50.020 Assessment lien—Validity.
- 35.50.030 Authority and conditions precedent to foreclosure.
- 35.50.040 Entire assessment, foreclosure of.
- 35.50.050 Limitation of foreclosure action.
- 35.50.220 Procedure—Commencement of action.
- 35.50.225 Procedure—Form of summons.
- 35.50.230 Procedure—Parties and property included.
- 35.50.240 Procedure—Pleadings and evidence.
- 35.50.250 Procedure—Summons and service.
- 35.50.260 Procedure—Trial and judgment—Notice of sale.
- 35.50.270 Procedure—Sale—Right of redemption.

**RCW 35.50.005 Filing of title, diagram, expense—Posting proposed roll.** Within fifteen days after any city or town has ordered a local improvement and created a local improvement district, the city or town shall cause to be filed with the officer authorized by law to collect the assessments for such improvement, the title of the improvement and district number and a copy of the diagram or print showing the boundaries of the district and preliminary assessment roll or abstract of same showing thereon the lots, tracts and parcels of land that will be specially benefited thereby and the estimated cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by each lot, tract, or parcel of land. Such officer shall immediately post the proposed assessment roll upon his or her index of local improvement assessments against the properties affected by the local improvement. [2009 c 549 s 2089; 1969 ex.s. c 258 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.005. Prior: 1955 c 353 s 1.]

**RCW 35.50.010 Assessment lien—Attachment—Priority.** The charge assessed upon the respective lots, tracts, or parcels of land and other property in the assessment roll confirmed by ordinance of the city or town council for the purpose of paying the cost and expense in whole or in part of any local improvement, shall be a lien upon the property assessed from the time the assessment roll is placed in the hands of the city or town treasurer for collection, but as between the grantor and grantee, or vendor and vendee of any real property, when there is no express agreement as to payment of the local improvement assessments against the real property, the lien of such assessment shall attach thirty days after the filing of the diagram or print and the estimated cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by each lot, tract, or parcel of land, as provided in RCW 35.50.005. Interest and penalty shall be included in and shall be a part of the assessment lien.

The assessment lien shall be paramount and superior to any other lien or encumbrance theretofore or thereafter created except a lien for general taxes. [1965 c 7 s 35.50.010. Prior: 1955 c 353 s 4;

prior: (i) 1911 c 98 s 20; RRS s 9372. (ii) 1927 c 275 s 1, part; 1921 c 92 s 1; 1911 c 98 s 24, part; RRS s 9376, part.]

**RCW 35.50.020 Assessment lien—Validity.** If the city or town council in making assessments against any property within any local improvement district or utility local improvement district has acted in good faith and without fraud, the assessments shall be valid and enforceable as such and the lien thereof upon the property assessed shall be valid.

It shall be no objection to the validity of the assessment, or the lien thereof:

(1) That the contract for the improvement was not awarded in the manner or at the time required by law; or

(2) That the assessment was made by an unauthorized officer or person if the assessment roll was confirmed by the city or town authorities; or

(3) That the assessment is based upon a front foot basis, or upon a basis of benefits to the property within the improvement district unless it is made to appear that the city or town authorities did not act in good faith and did not attempt to act fairly in regard thereto or unless it is made to appear that the city or town authorities acted fraudulently or oppressively in making the assessment.

All local improvement assessments heretofore or hereafter made by city or town authorities in good faith are valid and in full force and effect. [1967 c 52 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.020. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 61; RRS s 9414.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.50.030 Authority and conditions precedent to foreclosure.** If on the first day of January in any year, two installments of any local improvement assessment are delinquent, or if the final installment thereof has been delinquent for more than one year, the city or town shall proceed with the foreclosure of the delinquent assessment or delinquent installments thereof by proceedings brought in its own name in the superior court of the county in which the city or town is situate.

The proceedings shall be commenced on or before March 1st of that year or on or before such other date in such year as may be fixed by general ordinance, but not before the city or town treasurer has notified by certified mail the persons whose names appear on the current assessment roll as owners of the property charged with the assessments or installments which are delinquent, at the address last known to the treasurer, a notice thirty days before the commencement of the proceedings. If the person whose name appears on the assessment rolls of the county assessor as owner of the property, or whose name appears on the tax rolls of the county treasurer as taxpayer of the property, or the address shown for the owner, differs from that appearing on the city or town assessment roll, then the treasurer shall also mail a copy of the notice to that person or that address.

The notice shall state the amount due, including foreclosure costs, upon each separate lot, tract, or parcel of land and the date after which the proceedings will be commenced. The city or town

treasurer shall file with the clerk of the superior court at the time of commencement of the foreclosure proceeding the affidavit of the person who mailed the notices. This affidavit shall be conclusive proof of compliance with the requirements of this section. [2002 c 168 s 1; 1997 c 393 s 1; 1983 c 303 s 18; 1982 c 91 s 1; 1981 c 323 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.030. Prior: 1933 c 9 s 1, part; 1927 c 275 s 5, part; 1919 c 70 s 2; 1915 c 185 s 1; 1911 c 98 ss 34, 36, part; RRS s 9386, part; prior: 1897 c 111.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** "If any provision of this amendatory act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1982 c 91 s 10.]

**Construction—1933 c 9:** "The provisions of this act shall be applicable to the lien of assessments heretofore as well as hereafter levied and to foreclosure proceedings now pending." [1933 c 9 s 3.]

**RCW 35.50.040 Entire assessment, foreclosure of.** When the local improvement assessment is payable in installments, the enforcement of the lien of any installment shall not prevent the enforcement of the lien of any subsequent installment.

A city or town may by general ordinance provide that upon failure to pay any installment due the entire assessment shall become due and payable and the collection thereof enforced by foreclosure: PROVIDED, That the payment of all delinquent installments together with interest, penalty, and administrative costs at any time before entry of judgment in foreclosure shall extend the time of payment on the remainder of the assessments as if there had been no delinquency or foreclosure. Where foreclosure of two installments of the same assessment on any lot, tract, or parcel is sought, the city or town treasurer shall cause such lot, tract, or parcel to be dismissed from the action, if the installment first delinquent together with interest, penalty, administrative costs, and charges is paid at any time before sale. [1997 c 393 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.040. Prior: (i) 1933 c 9 s 1, part; 1927 c 275 s 5, part; 1919 c 70 s 2, part; 1915 c 185 s 1; 1911 c 98 ss 34, 36, part; RRS s 9386, part. (ii) 1919 c 70 s 1; 1911 c 98 s 35; RRS s 9388; prior: 1897 c 111.]

**RCW 35.50.050 Limitation of foreclosure action.** An action to collect a local improvement assessment or any installment thereof or to enforce the lien thereof whether brought by the city or town, or by any person having the right to bring such action must be commenced within ten years after the assessment becomes delinquent or within ten years after the last installment becomes delinquent, if the assessment is payable in installments: PROVIDED, That the time during which payment of principal is deferred as to economically disadvantaged property owners as provided for in RCW 35.43.250 shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of action. [1989 c 11 s 6; 1972 ex.s. c 137 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.050. Prior: 1911 c 98 s 41; RRS s 9394.]

**Severability—1989 c 11:** See note following RCW 9A.56.220.

**Severability—1972 ex.s. c 137:** See note following RCW 35.49.010.

**RCW 35.50.220 Procedure—Commencement of action.** In foreclosing local improvement assessment liens, a city or town shall proceed by filing a complaint in the superior court of the county in which the city or town is located. It shall be sufficient to allege in the complaint (1) the passage of the ordinance authorizing the improvement, (2) the making of the improvement, (3) the levying of the assessment, (4) the confirmation thereof, (5) the date of delinquency of the installment or installments of the assessment for the enforcement of which the action is brought and (6) that they have not been paid prior to delinquency or at all. [1982 c 91 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.220. Prior: 1933 c 9 s 2, part; RRS s 9386-1, part.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** See note following RCW 35.50.030.

**RCW 35.50.225 Procedure—Form of summons.** In foreclosing local improvement assessments, the summons shall be substantially in the following form:

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON	
FOR [.....] COUNTY	
..... <i>Plaintiff,</i> v. ..... <i>Defendant.</i>	} No..... } SUMMONS FOR FORECLOSURE OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT LIEN

To the Defendant: A lawsuit has been started against you in the above entitled court by . . . . ., plaintiff. Plaintiff's claim is stated in the written complaint, a copy of which is served upon you with this summons. The purpose of this suit is to foreclose on your interest in the following described property:

[legal description]

which is located at:

[street address]

In order to defend against this lawsuit, you must respond to the complaint by stating your defense in writing, and by serving a copy upon the person signing this summons within twenty days after the service of this summons, excluding the day of service, or a default judgment may be entered against you without notice. A default judgment is one where plaintiff is entitled to what he or she asks for because you have not responded. If you serve a notice of appearance on the undersigned person, you are entitled to notice before a default judgment may be entered.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

If judgment is taken against you, either by default or after hearing by the court, your property will be sold at public auction.



You may prevent the sale by paying the amount of the judgment at any time prior to the sale.

If your property is sold, you may redeem the property at any time up to two years after the date of the sale, by paying the amount for which the property was sold, plus interest and costs of the sale.

If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time.

[signed].....

.....

Print or Type Name

( ) Plaintiff ( ) Plaintiff's  
Attorney

P.O. Address.....

Dated..... Telephone Number.....

[2009 c 549 s 2090; 1982 c 91 s 6.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** See note following RCW 35.50.030.

**RCW 35.50.230 Procedure—Parties and property included.** In foreclosing local improvement assessment liens, it is not necessary to bring a separate suit for each of the lots, tracts, or parcels of land or other property or for each separate local improvement district or utility local improvement district. All or any of the lots, tracts, or parcels of land or other property upon which local improvement assessments are delinquent under any and all local improvement assessment rolls in the city or town may be proceeded against in the same action. For all lots, tracts, or parcels which contain a residential structure with an assessed value of at least two thousand dollars, all persons owning or claiming to own the property shall be made defendants thereto. For all other lots, tracts, or parcels, the persons whose names appear on the assessment roll and property tax rolls as owners of the property charged with the assessments or taxes shall be made defendants thereto. [1983 c 303 s 19; 1982 c 91 s 3; 1967 c 52 s 19; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.230. Prior: 1933 c 9 s 2, part; RRS s 9386-1, part.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** See note following RCW 35.50.030.

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.50.240 Procedure—Pleadings and evidence.** In foreclosing local improvement assessment liens, the assessment roll and the ordinance confirming it, or duly authenticated copies thereof shall be prima facie evidence of the regularity and legality of the proceedings connected therewith and the burden of proof shall be on the defendants. [1982 c 91 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.240. Prior: 1933 c 9 s 2, part; RRS s 9386-1, part.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** See note following RCW 35.50.030.

**RCW 35.50.250 Procedure—Summons and service.** In foreclosing local improvement assessments, if the lot, tract, or parcel contains a residential structure with an assessed value of at least two thousand dollars, the summons shall be served upon the defendants in the manner required by RCW 4.28.080. For all other lots, tracts, or parcels the summons shall be served by either personal service on the defendants or by certified and regular mail. [1983 c 303 s 20; 1982 c 91 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.250. Prior: 1933 c 9 s 2, part; RRS s 9386-1, part.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** See note following RCW 35.50.030.

*Commencement of actions: Chapter 4.28 RCW.*

**RCW 35.50.260 Procedure—Trial and judgment—Notice of sale.** In foreclosing local improvement assessments the action shall be tried to the court without a jury. If the parties interested in any particular lot, tract, or parcel default, the court may enter judgment of foreclosure and sale as to such parties and lots, tracts, or parcels and the action may proceed as to the remaining defendants and lots, tracts, or parcels. Judgment and order of sale may be entered as to any one or more separate lots, tracts, or parcels involved in the action and the court shall retain jurisdiction to others.

The judgment shall specify separately the amount of the installments with interest, penalty, and all reasonable administrative costs, including, but not limited to, the title searches, chargeable to each lot, tract, or parcel. The judgment shall have the effect of a separate judgment as to each lot, tract, or parcel described in the judgment, and any appeal shall not invalidate or delay the judgment except as to the property concerning which the appeal is taken. In the judgment the court shall order the lots, tracts, or parcels therein described sold by the city or town treasurer or by the county sheriff and an order of sale shall issue pursuant thereto for the enforcement of the judgment.

In all other respects, the trial, judgment, and appeals to the supreme court or the court of appeals shall be governed by the statutes governing the foreclosure of mortgages on real property.

Prior to the sale of the property, if the property is shown on the property tax rolls under unknown owner or if the property contains a residential structure having an assessed value of two thousand dollars or more, the treasurer shall order or conduct a title search of the property to determine the record titleholders and all persons claiming a mortgage, deed of trust, or mechanic's, laborer's, material supplier's, or vendor's lien on the property.

At least thirty days prior to the sale of the property, a copy of the notice of sale shall be mailed by certified and regular mail to all defendants in the foreclosure action as to that parcel, lot, or tract and, if the owner is unknown or the property contains a residential structure having an assessed value of two thousand dollars or more, a copy of the notice of sale shall be mailed by regular and certified mail to any additional record titleholders and persons claiming a mortgage, deed of trust, or mechanic's, laborer's, material supplier's, or vendor's lien on the property.

In all other respects, the procedure for sale shall be conducted in the same manner as property tax sales described in RCW 84.64.080. [2013 c 23 s 63; 1997 c 393 s 3; 1983 c 303 s 21; 1982 c 91 s 7; 1971

c 81 s 93; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.260. Prior: 1933 c 9 s 2, part; RRS s 9386-1, part.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** See note following RCW 35.50.030.

*Foreclosure of real estate mortgages and personal property liens:  
Chapter 61.12 RCW.*

*Foreclosure of special assessments by water-sewer districts—Attorneys'  
fees: RCW 57.16.150.*

**RCW 35.50.270 Procedure—Sale—Right of redemption.** In foreclosing local improvement assessments, all sales shall be subject to the right of redemption within two years from the date of sale. [1983 c 303 s 22; 1982 c 91 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.50.270. Prior: 1933 c 9 s 2, part; RRS s 9386-1, part.]

**Severability—1982 c 91:** See note following RCW 35.50.030.

**Chapter 35.51 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY—RESERVE FUNDS**

**Sections**

35.51.010	Definitions.
35.51.020	Joint planning, construction, and operation of improvements.
35.51.030	Alternative or additional method of assessment— Classification of property.
35.51.040	Reserve fund authorized—Use.
35.51.050	Loan agreements—Assessments may be pledged.
35.51.900	Authority supplemental—1985 c 397.
35.51.9001	Authority supplemental—1997 c 426.

**RCW 35.51.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Local improvement district" means any local improvement district, local utility district, or any other similar special assessment district.

(2) "Municipality" means any city, town, county, metropolitan municipal corporation, or any other municipal corporation or quasi-municipal corporation of the state of Washington authorized to order local improvements, to establish local improvement districts, and to levy special assessments on property specially benefited thereby to pay the expense of the improvements.

(3) "Permissible floor area" means the maximum total floor area, at grade and above and below grade, of a building or other structure that may lawfully be developed on a property.

(4) "Private land use restriction" means any restriction on the use of property imposed by agreement and enforceable by a court of law and that the legislative authority of a municipality determines is useful in measuring special benefits to a property from an improvement. Such restrictions include but are not limited to easements, covenants, and equitable servitudes that are not mere personal obligations.

(5) "Public land use restriction" means any restriction on the use of property imposed by federal, state, or local laws, regulations, ordinances, or resolutions. Such restrictions include but are not limited to local zoning ordinances and historic preservation statutes. [1985 c 397 s 5.]

**RCW 35.51.020 Joint planning, construction, and operation of improvements.** A municipality may contract with any other municipality, with a public corporation, or with the state of Washington, for the following purposes:

(1) To have the acquisition or construction of the whole or any part of an improvement performed by another municipality, by a public corporation, or by the state of Washington;

(2) To pay, from assessments on property within a local improvement district or from the proceeds of local improvement district bonds, notes or warrants, the whole or any part of the expense of an improvement ordered, constructed, acquired, or owned by another municipality or a public corporation; or

(3) To integrate the planning, financing, construction, acquisition, management, or operation, or any combination thereof, of the improvements of one municipality or a public corporation with the planning, financing, construction, acquisition, management, or operation, or any combination thereof, of the improvements of another municipality or public corporation on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon including, but not limited to, the allocation of the costs of the improvements and the allocation of planning, financing, construction, management, operation, or other responsibilities. [1987 c 242 s 5; 1985 c 397 s 6.]

**Policy—1987 c 242:** See note following RCW 35.43.005.

**RCW 35.51.030 Alternative or additional method of assessment—Classification of property.** (1) As an alternative or in addition to other methods of ascertaining assessments for local improvements, the legislative authority of a municipality may develop and apply a system of classification of properties based upon some or all of the public land use restrictions or private land use restrictions to which such property may be put at the time the assessment roll is confirmed.

(2) The legislative authority of a municipality may classify property into office, retail, residential, public, or any other classifications the legislative authority finds reasonable, and may levy special assessments upon different classes of property at different rates, but in no case may a special assessment exceed the special benefit to a particular property. A municipality also may exempt certain classes of property from assessment if the legislative authority of the municipality determines that properties within such classes will not specially benefit from the improvement.

(3) For each property within a classification, the legislative authority of the municipality may determine the special assessment after consideration of any or all of the following:

- (a) Square footage of the property;
- (b) Permissible floor area;
- (c) Distance from or proximity of access to the local improvement;
- (d) Private land use restrictions and public land use restrictions;
- (e) Existing facilities on the property at the time the assessment roll is confirmed; and
- (f) Any other factor the legislative authority finds to be a reasonable measure of the special benefits to the properties being assessed.

(4) If after the assessment roll is confirmed, the legislative authority of a municipality finds that the lawful uses of any assessed property have changed and that the property no longer falls within its original classification, the legislative authority may, in its discretion, reclassify and reassess such property whether or not the bonds issued to pay any part of such costs remain outstanding. If such reassessment reduces the total outstanding assessments within the local improvement district, the legislative authority shall either reassess all other properties upward in an aggregate amount equal to such reduction, or shall pledge additional money, including money in a reserve fund, to the payment of principal of and interest on such bonds in an amount equal to such reduction.

(5) When the legislative authority of a municipality determines that it will use the alternative or additional method of assessment authorized by this section, it may select and describe the method or methods of assessment in the ordinance ordering a local improvement and creating a local improvement district if such method or methods of assessment have been described in the notice of hearing required under RCW 35.43.150. If the method or methods of assessment are so selected and described in the ordinance ordering a local improvement and creating a local improvement district, the action and decision of the legislative authority as to such method or methods of assessment shall be final and conclusive, and no lawsuit whatsoever may be maintained challenging such method or methods of assessment unless that lawsuit is served and filed no later than thirty days after the date of passage of the ordinance ordering the improvement, and creating the district or, when applicable, no later than thirty days after the expiration of the thirty-day protest period provided in RCW 35.43.180. [1985 c 397 s 7.]

**RCW 35.51.040 Reserve fund authorized—Use.** For the purpose of securing the payment of the principal of and interest on an issue of local improvement bonds, notes, warrants, or other short-term obligations, the legislative authority of a municipality may create a reserve fund in an amount not exceeding fifteen percent of the principal amount of the bonds, notes, or warrants issued. The cost of a reserve fund may be included in the cost and expense of any local improvement for assessment against the property in the local improvement district to pay the cost, or any part thereof. The reserve fund may be provided for from the proceeds of the bonds, notes, warrants, or other short-term obligations, from special assessment payments, or from any other money legally available therefor. The legislative authority of a municipality shall provide that after payment of administrative costs a sum in proportion to the ratio between the part of the original assessment against a given lot, tract, or parcel of land in a local improvement district assessed to create a reserve fund, if any, and the total original amount of such assessment, plus a proportionate share of any interest accrued in the reserve fund, shall be credited and applied, respectively, to any nondelinquent portion of the principal of that assessment and any nondelinquent installment interest on that assessment paid by a property owner, but in no event may the principal amount of bonds outstanding exceed the principal amount of assessments outstanding. Whether the payment is made during the thirty-day prepayment period referred to in RCW 35.49.010 and 35.49.020 or thereafter and whenever all or part of a remaining nondelinquent assessment or any nondelinquent installment payment of principal and interest is paid, the reserve fund balance shall be reduced accordingly as each such sum is thus credited and applied to a nondelinquent principal payment and a nondelinquent interest payment. Each payment of a nondelinquent assessment or any nondelinquent installment payment of principal and interest shall be reduced by the amount of the credit. The balance of a reserve fund remaining after payment in full and retirement of all local improvement bonds, notes, warrants, or other short-term obligations secured by such fund shall be transferred to the municipality's guaranty fund.

Where, before July 26, 1987, a municipality established a reserve fund under this section that did not provide for a credit or reimbursement of the money remaining in the reserve fund to the owners of the lots, tracts, or parcels of property subject to the assessments, the balance in the reserve fund shall be distributed, after payment in full and retirement of all local improvement district bonds and other obligations secured by the reserve fund, to those owners of the lots, tracts, or parcels of property subject to the assessments at the time the final installment or assessment payment on the lot, tract, or parcel was made. No owner is eligible to receive reimbursement for a lot, tract, or parcel if a lien on an unpaid assessment, or an installment thereon, that was imposed on such property remains in effect at the time the reimbursement is made or was foreclosed on the property. The amount to be distributed to the owners of each lot, tract, or parcel that is eligible for reimbursement shall be equal to the balance in the reserve fund, multiplied by the assessment imposed on the lot, tract, or parcel, divided by the total of all the assessments on the lots, tracts, or parcels eligible for reimbursement. [1987 c 340 s 1; 1985 c 397 s 8.]

**RCW 35.51.050 Loan agreements—Assessments may be pledged.**

Assessments for local improvements in a local improvement district created by a municipality may be pledged and applied when collected to the payment of its obligations under a loan agreement entered into under chapter 39.69 RCW to pay costs of improvements in such a local improvement district. [1997 c 426 s 4.]

**RCW 35.51.900 Authority supplemental—1985 c 397.** The authority granted by sections 1 through 8 of this act is supplemental and in addition to the authority granted by Title 35 RCW and to any other authority granted to cities, towns, or municipal corporations to levy special assessments. [1985 c 397 s 12.]

**RCW 35.51.9001 Authority supplemental—1997 c 426.** The authority granted by RCW 35.51.050 is supplemental and in addition to the authority granted by Title 35 RCW and to any other authority granted to cities, towns, or municipal corporations to levy, pledge, and apply special assessments. [1997 c 426 s 5.]

**Chapter 35.53 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED**

**Sections**

- 35.53.010 Property to be held in trust—Taxability.
- 35.53.020 Discharge of trust.
- 35.53.030 Sale or lease of trust property.
- 35.53.040 Termination of trust in certain property.
- 35.53.050 Termination of trust in certain property—Complaint—  
Allegations.
- 35.53.060 Termination of trust in certain property—Property—  
Parties—Summons.
- 35.53.070 Termination of trust in certain property—Receivership—  
Regulations.

**RCW 35.53.010 Property to be held in trust—Taxability.**

Property bid in by the city or town or struck off to it pursuant to proceedings for the foreclosure of local improvement assessment liens shall be held in trust by the city or town for the fund of the improvement district or the revenue bond fund into which assessments in utility local improvement districts are pledged to be paid for the benefit of which the property was sold. Any property so held in trust shall be exempt from taxation for general state, county and municipal purposes during the period that it is so held. [1967 c 52 s 20; 1965 c 7 s 35.53.010. Prior: 1933 c 107 s 1, part; 1927 c 275 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 31, part; RRS s 9383, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.53.020 Discharge of trust.** The city or town may relieve itself of its trust relation to a local improvement district fund or revenue bond fund into which utility local improvement assessments are pledged to be paid as to any lot, tract, or parcel of property by paying into the fund the amount of the delinquent assessment for which the property was sold and all accrued interest, together with interest to the time of the next call of bonds or warrants against such fund at the rate provided thereon. Upon such payment the city or town shall hold the property discharged of the trust. [1967 c 52 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.53.020. Prior: 1933 c 107 s 1, part; 1927 c 275 s 3, part; 1911 c 98 s 31, part; RRS s 9383, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.53.030 Sale or lease of trust property.** A city or town may lease or sell and convey any such property held in trust by it, by virtue of the conveyance thereof to it by a local improvement assessment deed. The sale may be public or private and for such price and upon such terms as may be determined by resolution of the council, any provisions of law, charter, or ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding. After first reimbursing any funds which may have



advanced moneys on account of any lot, tract, or parcel, all proceeds resulting from lease or sale thereof shall ratably belong and be paid into the funds of the local improvement concerned. [1965 c 7 s 35.53.030. Prior: 1927 c 275 s 4; 1911 c 98 s 32; RRS s 9384.]

**RCW 35.53.040 Termination of trust in certain property.** A city or town which has heretofore acquired or hereafter acquires any property through foreclosure of delinquent assessments for local improvements initiated or proceedings commenced before June 8, 1927, may terminate its trust therein by an action in the superior court, if all the bonds and warrants outstanding in the local improvement district in which the assessments were levied are delinquent. [1965 c 7 s 35.53.040. Prior: 1929 c 142 s 1, part; RRS s 9384-1, part.]

**RCW 35.53.050 Termination of trust in certain property—Complaint—Allegations.** The complaint in any such action by a city or town to terminate its trust in property acquired at a local improvement assessment sale shall set forth:

(1) The number of the local improvement district or utility local improvement district,

(2) The bonds and warrants owing thereby,

(3) The owners thereof or that the owners are unknown,

(4) A description of the assets of the district with the estimated value thereof,

(5) The amount of the assessments, including penalty and interest, of any other local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts which are a lien upon the same property,

(6) The amount of the bonds and warrants owing by such other districts and the names of the owners thereof unless they are unknown, except where the bonds and warrants are guaranteed by a local improvement guaranty fund or pursuant to any other form of guaranty authorized by law. [1967 c 52 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.53.050. Prior: 1929 c 142 s 1, part; RRS s 9384-1, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**RCW 35.53.060 Termination of trust in certain property—Property—Parties—Summons.** Two or more delinquent districts and all property, bonds and warrants therein may be included in one action to terminate the trust.

All persons owning any bonds or warrants of the districts involved in the action or having an interest therein shall be made parties defendant except in cases where the bonds or warrants are guaranteed by a local improvement guaranty fund or pursuant to any other form of guaranty authorized by law.

Summons shall be served as in other actions. Unknown owners and unknown parties shall be served by publication. [1965 c 7 s 35.53.060. Prior: 1929 c 142 s 1, part; RRS s 9384-1, part.]

*Commencement of actions: Chapter 4.28 RCW.*

**RCW 35.53.070 Termination of trust in certain property—**

**Receivership—Regulations.** In such an action the court after acquiring jurisdiction shall proceed as in the case of a receivership except that the city or town shall serve as trustee in lieu of a receiver.

The assets of the improvement districts involved shall be sold at such prices and in such manner as the court may deem advisable and be applied to the costs and expenses of the action and the liquidation of the bonds and warrants of the districts or revenue bonds to which utility local improvement assessments are pledged to pay.

No notice to present claims other than the summons in the action shall be necessary. Any claim presented shall be accompanied by the bonds and warrants upon which it is based. Dividends upon any bonds or warrants for which no claim was filed shall be paid into the general fund of the city or town, but the owner thereof may obtain it at any time within five years thereafter upon surrender and cancellation of his or her bonds and warrants.

Upon the termination of the receivership the city or town shall be discharged from all trusts relating to the property, funds, bonds, and warrants involved in the action. [2009 c 549 s 2091; 1967 c 52 s 23; 1965 c 7 s 35.53.070. Prior: 1929 c 142 s 1, part; RRS s 9384-1, part.]

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

**Chapter 35.54 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—GUARANTY FUNDS**

**Sections**

- 35.54.010 Establishment.
- 35.54.020 Rules and regulations.
- 35.54.030 Source—Interest and earnings.
- 35.54.040 Source—Subrogation rights to assessments.
- 35.54.050 Source—Surplus from improvement funds.
- 35.54.060 Source—Taxation.
- 35.54.070 Use of fund—Purchase of bonds, coupons and warrants.
- 35.54.080 Use of fund—Purchase of general tax certificates or property on or after foreclosure—Disposition.
- 35.54.090 Warrants against fund.
- 35.54.095 Transfer of assets to general fund—When authorized—Payment of claims as general obligation, when.
- 35.54.100 Deferral of collection of assessments for economically disadvantaged persons—Payment from guaranty fund—Lien—Payment dates for deferred obligations.
- 35.54.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**RCW 35.54.010 Establishment.** (1) There is established in every city and town a fund to be designated the "local improvement guaranty fund" for the purpose of guaranteeing, to the extent of the fund, the payment of its local improvement bonds and warrants or other short-term obligations issued to pay for any local improvement ordered in the city or town or in any area wholly or partly outside its corporate boundaries: (a) In any city of the first class having a population of more than three hundred thousand, subsequent to June 8, 1927; (b) in any city or town having created and maintained a guaranty fund under chapter 141, Laws of 1923, subsequent to the date of establishment of such fund; and (c) in any other city or town subsequent to April 7, 1926: PROVIDED, That this shall not apply to any city of the first class which maintains a local improvement guaranty fund under chapter 138, Laws of 1917, but any such city maintaining a guaranty fund under chapter 138, Laws of 1917 may by ordinance elect to operate under the provisions of this chapter and may transfer to the guaranty fund created hereunder all the assets of the former fund and, upon such election and transfer, all bonds guaranteed under the former fund shall be guaranteed under the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The local improvement guaranty fund established under subsection (1) of this section shall not be subject to any claim by the owner or holder of any local improvement bond, warrant, or other short-term obligation issued under an ordinance that provides that such obligations shall not be secured by the local improvement guaranty fund. [2002 c 41 s 4; 1971 ex.s. c 116 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.54.010. Prior: (i) 1917 c 138 s 1; RRS s 8986. (ii) 1917 c 138 s 2; RRS s 8987. (iii) 1917 c 138 s 3; RRS s 8988. (iv) 1917 c 138 s 4; RRS s 8989. (v) 1917 c 138 s 5; RRS s 8990. (vi) 1917 c 138 s 6; RRS s 8991. (vii) 1927 c 209 s 1; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 1; 1923 c 141 s 1; RRS s 9351-1. (viii) 1927 c 209 s 2, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 2, part; 1923 c 141 s 2, part; RRS s 9351-2, part.]

**RCW 35.54.020 Rules and regulations.** Every city and town operating under the provisions of this chapter shall prescribe by ordinance appropriate rules and regulations for the maintenance and operation of the guaranty fund not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.54.020. Prior: 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part.]

**RCW 35.54.030 Source—Interest and earnings.** Interest and earnings from the local improvement guaranty fund shall be paid into the fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.54.030. Prior: 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part.]

**RCW 35.54.040 Source—Subrogation rights to assessments.** Whenever any sum is paid out of the local improvement guaranty fund on account of principal or interest of a local improvement bond or warrant, the city or town as trustee of the fund shall be subrogated to all the rights of the holder of the bond or interest coupon or warrant so paid, and the proceeds thereof, or of the underlying assessment, shall become part of the guaranty fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.54.040. Prior: 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part.]

**RCW 35.54.050 Source—Surplus from improvement funds.** If in any local improvement fund guaranteed by a local improvement guaranty fund there is a surplus remaining after the payment of all outstanding bonds and warrants payable therefrom, it shall be paid into the local improvement guaranty fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.54.050. Prior: 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part.]

**RCW 35.54.060 Source—Taxation.** For the purpose of maintaining the local improvement guaranty fund, every city and town shall, at the time of making its annual budget and tax levy, provide for the levy of a sum sufficient, with the other sources of the fund, to pay the warrants issued against the fund during the preceding fiscal year and to establish a balance therein: PROVIDED, That the levy in any one year shall not exceed the greater of: (1) Twelve percent of the outstanding obligations guaranteed by the fund, or (2) the total amount of delinquent assessments and interest accumulated on the delinquent assessments before the levy as of September 1.

The taxes levied for the maintenance of the local improvement guaranty fund shall be additional to and, if need be, in excess of all statutory and charter limitations applicable to tax levies in any city or town. [1981 c 323 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.54.060. Prior: (i) 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part. (ii) 1927 c 209 s 2, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 2, part; 1923 c 141 s 2, part; RRS s 9351-2, part.]

*Special assessments or taxation for local improvements: State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.*

**RCW 35.54.070 Use of fund—Purchase of bonds, coupons and warrants.** Defaulted bonds, interest coupons and warrants against local improvement funds shall be purchased out of the guaranty fund, and as between the several issues of bonds, coupons, or warrants no preference shall exist, but they shall be purchased in the order of their presentation. [1965 c 7 s 35.54.070. Prior: 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part.]

**RCW 35.54.080 Use of fund—Purchase of general tax certificates or property on or after foreclosure—Disposition.** For the purpose of protecting the guaranty fund, so much of the guaranty fund as is necessary may be used to purchase certificates of delinquency for general taxes on property subject to local improvement assessments which underlie the bonds, coupons, or warrants guaranteed by the fund, or to purchase such property at county tax foreclosures, or from the county after foreclosure.

The city or town, as trustee of the fund, may foreclose the lien of general tax certificates of delinquency and purchase the property at foreclosure sale; when doing so the court costs, costs of publication, expense for clerical work and other expenses incidental thereto shall be charged to and paid from the local improvement guaranty fund.

After acquiring title to property by purchase at general tax foreclosure sale or from the county after foreclosure, a city or town may lease it or sell it at public or private sale at such price on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the council. All proceeds shall belong to and be paid into the local improvement guaranty fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.54.080. Prior: 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part.]

**RCW 35.54.090 Warrants against fund.** Warrants drawing interest at a rate established by the issuing officer under the direction of the legislative authority of the city or town shall be issued against the local improvement guaranty fund to meet any liability accruing against it. The warrants so issued shall at no time exceed five percent of the outstanding obligations guaranteed by the fund. [1981 c 323 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.54.090. Prior: 1933 c 109 s 1, part; 1927 c 209 s 3, part; 1925 ex.s. c 183 s 3, part; 1923 c 141 s 3, part; RRS s 9351-3, part.]

**RCW 35.54.095 Transfer of assets to general fund—When authorized—Payment of claims as general obligation, when.** (1) Any city or town maintaining a local improvement guaranty fund under this chapter, upon certification by the city or town treasurer that the local improvement guaranty fund has sufficient funds currently on hand to meet all valid outstanding obligations of the fund and all other obligations of the fund reasonably expected to be incurred in the near future, may by ordinance transfer assets from such fund to its general fund. The net cash of the local improvement guaranty fund may be reduced by such transfer to an amount not less than ten percent of the net outstanding obligations guaranteed by such fund.

(2) If, at any time within five years of any transfer of assets from the local improvement guaranty fund to the general fund of a city or town, the net cash of the local improvement guaranty fund is reduced below the minimum amount specified in subsection (1) of this section, the city or town shall, to the extent of the amount transferred, pay valid claims against the local improvement guaranty fund as a general obligation of the city or town. In addition, such city or town shall pay all reasonable costs of collection necessarily incurred by the holders of valid claims against the local improvement guaranty fund. [1979 c 55 s 1.]

**RCW 35.54.100 Deferral of collection of assessments for economically disadvantaged persons—Payment from guaranty fund—Lien—Payment dates for deferred obligations.** Whenever payment of a local improvement district assessment is deferred pursuant to the provisions of RCW 35.43.250 the amount of the deferred assessment shall be paid out of the local improvement guaranty fund. The local improvement guaranty fund shall have a lien on the benefited property in an amount equal to the deferral together with interest as provided for by the establishing ordinance.

The lien may accumulate up to an amount not to exceed the sum of two installments: PROVIDED, That the ordinance creating the local improvement district may provide for one or additional deferrals of up to two installments. Local improvement assessment obligations deferred under chapter 137, Laws of 1972 ex. sess. shall become payable upon the earliest of the following dates:

- (1) Upon the date and pursuant to conditions established by the political subdivision granting the deferral; or
- (2) Upon the sale of property which has a deferred assessment lien upon it from the purchase price; or
- (3) Upon the death of the person to whom the deferral was granted from the value of his or her estate; except a surviving spouse shall be allowed to continue the deferral which shall then be payable by that spouse as provided in this section. [2009 c 549 s 2092; 1972 ex.s. c 137 s 3.]

**Severability—1972 ex.s. c 137:** See note following RCW 35.49.010.

**RCW 35.54.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 s 79.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 ss 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192: See note following RCW 2.10.900.**

**Chapter 35.55 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—FILLING LOWLANDS**

**Sections**

- 35.55.010 Authority—Second-class cities.
- 35.55.020 Alternative methods of financing.
- 35.55.030 Boundaries—Excepted property.
- 35.55.040 Damages—Eminent domain.
- 35.55.050 Estimates—Plans and specifications.
- 35.55.060 Assessment roll—Items—Assessment units—Installments.
- 35.55.070 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice—Council's authority.
- 35.55.080 Hearings—Appellate review.
- 35.55.090 Lien—Collection of assessments.
- 35.55.100 Interest on assessments.
- 35.55.110 Payment of cost of improvement—Interest on warrants.
- 35.55.120 Local improvement bonds—Terms.
- 35.55.130 Local improvement bonds—Guaranties.
- 35.55.140 Local improvement bonds and warrants—Sale to pay damages, preliminary financing.
- 35.55.150 Local improvement fund—Investment.
- 35.55.160 Letting contract for improvement—Excess or deficiency of fund.
- 35.55.170 Payment of contractor—Bonds, warrants, cash.
- 35.55.180 Reassessments.
- 35.55.190 Provisions of chapter not exclusive.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**RCW 35.55.010 Authority—Second-class cities.** If the city council of any city of the second class deems it necessary or expedient on account of the public health, sanitation, the general welfare, or other cause, to fill or raise the grade of any marshlands, swamplands, tidelands, shorelands, or lands commonly known as tideflats, or any other lowlands situated within the limits of the city, and to clear and prepare the lands for such filling, it may do so and assess the expense thereof, including the cost of making compensation for property taken or damaged, and all other costs and expense incidental to such improvement, to the property benefited, except such amount of such expense as the city council may direct to be paid out of the current or general expense fund.

If, in the judgment of the city council the special benefits for any such improvement shall extend beyond the boundaries of the filled area, the council may create an enlarged district which shall include, as near as may be, all the property, whether actually filled or not, which will be specially benefited by such improvement, and in such case the council shall specify and describe the boundaries of such enlarged district in the ordinance providing for such improvement and shall specify that such portion of the total cost and expense of such improvement as may not be borne by the current or general expense fund, shall be distributed and assessed against all the property of such enlarged district. [1994 c 81 s 57; 1965 c 7 s 35.55.010. Prior: 1917 c 63 s 1; 1909 c 147 s 1; RRS s 9432.]



**RCW 35.55.020 Alternative methods of financing.** If the city council desires to make any improvement authorized by the provisions of this chapter it shall provide therefor by ordinance and unless the ordinance provides that the improvement shall be paid for wholly or in part by special assessments upon the property benefited, compensation therefor shall be made from any general funds of the city applicable thereto. If the ordinance provides that the improvement shall be paid for wholly or in part by special assessments upon property benefited, the proceedings for the making of the special assessments shall be as hereinafter provided. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.020. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 2, part; RRS s 9433, part.]

*Special assessments or taxation for local improvements: State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.*

**RCW 35.55.030 Boundaries—Excepted property.** Such ordinance shall specify the boundaries of the proposed improvement district and shall describe the lands which it is proposed to assess for said improvement. If any parcel of land within the boundaries of such proposed improvement district has been wholly filled to the proposed grade elevation of the proposed fill, such parcel of land may be excluded from the lists of lands to be assessed, when in the opinion of the city council justice and equity require its exclusion. The boundaries of any improvement district may be altered so as to exclude land therefrom at any time up to the levying of the assessment but such changing of the boundaries shall be by ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.030. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 2, part; RRS s 9433, part.]

**RCW 35.55.040 Damages—Eminent domain.** If an ordinance has been passed as in this chapter provided, and it appears that in making of the improvement so authorized, private property will be taken or damaged thereby, the city shall file a petition in the superior court of the county in which such city is situated, in the name of the city, praying that just compensation to be made for the property to be taken or damaged for the improvement specified in the ordinance be ascertained, and conduct proceedings in eminent domain in accordance with the statutes relating to cities for the ascertainment of the compensation to be made for the taking and damaging of property, except insofar as the same may be inconsistent with this chapter.

The filling of unimproved and uncultivated lowlands of the character mentioned in RCW 35.55.010 shall not be considered as damaging or taking of such lands. The damage if any, done to cultivated lands or growing crops thereon, or to buildings and other improvements situated within the district proposed to be filled, shall be ascertained and determined in the manner above provided; but no damage shall be awarded to any property owner for buildings or improvements placed upon lands included within said district after the publication of the ordinance defining the boundaries of the proposed improvement district: PROVIDED, That the city shall after the passage of such ordinance, proceed with said improvement with due diligence. If the improvement is to be made at the expense of the property benefited, no account shall be taken of benefits by the jury or court in assessing the amount of compensation to be made to the owner of any property within such district, but such compensation shall be assessed

without regard to benefits to the end that said property for which damages may be so awarded, may be assessed the same as other property within the district for its just share and proportion of the expense of making said improvement, and the fact that compensation has been awarded for the damaging or taking of any parcel of land shall not preclude the assessment of such parcel of land for its just proportion of said improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.040. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 3; RRS s 9434.]

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.55.050 Estimates—Plans and specifications.** At the time of the initiation of the proceedings for any improvement as contemplated by this chapter, or at any time afterward, the city council shall cause plans and specifications for said improvement to be prepared and shall cause an estimate to be made of the cost and expense of making said improvement, including the cost of supervision and engineering, abstractor's fees, interest and discounts and all other expenses incidental to said improvement, including an estimate of the amount of damages for property taken or damaged, which plans, specifications and estimates shall be approved by the city council. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.050. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 4; RRS s 9435.]

**RCW 35.55.060 Assessment roll—Items—Assessment units—Installments.** When such plans and specifications have been prepared and the estimates of the cost and expense of making the improvement have been adopted by the council and when an estimate has been made of the compensation to be paid for property damaged or taken, either before or after the compensation has been ascertained in the eminent domain proceedings, the city council shall cause an assessment roll to be prepared containing a list of all of the property within the improvement district which it is proposed to assess for the improvement, together with the names of the owners, if known, and if unknown the property shall be assessed to an unknown owner, and opposite each description shall be set the amount assessed to such description.

When so ordered by the council, the entire amount of compensation paid or to be paid for property damaged or taken, including all of the costs and expenses incidental to the condemnation proceedings together with the entire cost and expense of making the improvement, may be assessed against the property within the district subject to assessment, but the council may order any portion of the costs paid out of the current or general expense fund of the city.

The assessments shall be made according to and in proportion to surface area one square foot of surface to be the unit of assessment, except that the several parcels of land in any enlarged district not actually filled shall be assessed in accordance with special benefits: PROVIDED, That where any parcel of land was partially filled by the owner prior to the initiation of the improvement, an equitable deduction for such partial filling may be allowed.

The cost and expense incidental to the filling of the streets, alleys and public places within such assessment district shall be borne by the private property within such district subject to assessment when so ordered by the council. When the assessments are

payable in installments, the assessment roll when equalized, shall show the number of installments and the amounts thereof. The assessments may be made payable in any number of equal annual installments not exceeding ten in number. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.060. Prior: 1917 c 63 s 2; 1909 c 147 s 5; RRS s 9436.]

**RCW 35.55.070 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice—Council's authority.** When such assessment roll has been prepared it shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and thereupon the city clerk shall give notice by publication in at least three issues of the official paper that such roll is on file in his or her office and that at a date mentioned in said notice, which shall be at least twenty days after the date of the first publication thereof, the city council will sit as a board of equalization to equalize said roll and to hear, consider and determine protests and objections against the same.

At the time specified in the notice, the city council shall sit as a board of equalization to equalize the roll and they may adjourn the sitting from time to time until the equalization of such roll is completed. The city council as board of equalization may hear, consider and determine objections and protests against any assessment and may make such alterations and modifications in the assessment roll as justice and equity may require. [2009 c 549 s 2093; 1965 c 7 s 35.55.070. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 6; RRS s 9437.]

**RCW 35.55.080 Hearings—Appellate review.** Any person who has made objections to the assessment as equalized, shall have the right to appeal from the equalization as made by the city council to the superior court of the county. The appeal shall be made by filing a written notice of appeal with the city clerk within ten days after the equalization of the assessments by the council. The notice of appeal shall describe the property and the objections of such appellant to such assessment.

The appellant shall also file with the clerk of the superior court within ten days from the time of taking the appeal a copy of the notice of appeal together with a copy of the assessment roll and proceedings thereon, certified by the city clerk and a bond to the city conditioned to pay all costs that may be awarded against appellant in such sum not less than two hundred dollars and with such security as shall be approved by the clerk of the court.

The case shall be docketed by the clerk of the court in the name of the person taking the appeal as plaintiff and the city as defendant. The cause shall then be at issue and shall be tried immediately by the court as in the case of equitable causes; no further pleadings shall be necessary. The judgment of the court shall be either to confirm, modify or annul the assessment insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. Appellate review of the superior court's decision may be sought as in other causes. [1988 c 202 s 38; 1971 c 81 s 94; 1965 c 7 s 35.55.080. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 7; RRS s 9438.]

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**RCW 35.55.090 Lien—Collection of assessments.** From and after the equalization of the roll, the several assessments therein shall become a lien upon the real estate described therein and shall remain a lien until paid. The assessment lien shall take precedence of all other liens against such property, except the lien of general taxes. The assessments shall be collected by the same officers and enforced in the same manner as provided by law for the collection and enforcement of local assessments for street improvements. All of the provisions of laws and ordinances relative to the enforcement and collection of local assessments for street improvements shall be applicable to these assessments. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.090. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 8; RRS s 9439.]

*Assessments for local improvements, collection and foreclosure:  
Chapters 35.49, 35.50 RCW.*

**RCW 35.55.100 Interest on assessments.** The local assessments shall bear interest at such rate as may be fixed by the council after the expiration of thirty days after the equalization of the assessment roll and shall bear such interest after delinquency as may be provided by general ordinance of the city. [1981 c 156 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.55.100. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 12, part; RRS s 9443, part.]

**RCW 35.55.110 Payment of cost of improvement—Interest on warrants.** If the improvement contemplated by this chapter is ordered to be made upon the immediate payment plan, the city council shall provide for the payment thereof by the issuance of local improvement fund warrants against the local improvement district, which warrants shall be paid only out of the funds derived from the local assessments in the district and shall bear interest at a rate determined by the city council from date of issuance. If the improvement is ordered to be made upon the bond installment plan, the city council shall provide for the issuance of bonds against the improvement district. [1981 c 156 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.55.110. Prior: (i) 1909 c 147 s 12, part; RRS s 9443, part. (ii) 1909 c 147 s 9; RRS s 9440.]

**RCW 35.55.120 Local improvement bonds—Terms.** The city council shall have full authority to provide for the issuance of bonds against the improvement district fund in such denominations as the city council may provide which shall bear such rate of interest as the city council may fix. Interest shall be paid annually and the bonds shall become due and payable at such time, not exceeding ten years from the date thereof, as may be fixed by the council and shall be payable out of the local assessment district fund.

If so ordered by the council, the bonds may be issued in such a way that different numbers of the bonds may become due and payable at different intervals of time, or they may be so issued that all of the bonds against said district mature together. [1981 c 156 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.55.120. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 10, part; RRS s 9441, part.]

**RCW 35.55.130 Local improvement bonds—Guaranties.** The city may guarantee the payment of the whole or any part of the bonds issued

against a local improvement district, but the guaranties on the part of the city, other than a city operating under the council-manager form or the commission form, shall be made only by ordinance passed by the vote of not less than nine councilmembers and the approval of the mayor in noncharter code cities that retained the old second-class city plan of government with twelve council positions, and six councilmembers and approval of the mayor in cities of the second class. In a city under the council-manager form of government, such guaranties shall be made only in an ordinance passed by a vote of three out of five or five out of seven councilmembers, as the case may be, and approval of the mayor. In a city under the commission form of government, such guaranties shall be made only in an ordinance passed by a vote of two out of three of the commissioners. The mayor's approval shall not be necessary in commission form cities. [1994 c 81 s 58; 1965 c 7 s 35.55.130. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 10, part; RRS s 9441, part.]

**RCW 35.55.140 Local improvement bonds and warrants—Sale to pay damages, preliminary financing.** The city council may negotiate sufficient warrants or bonds against any local improvement district at a price not less than ninety-five percent of their par value to raise sufficient money to pay any and all compensation which may be awarded for property damaged or taken in the eminent domain proceedings including the costs of such proceedings. In lieu of so doing, the city council may negotiate current or general expense fund warrants at par to raise funds for the payment of such compensation and expenses in the first instance, but in that event the current or general expense fund shall be reimbursed out of the first moneys collected in any such local assessment district or realized from the negotiation or sale of local improvement warrants or bonds. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.140. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 11; RRS s 9442.]

**RCW 35.55.150 Local improvement fund—Investment.** If money accumulates in an improvement fund and is likely to lie idle awaiting the maturity of the bonds against the district, the city council, under proper safeguards, may invest it temporarily, or may borrow it temporarily, at a reasonable rate of interest, but when so invested or borrowed, the city shall be responsible and liable for the restoration to such fund of the money so invested or borrowed with interest thereon, whenever required for the redemption of bonds maturing against such district. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.150. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 15; RRS s 9446.]

**RCW 35.55.160 Letting contract for improvement—Excess or deficiency of fund.** The contract for the making of the improvement may be let either before or after the making up of the equalization of the assessment roll, and warrants, or bonds may be issued against the local improvement district fund either before or after the equalization of the roll as in the judgment of the council may best subserve the public interest.

If, after the assessment roll is made up and equalized, based in whole or in part upon an estimate of the cost of the improvement, and it is found that the estimate was too high, the excess shall be

rebated pro rata to the property owners on the assessment roll, the rebates to be deducted from the last installment, or installments, when the assessment is upon the installment plan.

If it is found that the estimated cost was too low and that the actual bona fide cost of the improvement is greater than the estimate, the city council, after due notice and a hearing, as in case of the original equalization of the roll, may add the required additional amount to the assessment roll to be apportioned among the several parcels of property upon the same rules and principles as if it had been originally included, except that the additional amount shall be added to the last installment of an assessment if assessments are payable upon the installment plan. The same notice shall be required for adding to the assessment roll in this manner as is required for the original equalization of the roll, and the property owner shall have the right of appeal. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.160. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 13; RRS s 9444.]

**RCW 35.55.170 Payment of contractor—Bonds, warrants, cash.** The city council may provide in letting the contract for an improvement, that the contractor shall accept special fund warrants or local improvement bonds against the local improvement district within which such improvement is to be made, in payment for the contract price of the work, and that the warrants or bonds may be issued to the contractor from time to time as the work progresses, or the city council may negotiate the special fund warrants or bonds against the local improvement district at not less than ninety-five cents in money for each dollar of warrants or bonds, and with the proceeds pay the contractor for the work and pay the other costs of such improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.170. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 14; RRS s 9445.]

**RCW 35.55.180 Reassessments.** If any assessment is found to be invalid for any cause or if it is set aside for any reason in judicial proceeding, a reassessment may be made and all laws relative to the reassessment of local assessments, for street or other improvements, shall, as far as practicable, be applicable hereto. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.180. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 16; RRS s 9447.]

**RCW 35.55.190 Provisions of chapter not exclusive.** The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed as repealing or in any wise affecting any existing laws relative to the making of any such improvements, but shall be considered as concurrent therewith. [1965 c 7 s 35.55.190. Prior: 1909 c 147 s 17; RRS s 9448.]

**Chapter 35.56 RCW**  
**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS—FILLING AND DRAINING LOWLANDS—WATERWAYS**

**Sections**

- 35.56.010 Authority—First and second-class cities.
- 35.56.020 Alternative methods of financing.
- 35.56.030 Boundaries—Excepted property.
- 35.56.040 Conditions precedent to passage of ordinance—Protests.
- 35.56.050 Damages—Eminent domain.
- 35.56.060 Estimates—Plans and specifications.
- 35.56.070 Assessment roll—Items—Assessment units—Installments.
- 35.56.080 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice—Council's authority.
- 35.56.090 Hearing—Appellate review.
- 35.56.100 Lien—Collection of assessments.
- 35.56.110 Interest on assessments.
- 35.56.120 Payment of cost of improvement—Interest on warrants.
- 35.56.130 Local improvement bonds—Terms.
- 35.56.140 Local improvement bonds—Guaranties.
- 35.56.150 Local improvement bonds and warrants—Sale to pay damages  
—Preliminary financing.
- 35.56.160 Local improvement fund—Investment.
- 35.56.170 Letting contracts for improvement—Excess or deficiency of  
fund.
- 35.56.180 Payment of contractor—Bonds—Warrants—Cash.
- 35.56.190 Tax levy—General—Purposes—Limit.
- 35.56.200 Waterways constructed—Requirements.
- 35.56.210 Waterways constructed—Control.
- 35.56.220 Waterways constructed—Leasing facilities.
- 35.56.230 Waterway shoreline front—Lessee must lease abutting  
property.
- 35.56.240 Waterways constructed—Acquisition of abutting property.
- 35.56.250 Waterways—Abutting city owned lands—Lease of.
- 35.56.260 Waterways—Abutting lands—Lessee must lease shoreline  
property.
- 35.56.270 Work by day labor.
- 35.56.280 Reassessments.
- 35.56.290 Provisions of chapter not exclusive.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**RCW 35.56.010 Authority—First and second-class cities.** If the city council or commission of any city of the first or second class in this state deems it necessary or expedient on account of the public health, sanitation, the general welfare, or other cause, to fill or raise the grade or elevation of any marshlands, swamplands, tidelands or lands commonly known as tideflats, or any other lands situated within the limits of such city and to clear and prepare said lands for such filling it may do so by proceeding in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

For the purpose of filling and raising the grade or elevation of such lands and to secure material therefor and to provide for the proper drainage thereof after such fill has been effected, the city council or commission may acquire rights-of-way (and where necessary

or desirable, may vacate, use and appropriate streets and alleys for such purposes) and lay out, build, construct and maintain over and across such lowlands, canals or artificial waterways of at least sufficient width, depth and length to provide and afford the quantity of earth, dirt and material required to complete such fill, and with the earth, dirt and material removed in digging and constructing such canals and waterways, fill and raise the grade or elevation of such marshlands, swamplands, tidelands or tideflats; and such canals or waterways shall be constructed of such width and depth (provided that all the earth, dirt and other suitable material removed in constructing the same shall be used to fill the lowlands as herein provided) as will make them available, convenient and suitable to provide water frontage for landings, wharves and other conveniences of navigation and commerce for the use and benefit of the city and the public. If canals or waterways are to be constructed as herein provided, such city may construct and maintain the necessary bridges over and across the same; such canals or waterways shall be forever under the control of such city and shall be and become public thoroughfares and waterways for the use and benefit of commerce, shipping, the city and the public generally.

The expense of making such improvement and in doing, accomplishing and effecting all the work provided for in this chapter including the cost of making compensation for property taken or damaged, and all other cost and expense incidental to such improvement, shall be assessed to the property benefited, except such amount of such expense as the city council or commission, in its discretion, may direct to be paid out of the current or general expense fund. [1994 c 81 s 59; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.010. Prior: 1929 c 63 s 1; 1913 c 16 s 1; RRS s 9449.]

**RCW 35.56.020 Alternative methods of financing.** If the city council or commission desires to make any improvement authorized by the provisions of this chapter it shall provide therefor by ordinance and unless the ordinance provides that the improvement shall be paid for wholly or in part by special assessment upon the property benefited, compensation therefor shall be made from any general or special funds of the city applicable thereto. If the ordinance provides that the improvement shall be paid for wholly or in part by special assessments upon property benefited, the proceedings for the making of such special assessment shall be as hereafter provided. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.020. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 2, part; RRS s 9450, part.]

*Special assessments or taxation for local improvements: State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.*

**RCW 35.56.030 Boundaries—Excepted property.** Such ordinance shall specify the boundaries of the proposed improvement district and shall describe the lands which it is proposed to assess for said improvement, and shall provide for the filling of such lowlands and shall outline the general scheme or plan of such fill. If any parcel of land within the boundaries of such proposed improvement district prior to the initiation of the improvement has been wholly filled to the proposed grade or elevation of the proposed fill, such parcel of land may be excluded from the lands to be assessed when in the opinion



of the city council or commission justice and equity require its exclusion. The boundaries of any improvement district may be altered so as to exclude land therefrom at any time up to the levying of the assessment but such changing of the boundaries shall be by ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.030. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 2, part; RRS s 9450, part.]

**RCW 35.56.040 Conditions precedent to passage of ordinance—**

**Protests.** Upon the introduction of an ordinance providing for such fill, if the city council or commission desires to proceed, it shall fix a time, not less than ten days, in which protests against said fill may be filed in the office of the city clerk. Thereupon it shall be the duty of the clerk of said city to publish in the official newspaper of said city in at least two consecutive issues thereof before the time fixed for the filing of protests, a notice of the time fixed for the filing of protests together with a copy of the proposed ordinance as introduced.

Protests against the proposed fill to be effective must be filed by the owners of more than half of the area of land situated within the proposed filling district exclusive of streets, alleys and public places on or before the date fixed for such filing. If an effective protest is filed the council shall not proceed further unless two-thirds of the members of the city council vote to proceed with the work; if the city is operating under a commission form of government composed of three commissioners, the commission shall not proceed further except by a unanimous affirmative vote of all the members thereof, if the commission is composed of five members, at least four affirmative votes thereof shall be necessary before proceeding.

If no effective protest is filed or if an effective protest is filed and two-thirds of the councilmembers vote to proceed with the work or in cases where cities are operating under the commission form of government, the commissioners vote unanimously or four out of five commissioners vote to proceed with the work, the city council or commission shall at such meeting or in a succeeding meeting proceed to pass the proposed ordinance for the work, with such amendments and modifications as to the said city council or commission of said city may seem proper. The local improvement district shall be called "filling district No. . . ." [2009 c 549 s 2094; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.040. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 2, part; RRS s 9450, part.]

**RCW 35.56.050 Damages—Eminent domain.** If an ordinance is passed as in this chapter provided, and it appears that in making of the improvements so authorized, private property will be taken or damaged thereby within or without the city, the city shall file a petition in the superior court of the county in which such city is situated, in the name of the city, praying that just compensation be made for the property to be taken or damaged for the improvement specified in the ordinance and conduct proceedings in eminent domain in accordance with the statutes relating to cities for the ascertainment of the compensation to be made for the taking and damaging of property, except insofar as the same may be inconsistent with this chapter.

The filling of unimproved and uncultivated lowlands of the character mentioned in RCW 35.56.010 shall not be considered as a damaging or taking of such lands. The damage, if any, done to

cultivated lands or growing crops thereon, or to buildings and other improvements situated within the district proposed to be filled shall be ascertained and determined in the manner above provided; but no damage shall be awarded to any property owner for buildings or improvements placed upon lands included within said district after the publication of the ordinance defining the boundaries of the proposed improvement district: PROVIDED, That the city shall, after the passage of such ordinance, proceed with said improvement with due diligence.

If the improvement is to be made at the expense of the property benefited, no account shall be taken of benefits by the jury or court in assessing the amount of compensation to be made to the owner of any property within such district, but such compensation shall be assessed without regard to benefits to the end that said property for which damages may be so awarded, may be assessed the same as other property within the district for its just share and proportion of the expense of making said improvement, and the fact that compensation has been awarded for the damaging or taking of any parcel of land shall not preclude the assessment of such parcel of land for its just proportion of said improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.050. Prior: (i) 1913 c 16 s 3; RRS s 9451. (ii) 1929 c 63 s 4; 1913 c 16 s 21; RRS s 9469.]

*Eminent domain, cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.56.060 Estimates—Plans and specifications.** At the time of the initiation of the proceedings for any improvement as contemplated by this chapter or at any time afterward, the city council or commission shall cause plans and specifications for said improvement to be prepared and shall cause an estimate to be made of the cost and expense of making said improvement, including the cost of supervision and engineering, abstractor's fees, interest and discounts and all other expenses incidental to said improvement, including an estimate of the amount of damages for property taken or damaged, which plans, specifications and estimates shall be approved by the city council or commission. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.060. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 4; RRS s 9452.]

**RCW 35.56.070 Assessment roll—Items—Assessment units—Installments.** When such plans and specifications shall have been prepared and the estimate of the cost and expense of making the improvement has been adopted by the council or commission and when an estimate has been made of the compensation to be paid for property damaged or taken, either before or after the compensation has been ascertained in the eminent domain proceedings, the city council or commission shall cause an assessment roll to be prepared containing a list of all the property within the improvement district which it is proposed to assess for the improvements together with the names of the owners, if known, and if unknown, the property shall be assessed to an unknown owner, and opposite each description shall be set the amount assessed to such description.

When so ordered by the city council or commission, the entire amount of compensation paid or to be paid for property damaged or taken, including all of the costs and expenses incidental to the condemnation proceedings together with the entire cost and expense of making the improvement may be assessed against the property within the

district subject to assessment, but the city council or commission may order any portion of the costs paid out of the current or general expense fund of the city. The assessments shall be made according to and in proportion to surface area, one square foot of surface to be the unit of assessment: PROVIDED, That where any parcel of land was wholly or partially filled by the owner prior to the initiation of the improvement an equitable deduction for such filling or partial filling may be allowed.

The cost and expense incidental to the filling of the streets, alleys and public places within said assessment district shall be borne by the private property within such district subject to assessment when so ordered by the city council or commission. When the assessments are payable in installments, the assessment roll when equalized shall show the number of installments and the amounts thereof. The assessment may be made payable in any number of equal annual installments not exceeding fifteen in number. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.070. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 5; RRS s 9453.]

**RCW 35.56.080 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice—Council's authority.** When such assessment roll has been prepared it shall be filed in the office of the city clerk and thereupon the city clerk shall give notice by publication in at least three issues of the official paper that such roll is on file in his or her office and on a date mentioned in said notice, which shall be at least twenty days after the date of the first publication thereof, the city council or commission will sit as a board of equalization to equalize said roll and to hear, consider and determine protests and objections against the same.

At the time specified in the notice, the city council or commission shall sit as a board of equalization to equalize the roll and they may adjourn the sitting from time to time until the equalization of such roll is completed. The city council or commission as such board of equalization may hear, consider and determine objections and protests against any assessment and make such alterations and modifications in the assessment roll as justice and equity may require. [2009 c 549 s 2095; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.080. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 6; RRS s 9454.]

**RCW 35.56.090 Hearing—Appellate review.** Any person who has made objections to the assessment as equalized, shall have the right to appeal from the equalization as made by the city council or commission to the superior court of the county. The appeal shall be made by filing a written notice of appeal with the city clerk within ten days after the equalization of the assessments by the council or commission. The notice of appeal shall describe the property and the objections of such appellant to such assessment.

The appellant shall also file with the clerk of the superior court within ten days from the time of taking the appeal a copy of the notice of appeal together with a copy of the assessment roll and proceedings thereon, certified by the city clerk and a bond to the city conditioned to pay all costs that may be awarded against appellant in such sum not less than two hundred dollars, and with such security as shall be approved by the clerk of the court.

The case shall be docketed by the clerk of the court in the name of the person taking the appeal as plaintiff, and the city as defendant. The cause shall then be at issue and shall be tried immediately by the court as in the case of equitable causes; no further pleadings shall be necessary. The judgment of the court shall be either to confirm, modify or annul the assessment insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. Appellate review of the superior court's decision may be sought as in other causes. [1988 c 202 s 39; 1971 c 81 s 95; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.090. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 7; RRS s 9455.]

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**RCW 35.56.100 Lien—Collection of assessments.** From and after the equalization of the roll, the several assessments therein shall become a lien upon the real estate described therein and shall remain a lien until paid. The assessment lien shall take precedence of all other liens against such property, except the lien of general taxes. The assessments shall be collected by the same officers and enforced in the same manner as provided by law for the collection and enforcement of local assessments for street improvements. All of the provisions of laws and ordinances relative to the guaranty, enforcement, and collection of local assessments for street improvements, including foreclosure in case of delinquency, shall be applicable to these assessments. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.100. Prior: 1929 c 63 s 2; 1913 c 16 s 8; RRS s 9456.]

*Assessments for local improvements, collection and foreclosure:  
Chapters 35.49, 35.50 RCW.*

**RCW 35.56.110 Interest on assessments.** The local assessments shall bear interest at such rate as may be fixed by the council or commission from and after the expiration of thirty days after the equalization of the assessment roll and shall bear such interest after delinquency as may be provided by general ordinance of the city. [1981 c 156 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.110. Prior: 1929 c 63 s 3; 1913 c 16 s 12; RRS s 9460.]

**RCW 35.56.120 Payment of cost of improvement—Interest on warrants.** If the improvement contemplated by this chapter is ordered to be made upon the immediate payment plan, the city council or commission shall provide for the payment thereof by the issuance of local improvement fund warrants against the local improvement district, which warrants shall be paid only out of the funds derived from the local assessments in the district and shall bear interest at a rate determined by the city council or commission from date of issuance. If the improvement is ordered to be made upon the bond installment plan, the city council or commission shall provide for the issuance of bonds against the improvement district. [1981 c 156 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.120. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 9; RRS s 9457.]

**RCW 35.56.130 Local improvement bonds—Terms.** The city council or commission shall have full authority to provide for the issuance of such bonds against the improvement district fund in such denominations as the city council or commission may provide, which shall bear such rate of interest as the city council or commission may fix. Interest shall be paid annually and the bonds shall become due and payable at such time, not exceeding fifteen years from the date thereof, as may be fixed by the said council or commission and shall be payable out of the assessment district funds.

If so ordered by the council or commission, the bonds may be issued in such a way that different numbers of the bonds may become due and payable at different intervals of time, or they may be so issued that all of the bonds against said district mature together. The city may reserve the right to call or mature any bond on any interest paying date when sufficient funds are on hand for its redemption; but bonds shall be called in numerical order. [1981 c 156 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.130. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 10, part; RRS s 9458, part.]

**RCW 35.56.140 Local improvement bonds—Guaranties.** The city may guarantee the payment of the whole or any part of the bonds issued against a local improvement district, but the guaranties on the part of the city shall be made only by ordinance passed by the vote of not less than two-thirds of the councilmembers and the approval of the mayor, or three commissioners in case the governing body consist of three commissioners, or four where such city is governed by five commissioners. [2009 c 549 s 2096; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.140. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 10, part; RRS s 9458, part.]

**RCW 35.56.150 Local improvement bonds and warrants—Sale to pay damages—Preliminary financing.** The city council or commission may negotiate sufficient warrants or bonds against any local improvement district at a price not less than ninety-five percent of their par value to raise sufficient money to pay any and all compensation which may be awarded for property damaged or taken in the eminent domain proceedings, including the costs of such proceedings. In lieu of so doing, the city council or commission may negotiate current or general expense fund warrants at par to raise funds for the payment of such compensation and expenses in the first instance, but in that event the current or general expense fund shall be reimbursed out of the first moneys collected in any such local assessment district or realized from the negotiation or sale of local improvement warrants or bonds. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.150. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 11; RRS s 9459.]

**RCW 35.56.160 Local improvement fund—Investment.** If money accumulates in an improvement fund and is likely to lie idle waiting the maturity of the bonds against the district, the city council or commission, under proper safeguards, may invest it temporarily, or may borrow it temporarily, at a reasonable rate of interest, but when so invested or borrowed, the city shall be responsible and liable for the restoration to such fund of the money so invested or borrowed with interest thereon, whenever required for the redemption of bonds

maturing against such district. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.160. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 15; RRS s 9463.]

**RCW 35.56.170 Letting contracts for improvement—Excess or deficiency of fund.** The contract for the making of the improvement may be let either before or after the making up of the equalization of the assessment roll, and warrants or bonds may be issued against the local improvement district fund either before or after the equalization of the roll as in the judgment of the council or commission may best subserve the public interest.

If after the assessment roll is made up and equalized, based in whole or in part upon an estimate of the cost of the improvement, and it is found that the estimate was too high, the excess shall be rebated pro rata to the property owners on the assessment roll, the rebates to be deducted from the last installment, or installments, when the assessment is upon the installment plan.

If it is found that the estimated cost was too low and that the actual bona fide cost of the improvement is greater than the estimate, the city council or commission after due notice and a hearing, as in case of the original equalization of the roll, may add the required additional amount to the assessment roll to be apportioned among the several parcels of property upon the same rules and principles as if it had been originally included except that the additional amount shall be added to the last installment of an assessment if assessments are payable upon the installment plan. The same notice shall be required for adding to the assessment roll in this manner as is required for the original equalization of the roll, and the property owner shall have the right of appeal. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.170. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 13; RRS s 9461.]

**RCW 35.56.180 Payment of contractor—Bonds—Warrants—Cash.** The city council or commission may provide in letting the contract for an improvement, that the contractor shall accept special fund warrants or local improvement bonds against the local improvement district within which such improvement is to be made, in payment for the contract price of the work, and that the warrants or bonds may be issued to the contractor from time to time as the work progresses, or the city council or commission may negotiate the special fund warrants or bonds against the local improvement district at not less than ninety-five cents in money for each dollar of warrants or bonds, and with the proceeds pay the contractor for the work and pay the other costs of such improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.180. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 14; RRS s 9462.]

**RCW 35.56.190 Tax levy—General—Purposes—Limit.** For the purpose of raising revenues to carry on any project under this chapter including funds for the payment for the lands taken, purchased, acquired or condemned and the expenses incident to the acquiring thereof, or any other cost or expenses incurred by the city under the provisions of this chapter but not including the cost of actually filling the lands for which the local improvement district was created, a city may levy an annual tax of not exceeding seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of all property

within the city. The city council or commission may create a fund into which all moneys so derived from taxation and moneys derived from rents and issues of the lands shall be paid and against which special fund warrants may be drawn or negotiable bonds issued to meet expenditures under this chapter. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.56.190. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 19; RRS s 9467.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:**  
See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 35.56.200 Waterways constructed—Requirements.** In the filling of any marshland, swampland, tideland or tideflats no canal or waterway shall be constructed in connection therewith less than three hundred feet wide at the top between the shore lines and with sufficient slope to the sides or banks thereof to as nearly as practicable render bulkheadings or other protection against caving or falling in of said sides or banks unnecessary and of sufficient depth to meet all ordinary requirements of navigation and commerce. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.200. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 17, part; RRS s 9465, part.]

**RCW 35.56.210 Waterways constructed—Control.** The canal or waterway shall be and remain under the control of the city and immediately upon its completion the city shall establish outer dock lines lengthwise of said canal or waterway on both sides thereof in such manner and position that not less than two hundred feet of the width thereof shall always remain open between such lines and beyond and between which lines no right shall ever be granted to build wharves or other obstructions except bridges; nor shall any permanent obstruction to the free use of the channel so laid out between said wharf or dock lines excepting bridges, their approaches, piers, abutments and spans, ever be permitted but the same shall be kept open for navigation. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.210. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 17, part; RRS s 9465, part.]

**RCW 35.56.220 Waterways constructed—Leasing facilities.** The city shall have the right to lease the area so created between the said shore lines and the wharf lines so established or any part, parts or parcels thereof during times when the use thereof is not required by the city, for periods not exceeding thirty years, to private individuals or concerns for wharf, warehouse or manufacturing purposes at such annual rate or rental per lineal foot of frontage on the canal or waterway as it may deem reasonable.

The rates of wharfage, and other charges to the public which any lessee may impose shall be reasonable; and the city council or commission may regulate such rates. The lease so granted by the city shall never be transferred or assigned without the consent of the city council or commission having been first obtained.

A city shall never lease to any individual or concern more than four hundred lineal feet of frontage of the area lying between the shore lines and the dock lines and no individual or concern shall ever hold or occupy by lease, sublease or otherwise more than the said four hundred lineal feet of frontage of such area: PROVIDED, That any individual or concern may acquire by lease or sublease whatever

additional number of lineal feet of frontage of such area may in the judgment of the city council or commission be necessary for the use of such individual or concern, upon petition therefor to the city council or commission signed by not less than five hundred resident freeholders of the city. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.220. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 17, part; RRS s 9465, part.]

**RCW 35.56.230 Waterway shoreline front—Lessee must lease abutting property.** If the city owns the land abutting upon any part of the area between the shore lines and dock lines, no portion of the area which has city owned property abutting upon it shall ever be leased unless an equal frontage of the abutting property immediately adjoining it is leased at the same time for the same period to the same individual or concern. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.230. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 17, part; RRS s 9465, part.]

**RCW 35.56.240 Waterways constructed—Acquisition of abutting property.** While acquiring the rights-of-way for such canals or waterways or at any time thereafter such city may acquire for its own use and public use by purchase, gift, condemnation or otherwise, and pay therefor by any lawful means including but not restricted to payment out of the current expense fund of such city or by bonding the city or by pledging revenues to be derived from rents and issues therefrom, lands abutting upon the shore lines or right-of-way of such canals or waterways to a distance, depth or width of not more than three hundred feet back from the banks or shore lines of such canals or waterways on either side or both sides thereof, or not more than three hundred lineal feet back from and abutting on the outer lines of such rights-of-way on either side or both sides of such rights-of-way, and such area of such abutting lands as the council or commission may deem necessary for its use for public docks, bridges, wharves, streets and other conveniences of navigation and commerce and for its own use and benefit generally. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.240. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 18, part; RRS s 9466, part.]

**RCW 35.56.250 Waterways—Abutting city owned lands—Lease of.** If the city is not using the abutting lands so acquired it may lease any parcels thereof as may be deemed for the best interest and convenience of navigation, commerce and the public interest and welfare to private individuals or concerns for terms not exceeding thirty years each at such annual rate or rental as the city council or commission of such city may deem just, proper and fair, for the purpose of erecting wharves for wholesale and retail warehouses and for general commercial purposes and manufacturing sites, but the said city shall never convey or part with title to the abutting lands above mentioned and so acquired nor with the control other than in the manner herein specified. Any lease or leases granted by the city on such abutting lands shall never be transferred or assigned without the consent of the city council or commission having been first obtained.

A city shall never lease to any individual or concern more than four hundred lineal feet of canal or waterway frontage of said land and no individual or concern shall ever hold or occupy by lease, sublease, or otherwise more than the said four hundred lineal feet of



said frontage: PROVIDED, That any individual or concern may acquire by lease or sublease whatever additional frontage of such abutting land may be in the judgment of the city council or commission necessary for the use of such individual or concern, upon petition presented to the city council or commission therefor signed by not less than five hundred resident freeholders of such city. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.250. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 18, part; RRS s 9466, part.]

**RCW 35.56.260 Waterways—Abutting lands—Lessee must lease shoreline property.** At the time that the city leases to any individual or concern any of the land abutting on the area between the shore lines and the dock lines the same individual or concern must likewise for the same period of time lease all of the area between the shore line and dock line of such canal or waterway lying contiguous to and immediately in front of the abutting land so leased. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.260. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 18, part; RRS s 9466, part.]

**RCW 35.56.270 Work by day labor.** When a city undertakes any improvement authorized by this chapter and the expenditures required exceed the sum of five hundred dollars, it shall be done by contract and shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, after due notice, under such regulation as may be prescribed by ordinance: PROVIDED, That the city council or commission may reject all bids presented and readvertise, or, if in the judgment of the city council or commission the work can be performed, or supplies or materials furnished by the city independent of contract, cheaper than under the bid submitted, it may after having so advertised and examined the bids, cause the work to be performed or supplies or materials to be furnished independent of contract. This section shall be construed as a concurrent and cumulative power conferred on cities and shall not be construed as in any wise repealing or affecting any law now in force relating to the performing, execution and construction of public works. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.270. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 20; RRS s 9468.]

**RCW 35.56.280 Reassessments.** If any assessment is found to be invalid for any cause or if it is set aside for any reason in judicial proceeding, a reassessment may be made and all laws then in force relative to the reassessment of local assessments, for street or other improvements, shall, as far as practical, be applicable hereto. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.280. Prior: 1913 c 16 s 16; RRS s 9464.]

*Local improvements, assessments and reassessments: Chapter 35.44 RCW.*

**RCW 35.56.290 Provisions of chapter not exclusive.** The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed as repealing or in any wise affecting other existing laws relative to the making of any such improvements but shall be considered as concurrent therewith. [1965 c 7 s 35.56.290. Prior: 1929 c 63 s 5; 1913 c 16 s 22; RRS s 9470.]

**Chapter 35.57 RCW**  
**PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICTS**

**Sections**

- 35.57.010 Creation—Board of directors—Corporate powers.
- 35.57.020 Regional centers, recreational facilities—Charges and fees—Powers.
- 35.57.025 Independent financial feasibility review—When required—Public document.
- 35.57.027 Statutorily authorized taxing authority.
- 35.57.030 General obligation bonds.
- 35.57.040 Authorized charges, fees, and taxes—Gifts.
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- 35.57.060 Expenditure of funds—Purposes.
- 35.57.070 Service provider agreements.
- 35.57.080 Purchases and sales—Procedures.
- 35.57.090 Revenue bonds—Limitations.
- 35.57.100 Tax on admissions.
- 35.57.110 Tax on vehicle parking charges.

**RCW 35.57.010 Creation—Board of directors—Corporate powers.**

(1) (a) The legislative authority of any town or city located in a county with a population of less than one million may create a public facilities district.

(b) The legislative authorities of any contiguous group of towns or cities located in a county or counties each with a population of less than one million may enter an agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW for the creation and joint operation of a public facilities district.

(c) The legislative authority of any town or city, or any contiguous group of towns or cities, located in a county with a population of less than one million and the legislative authority of a contiguous county, or the legislative authority of the county or counties in which the towns or cities are located, may enter into an agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW for the creation and joint operation of a public facilities district.

(d) The legislative authority of a city located in a county with a population greater than one million may create a public facilities district, when the city has a total population of less than one hundred fifteen thousand but greater than eighty thousand and commences construction of a regional center prior to July 1, 2008.

(e) At least three contiguous towns or cities with a combined population of at least one hundred sixty thousand, each of which previously created a public facilities district under (a) of this subsection, may create an additional public facilities district. The previously created districts may continue their full corporate existence and activities notwithstanding the creation and existence of the additional district within the same geographic area.

(f) The legislative authority of two or more contiguous towns or cities or the legislative authority of two or more contiguous towns or cities and the legislative authority of the county or counties in which the towns or cities are located, each of which participated in the creation of a public facilities district under (c) of this subsection, may create an additional public facilities district. Any previously created district may continue its full corporate existence

and activities notwithstanding the creation and existence of an additional district within the same geographic area. A public facilities district formed under this subsection (1)(f) must be created prior to July 1, 2026. The creation of a public facilities district under this subsection does not require all of the original participating towns, cities, or counties that created a public facilities district under (c) of this subsection to participate in the formation of the additional public facilities district under this subsection.

(2)(a) A public facilities district is coextensive with the boundaries of the city or town or contiguous group of cities or towns that created the district.

(b) A public facilities district created by an agreement between a town or city, or a contiguous group of towns or cities, and a contiguous county or the county in which they are located, is coextensive with the boundaries of the towns or cities, and the boundaries of the county or counties as to the unincorporated areas of the county or counties. The boundaries do not include incorporated towns or cities that are not parties to the agreement for the creation and joint operation of the district.

(3)(a) A public facilities district created by a single city or town shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of five members selected as follows: (i) Two members appointed by the legislative authority of the city or town; and (ii) three members appointed by legislative authority based on recommendations from local organizations. The members appointed under (a)(i) of this subsection, shall not be members of the legislative authority of the city or town. The members appointed under (a)(ii) of this subsection, must be based on recommendations received from local organizations that may include, but are not limited to, the local chamber of commerce, local economic development council, and local labor council. The members shall serve four-year terms. Of the initial members, one must be appointed for a one-year term, one must be appointed for a two-year term, one must be appointed for a three-year term, and the remainder must be appointed for four-year terms.

(b) A public facilities district created by a contiguous group of cities and towns must be governed by a board of directors consisting of seven members selected as follows: (i) Three members appointed by the legislative authorities of the cities and towns; and (ii) four members appointed by the legislative authorities of the cities and towns based on recommendations from local organizations. The members appointed under (b)(i) of this subsection shall not be members of the legislative authorities of the cities and towns. The members appointed under (b)(ii) of this subsection, must be based on recommendations received from local organizations that include, but are not limited to, the local chamber of commerce, local economic development council, local labor council, and a neighborhood organization that is directly affected by the location of the regional center in their area. The members of the board of directors must be appointed in accordance with the terms of the agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint operation of the district and shall serve four-year terms. Of the initial members, one must be appointed for a one-year term, one must be appointed for a two-year term, one must be appointed for a three-year term, and the remainder must be appointed for four-year terms.

(c) A public facilities district created by a town or city, or a contiguous group of towns or cities, and a contiguous county or the county or counties in which they are located, must be governed by a

board of directors consisting of seven members selected as follows:  
(i) Three members appointed by the legislative authorities of the cities, towns, and county; and (ii) four members appointed by the legislative authorities of the cities, towns, and county based on recommendations from local organizations. The members appointed under (c)(i) of this subsection shall not be members of the legislative authorities of the cities, towns, or county. The members appointed under (c)(ii) of this subsection must be based on recommendations received from local organizations that include, but are not limited to, the local chamber of commerce, the local economic development council, the local labor council, and a neighborhood organization that is directly affected by the location of the regional center in their area. The members of the board of directors must be appointed in accordance with the terms of the agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint operation of the district and shall serve four-year terms. Of the initial members, one must be appointed for a one-year term, one must be appointed for a two-year term, one must be appointed for a three-year term, and the remainder must be appointed for four-year terms.

(d)(i) A public facilities district created under subsection (1)(e) of this section must provide, in the agreement providing for its creation and operation, that the district must be governed by an odd-numbered board of directors of not more than nine members who are also members of the legislative authorities that created the public facilities district or of the governing boards of the public facilities districts previously created by those legislative authorities, or both.

(ii) A board of directors formed under this subsection must have an equal number of members representing each city or town participating in the public facilities district. If there are unfilled board member positions after each city or town has appointed an equal number of board members, the members so appointed must appoint a number of additional board members necessary to fill any remaining positions. For a board formed under this subsection to submit a proposition to the voters under RCW 82.14.048, a majority of the members representing or appointed by each legislative authority participating in the public facilities district must agree to submit the proposition to the voters.

(4) A public facilities district is a municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

(5) A public facilities district constitutes a body corporate and possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, and to sue and be sued.

(6) A public facilities district may acquire and transfer real and personal property by lease, sublease, purchase, or sale. No direct or collateral attack on any public facilities district purported to be authorized or created in conformance with this chapter may be commenced more than thirty days after creation by the city and/or county legislative authority. [2023 c 218 s 1; 2010 c 192 s 1; 2009 c 533 s 1; 2007 c 486 s 1; 2002 c 363 s 1; 1999 c 165 s 1.]

**RCW 35.57.020 Regional centers, recreational facilities—Charges and fees—Powers.** (1) (a) A public facilities district is authorized to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, finance, and operate one or more regional centers. For purposes of this chapter, "regional center" means a convention, conference, or special events center, or any combination of facilities, and related parking facilities, serving a regional population constructed, improved, or rehabilitated after July 25, 1999, at a cost of at least ten million dollars, including debt service. "Regional center" also includes an existing convention, conference, or special events center, and related parking facilities, serving a regional population, that is improved or rehabilitated after July 25, 1999, where the costs of improvement or rehabilitation are at least ten million dollars, including debt service. A "special events center" is a facility, available to the public, used for community events, sporting events, trade shows, and artistic, musical, theatrical, or other cultural exhibitions, presentations, or performances. A regional center is conclusively presumed to serve a regional population if state and local government investment in the construction, improvement, or rehabilitation of the regional center is equal to or greater than ten million dollars.

(b) A public facilities district created under RCW 35.57.010(1) (e):

(i) Is authorized, in addition to the authority granted under (a) of this subsection, to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, finance, and operate one or more recreational facilities other than a ski area;

(ii) If exercising its authority under (a) or (b)(i) of this subsection, must obtain voter approval to fund each recreational facility or regional center pursuant to RCW 82.14.048(4) (a); and

(iii) Possesses all of the powers with respect to recreational facilities other than a ski area that all public facilities districts possess with respect to regional centers under subsections (3), (4), and (7) of this section.

(c) A public facilities district created under RCW 35.57.010(1) (a) by a city or town that participated in the creation of an additional public facilities district under RCW 35.57.010(1) (e):

(i) Is authorized, in addition to the authority granted under (a) of this subsection, to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, finance, and operate one or more recreational facilities other than a ski area;

(ii) If exercising its authority under (c)(i) of this subsection, must obtain voter approval to fund each recreational facility pursuant to RCW 82.14.048(4) (a); and

(iii) Possesses all of the powers with respect to recreational facilities other than a ski area that all public facilities districts possess with respect to regional centers.

(d) A public facilities district created under RCW 35.57.010(1) (f) is authorized, in lieu of the authority granted under (a) of this subsection, to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, finance, and operate regional aquatics and sports facilities, including the purchase, acquisition, construction, repairing, remodeling, and operation of community pools within the district. Additionally, a public facilities district created under RCW 35.57.010(1) (f) may provide funding for transportation improvements directly associated with facilitating motor vehicle and pedestrian

access to regional aquatics and sports facilities, which includes funding for new construction, reconstruction, expansion, and maintenance of pedestrian trails, city streets, county roads, and state highways. However, the transportation improvements must be aligned with applicable state, regional, or local transportation plans.

(2) A public facilities district may enter into contracts with any city or town for the purpose of exercising any powers of a community renewal agency under chapter 35.81 RCW.

(3) A public facilities district may impose charges and fees for the use of its facilities, and may accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of a regional center.

(4) A public facilities district may impose charges, fees, and taxes authorized in RCW 35.57.040, and use revenues derived therefrom for the purpose of paying principal and interest payments on bonds issued by the public facilities district to construct a regional center.

(5) Notwithstanding the establishment of a career, civil, or merit service system, a public facilities district may contract with a public or private entity for the operation or management of its public facilities.

(6) A public facilities district is authorized to use the supplemental alternative public works contracting procedures set forth in chapter 39.10 RCW in connection with the design, construction, reconstruction, remodel, or alteration of any regional center.

(7) A city or town in conjunction with any special agency, authority, or other district established by a county or any other governmental agency is authorized to use the supplemental alternative public works contracting procedures set forth in chapter 39.10 RCW in connection with the design, construction, reconstruction, remodel, or alteration of any regional center funded in whole or in part by a public facilities district.

(8) Any provision required to be submitted for voter approval under this section may not be submitted for voter approval prior to January 1, 2011. [2023 c 218 s 2; 2019 c 341 s 1; 2010 c 192 s 2; 2009 c 533 s 2. Prior: 2002 c 363 s 2; 2002 c 218 s 25; 1999 c 165 s 2.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.57.025 Independent financial feasibility review—When required—Public document.** (1) An independent financial feasibility review under this section is required to be performed prior to any of the following events:

(a) The formation of a public facilities district under this chapter;

(b) The issuance of any indebtedness, excluding the issuance of obligations to refund or replace such indebtedness, by a public facilities district under this chapter; or

(c) The long-term lease, purchase, or development of a facility under RCW 35.57.020.

(2) The independent financial feasibility review required by this section must be conducted by the department of commerce through the municipal research and services center under RCW 43.110.030 or under a

contract with another entity under the authority of RCW 43.110.080. The review must examine the potential costs to be incurred by the public facility [facilities] district and the adequacy of revenues or expected revenues to meet those costs. The cost of the independent financial feasibility review must be borne by the public facility [facilities] district or the local government proposing to form a public facility [facilities] district.

(3) The independent financial feasibility review, upon completion, must be a public document and must be submitted to the governor, the state treasurer, the state auditor, the public facility [facilities] district and participating local political subdivisions, and appropriate committees of the legislature. [2012 c 4 s 1.]

**RCW 35.57.027 Statutorily authorized taxing authority.** After June 7, 2012, the statutorily authorized taxing authority of a public facility [facilities] district may not be restricted in any manner by the forming jurisdiction or jurisdictions or by any action of the public facility [facilities] district. [2012 c 4 s 3.]

**RCW 35.57.030 General obligation bonds.** (1) To carry out the purpose of this chapter, a public facilities district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter-approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to one-half of one percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A facilities district additionally may issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the public facilities district pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution, and to provide for the retirement thereof by taxes authorized in chapter 165, Laws of 1999.

(2) General obligation bonds may be issued with a maturity of up to thirty years, and shall be issued and sold in accordance with the provisions of chapter 39.46 RCW.

(3) The general obligation bonds may be payable from the operating revenues of the public facilities district in addition to the tax receipts of the district.

(4) A public facilities district formed under RCW 35.57.010(1)(f) may not issue bonds under this section after July 1, 2023, if doing so would cause the scheduled annual principal and interest payments on the aggregate debt issued by the district under this section in any fiscal year to equal or exceed 80 percent of the annual tax revenue that the district projects, on or prior to the date of issuance of the bonds, to collect in such fiscal year under the sales and use tax authorized in RCW 82.14.048. Nothing in this section limits the amount of revenue that a public facilities district may use to make principal and interest payments on the aggregate debt issued by the district under this section. [2023 c 218 s 4; 1999 c 165 s 3.]

**RCW 35.57.040 Authorized charges, fees, and taxes—Gifts.** (1)

The board of directors of the public facilities district may impose the following for the purpose of funding a regional center:

- (a) Charges and fees for the use of any of its facilities;
- (b) Admission charges under RCW 35.57.100;
- (c) Vehicle parking charges under RCW 35.57.110; and
- (d) Sales and use taxes authorized under RCW 82.14.048 and 82.14.390.

(2) The board may accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of a regional center. The revenue from the charges, fees, and taxes imposed under this section shall be used only for the purposes authorized by this chapter. [1999 c 165 s 4.]

**RCW 35.57.050 Travel, expense reimbursement policy—Required.**

The board of directors of the public facilities district shall adopt a resolution that may be amended from time to time that shall establish the basic requirements governing methods and amounts of reimbursement payable to such district officials and employees for travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf of the district. The resolution shall, among other things, establish procedures for approving such expenses; the form of the travel and expense voucher; and requirements governing the use of credit cards issued in the name of the district. The resolution may also establish procedures for payment of per diem to board members. The state auditor shall, as provided by general law, cooperate with the public facilities district in establishing adequate procedures for regulating and auditing the reimbursement of all such expenses. [1999 c 165 s 5.]

**RCW 35.57.060 Expenditure of funds—Purposes.** (1) The board of

directors of the public facilities district shall have authority to authorize the expenditure of funds for the public purposes of preparing and distributing information to the general public and promoting, advertising, improving, developing, operating, and maintaining a regional center. For promotional activities the district board must: (a) Identify the proposed expenditure in its annual budget; and (b) adopt written rules governing promotional hosting by employees, agents, and the board, including requirements for identifying and evaluating the public benefits to be derived and documenting the public benefits realized.

(2) Nothing contained in this section may be construed to authorize preparation and distribution of information to the general public for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a district election. [2009 c 167 s 2; 1999 c 165 s 6.]

**RCW 35.57.070 Service provider agreements.** The public

facilities district may secure services by means of an agreement with a service provider. The public facilities district shall publish notice, establish criteria, receive and evaluate proposals, and negotiate with respondents under requirements set forth by district resolution. [1999 c 165 s 7.]



**RCW 35.57.080 Purchases and sales—Procedures.** In addition to provisions contained in chapter 39.04 RCW, the public facilities district is authorized to follow procedures contained in chapter 39.26 RCW for all purchases, contracts for purchase, and sales. [2015 c 79 s 2; 1999 c 165 s 8.]

**RCW 35.57.090 Revenue bonds—Limitations.** (1) A public facilities district may issue revenue bonds to fund revenue-generating facilities, or portions of facilities, which it is authorized to provide or operate. Whenever revenue bonds are to be issued, the board of directors of the district shall create or have created a special fund or funds from which, along with any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140, the principal and interest on such revenue bonds shall exclusively be payable. The board may obligate the district to set aside and pay into the special fund or funds a fixed proportion or a fixed amount of the revenues from the public improvements, projects, or facilities, and all related additions, that are funded by the revenue bonds. This amount or proportion shall be a lien and charge against these revenues, subject only to operating and maintenance expenses. The board shall have due regard for the cost of operation and maintenance of the public improvements, projects, or facilities, or additions, that are funded by the revenue bonds, and shall not set aside into the special fund or funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues that in its judgment will be available over and above the cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue so previously pledged. The board may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources of revenue may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold.

(2) Revenue bonds issued under this section shall not be an indebtedness of the district issuing the bonds, and the interest and principal on the bonds shall only be payable from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created under RCW 39.44.140. The owner or bearer of a revenue bond or any interest coupon issued under this section shall not have any claim against the district arising from the bond or coupon except for payment from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any reserves created under RCW 39.44.140. The substance of the limitations included in this subsection shall be plainly printed, written, or engraved on each bond issued under this section.

(3) Revenue bonds with a maturity in excess of thirty years shall not be issued. The board of directors of the district shall by resolution determine for each revenue bond issue the amount, date, form, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, and covenants including the refunding of existing revenue bonds. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding revenue bonds may be issued in the same manner as revenue bonds are issued. [1999 c 165 s 9.]

**RCW 35.57.100 Tax on admissions.** A public facility district may levy and fix a tax of not more than one cent on twenty cents or

fraction thereof to be paid by the person who pays an admission charge to a regional center. This includes a tax on persons who are admitted free of charge or at reduced rates if other persons pay a charge or a regular higher charge for the same privileges or accommodations.

The term "admission charge" includes:

- (1) A charge made for season tickets or subscriptions;
  - (2) A cover charge, or a charge made for use of seats and tables reserved or otherwise, and other similar accommodations;
  - (3) A charge made for food and refreshment if free entertainment, recreation, or amusement is provided;
  - (4) A charge made for rental or use of equipment or facilities for purposes of recreation or amusement; if the rental of the equipment or facilities is necessary to the enjoyment of a privilege for which a general admission is charged, the combined charges shall be considered as the admission charge;
  - (5) Automobile parking charges if the amount of the charge is determined according to the number of passengers in the automobile.
- [1999 c 165 s 10.]

**RCW 35.57.110 Tax on vehicle parking charges.** A public facility district may levy and fix a tax on any vehicle parking charges imposed at any parking facility that is owned or leased by the public facility district as part of a regional center. No county or city or town within which the regional center is located may impose a tax of the same or similar kind on any vehicle parking charges at the facility. For the purposes of this section, "vehicle parking charges" means only the actual parking charges exclusive of taxes and service charges and the value of any other benefit conferred. The tax authorized under this section shall be at the rate of not more than ten percent. [1999 c 165 s 11.]

**Chapter 35.58 RCW**  
**METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS**

**Sections**

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*Acquisition of  
interests in land for conservation, protection,  
preservation, or open space purposes by metropolitan  
municipal corporation: RCW 64.04.130.  
open space, land, or rights to future development by  
counties, cities, or metropolitan municipal corporations,  
tax levy: RCW 84.34.200 through 84.34.240, 84.52.010.*

*County assumption of metropolitan municipal corporation functions:  
Chapter 36.56 RCW.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc.,  
review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*School districts, educational service districts, agreements with other  
governmental entities for transportation of students, the public or  
other noncommon school purposes—Limitations: RCW 28A.160.120.*

*Transportation centers authorized: Chapter 81.75 RCW.*

**RCW 35.58.010 Declaration of policy and purpose.** It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the state of Washington to provide for the people of the populous metropolitan areas in the state the means of obtaining essential services not adequately provided by existing agencies of local government. The growth of urban population and the movement of people into suburban areas has created problems of water pollution abatement, garbage disposal, water supply, transportation, planning, parks and parkways which extend beyond the boundaries of cities, counties and special districts. For reasons of

topography, location and movement of population, and land conditions and development, one or more of these problems cannot be adequately met by the individual cities, counties and districts of many metropolitan areas.

It is the purpose of this chapter to enable cities and counties to act jointly to meet these common problems in order that the proper growth and development of the metropolitan areas of the state may be assured and the health and welfare of the people residing therein may be secured. [1974 ex.s. c 70 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.010. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 1.]

**RCW 35.58.020 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Authorized metropolitan function" means a metropolitan function which a metropolitan municipal corporation shall have been authorized to perform in the manner provided in this chapter.

(2) "Central city" means the city with the largest population in a metropolitan area.

(3) "Central county" means the county containing the city with the largest population in a metropolitan area.

(4) "City" means an incorporated city or town.

(5) "City council" means the legislative body of any city or town.

(6) "City-owned transit system" means a system of public transportation owned or operated, including contracts for the services of a publicly owned or operated system of transportation, by a city that is not located within the boundaries of a metropolitan municipal corporation, county transportation authority, or public transportation benefit area.

(7) "Component city" means an incorporated city or town within a metropolitan area.

(8) "Component county" means a county, all or part of which is included within a metropolitan area.

(9) "Metropolitan area" means the area contained within the boundaries of a metropolitan municipal corporation, or within the boundaries of an area proposed to be organized as such a corporation.

(10) "Metropolitan council" means the legislative body of a metropolitan municipal corporation, or the legislative body of a county which has by ordinance or resolution assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.56 RCW.

(11) "Metropolitan function" means any of the functions of government named in RCW 35.58.050.

(12) "Metropolitan municipal corporation" means a municipal corporation of the state of Washington created pursuant to this chapter, or a county which has by ordinance or resolution assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.56 RCW.

(13) "Metropolitan public transportation" or "metropolitan transportation" for the purposes of this chapter means the transportation of packages, passengers, and their incidental baggage by means other than by chartered bus, sightseeing bus, or any other motor vehicle not on an individual fare-paying basis, together with the necessary passenger terminals and parking facilities or other properties necessary for passenger and vehicular access to and from such people-moving systems: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter

shall be construed to prohibit a metropolitan municipal corporation from leasing its buses to private certified carriers; to prohibit a metropolitan municipal corporation from providing school bus service for the transportation of pupils; or to prohibit a metropolitan municipal corporation from chartering an electric streetcar on rails which it operates entirely within a city.

(14) "Pollution" has the meaning given in RCW 90.48.020.

(15) "Population" means the number of residents as shown by the figures released for the most recent official state, federal, or county census, or population determination made under the direction of the office of financial management.

(16) "Proof of payment" means evidence of fare prepayment authorized by a metropolitan municipal corporation or a city-owned transit system for the use of buses or other modes of public transportation.

(17) "Special district" means any municipal corporation of the state of Washington other than a city, county, or metropolitan municipal corporation. [2008 c 123 s 5; 1982 c 103 s 1; 1979 c 151 s 28; 1977 ex.s. c 277 s 12. Prior: 1974 ex.s. c 84 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 70 s 2; 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.020; prior: 1957 c 213 s 2.]

**Alphabetization—2008 c 123:** "The code reviser shall alphabetize and renumber the definitions in RCW 35.58.020 and 36.57A.010." [2008 c 123 s 11.]

**Severability—Construction—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 277:** See RCW 36.56.900 and 36.56.910.

*Population determinations, office of financial management: Chapter 43.62 RCW.*

**RCW 35.58.030 Corporations authorized—Limitation on boundaries.** Any area of the state containing two or more cities, at least one of which is of ten thousand or more population, may organize as a metropolitan municipal corporation for the performance of certain functions, as provided in this chapter. The boundaries of a metropolitan municipal corporation may not be expanded to include territory located in a county other than a component county except as a result of the consolidation of two or more contiguous metropolitan municipal corporations. [1993 c 240 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.030. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 3.]

*Inclusion of code cities in metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35A.57 RCW.*

**RCW 35.58.040 Territory which must be included or excluded—Boundaries.** At the time of its formation no metropolitan municipal corporation shall include only a part of any city, and every city shall be either wholly included or wholly excluded from the boundaries of such corporation. If subsequent to the formation of a metropolitan municipal corporation a part only of any city shall be included within the boundaries of a metropolitan municipal corporation such part shall be deemed to be "unincorporated" for the purpose of selecting a member

of the metropolitan council pursuant to \*RCW 35.58.120(3) and such city shall neither select nor participate in the selection of a member on the metropolitan council pursuant to RCW 35.58.120.

Any metropolitan municipal corporation now existing within a county with a population of one million or more shall, upon May 21, 1971, have the same boundaries as those of the respective central county of such metropolitan corporation. The boundaries of such metropolitan corporation may not be enlarged or diminished after such date by annexation as provided in chapter 35.58 RCW and any purported annexation of territory shall be deemed void. Any contiguous metropolitan municipal corporations may be consolidated into a single metropolitan municipal corporation upon such terms, for the purpose of performing such metropolitan function or functions, and to be effective at such time as may be approved by resolutions of the respective metropolitan councils. In the event of such consolidation the component city with the largest population shall be the central city of such consolidated metropolitan municipal corporation and the component county with the largest population shall be the central county of such consolidated metropolitan municipal corporation. [1993 c 240 s 2; 1991 c 363 s 39; 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 3; 1967 c 105 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.040. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.58.120 was amended by 1993 c 240 s 4 deleting subsection (3).

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**RCW 35.58.050 Functions authorized.** A metropolitan municipal corporation shall have the power to perform any one or more of the following functions, when authorized in the manner provided in this chapter:

- (1) Metropolitan water pollution abatement.
- (2) Metropolitan water supply.
- (3) Metropolitan public transportation.
- (4) Metropolitan garbage disposal.
- (5) Metropolitan parks and parkways.
- (6) Metropolitan comprehensive planning. [1974 ex.s. c 70 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.050. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 5.]

**RCW 35.58.060 Unauthorized functions to be performed under other law.** All functions of local government which are not authorized as provided in this chapter to be performed by a metropolitan municipal corporation, shall continue to be performed by the counties, cities and special districts within the metropolitan area as provided by law. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.060. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 6.]

**RCW 35.58.070 Resolution, petition for election—Requirements, procedure.** A metropolitan municipal corporation may be created by vote of the qualified electors residing in a metropolitan area in the manner provided in this chapter. An election to authorize the creation of a metropolitan municipal corporation may be called pursuant to resolution or petition in the following manner:



(1) A resolution or concurring resolutions calling for such an election may be adopted by either:

(a) The city council of a central city; or

(b) The city councils of two or more component cities other than a central city; or

(c) The board of commissioners of a central county.

A certified copy of such resolution or certified copies of such concurring resolutions shall be transmitted to the board of commissioners of the central county.

(2) A petition calling for such an election shall be signed by at least four percent of the qualified voters residing within the metropolitan area and shall be filed with the auditor of the central county.

Any resolution or petition calling for such an election shall describe the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan area, name the metropolitan function or functions which the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform initially and state that the formation of the metropolitan municipal corporation will be conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons and property within the metropolitan area. After the filing of a first sufficient petition or resolution with such county auditor or board of county commissioners respectively, action by such auditor or board shall be deferred on any subsequent petition or resolution until after the election has been held pursuant to such first petition or resolution.

Upon receipt of such a petition, the auditor shall examine the same and certify to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon. For the purpose of examining the signatures on such petition, the auditor shall be permitted access to the voter registration books of each component county and each component city. No person may withdraw his or her name from a petition after it has been filed with the auditor. Within thirty days following the receipt of such petition, the auditor shall transmit the same to the board of commissioners of the central county, together with his or her certificate as to the sufficiency thereof. [2009 c 549 s 2097; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.070. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 7.]

**RCW 35.58.080 Hearings on petition, resolution—Inclusion, exclusion of territory—Boundaries—Calling election.** Upon receipt of a duly certified petition or a valid resolution calling for an election on the formation of a metropolitan municipal corporation, the board of commissioners of the central county shall fix a date for a public hearing thereon which shall be not more than sixty nor less than forty days following the receipt of such resolution or petition. Notice of such hearing shall be published once a week for at least four consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the metropolitan area. The notice shall contain a description of the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan area, shall name the initial metropolitan function or functions and shall state the time and place of the hearing and the fact that any changes in the boundaries of the metropolitan area will be considered at such time and place. At such hearing or any continuation thereof, any interested person may appear and be heard on all matters relating to the effect of the formation of the proposed municipal metropolitan corporation. The commissioners may make such changes in the boundaries of the metropolitan area as they shall deem reasonable and proper, but may

not delete any portion of the proposed area which will create an island of included or excluded lands, may not delete a portion of any city, and may not delete any portion of the proposed area which is contributing or may reasonably be expected to contribute to the pollution of any water course or body of water in the proposed area when the petition or resolution names metropolitan water pollution abatement as a function to be performed by the proposed metropolitan municipal corporation. If the commissioners shall determine that any additional territory should be included in the metropolitan area, a second hearing shall be held and notice given in the same manner as for the original hearing. The commissioners may adjourn the hearing on the formation of a metropolitan municipal corporation from time to time not exceeding thirty days in all. At the next regular meeting following the conclusion of such hearing the commissioners shall adopt a resolution fixing the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan municipal corporation, declaring that the formation of the proposed metropolitan municipal corporation will be conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons and property therein and providing for the calling of a special election on the formation of the metropolitan municipal corporation to be held not more than one hundred twenty days nor less than sixty days following the adoption of such resolution. [1974 ex.s. c 70 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.080. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 8.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.58.090 Election procedure to form corporation and levy tax—Qualified voters—Establishment of corporation—First meeting of council.** The election on the formation of the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be conducted by the auditor of the central county in accordance with the general election laws of the state and the results thereof shall be canvassed by the county canvassing board of the central county, which shall certify the result of the election to the county legislative authority of the central county, and shall cause a certified copy of such canvass to be filed in the office of the secretary of state. Notice of the election shall be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in each component county in the manner provided in the general election laws. No person shall be entitled to vote at such election unless that person is a qualified voter under the laws of the state in effect at the time of such election and has resided within the metropolitan area for at least thirty days preceding the date of the election. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

"FORMATION OF METROPOLITAN  
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Shall a metropolitan municipal corporation be established for the area described in a resolution of the county legislative authority of . . . . . county adopted on the . . . . . day of . . . . ., (year) . . . . ., to perform the metropolitan functions of . . . . . (here insert the title of each of the functions to be authorized as set forth in the petition or initial resolution).

YES.....   
NO.....

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing within the central city shall vote in favor thereof and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing in the metropolitan area outside of the central city shall vote in favor thereof, the metropolitan municipal corporation shall thereupon be established and the county legislative authority of the central county shall adopt a resolution setting a time and place for the first meeting of the metropolitan council which shall be held not later than sixty days after the date of such election. A copy of such resolution shall be transmitted to the legislative body of each component city and county and of each special district which shall be affected by the particular metropolitan functions authorized.

At the same election there shall be submitted to the voters residing within the metropolitan area, for their approval or rejection, a proposition authorizing the metropolitan municipal corporation, if formed, to levy at the earliest time permitted by law on all taxable property located within the metropolitan municipal corporation a general tax, for one year, of twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in excess of any constitutional or statutory limitation for authorized purposes of the metropolitan municipal corporation. The proposition shall be expressed on the ballots in substantially the following form:

"ONE YEAR TWENTY-FIVE CENTS  
PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF  
ASSESSED VALUE LEVY

Shall the metropolitan municipal corporation, if formed, levy a general tax of twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for one year upon all the taxable property within said corporation in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limits for authorized purposes of the corporation?

YES.....   
NO.....

Such proposition to be effective must be approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the persons voting on the proposition to levy such tax, with a forty percent validation requirement, in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state. [2016 c 202 s 27; 1993 c 240 s 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 23; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.090. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 9.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:**  
See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

*Canvassing the returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.58.100 Additional functions—Authorized by election.** A metropolitan municipal corporation may be authorized to perform one or more metropolitan functions in addition to those which it has previously been authorized to perform, with the approval of the voters at an election, in the manner provided in this section.

An election to authorize a metropolitan municipal corporation to perform one or more additional metropolitan functions may be called pursuant to a resolution or a petition in the following manner:

(1) A resolution calling for such an election may be adopted by:

(a) The city council of the central city; or

(b) The city councils of at least one-half in number of the component cities other than the central city; or

(c) The board of commissioners of the central county. Such resolution shall be transmitted to the metropolitan council.

(2) A petition calling for such an election shall be signed by at least four percent of the registered voters residing within the metropolitan area and shall be filed with the auditor of the central county.

Any resolution or petition calling for such an election shall name the additional metropolitan functions which the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform.

Upon receipt of such a petition, the auditor shall examine the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency thereof. For the purpose of examining the signatures on such petition, the auditor shall be permitted access to all voter registration books of any component county and of all component cities. No person may withdraw his or her name from a petition after it has been filed with the auditor. Within thirty days following the receipt of such petition, the auditor shall transmit the same to the metropolitan council, together with his or her certificate as to the sufficiency of signatures thereon.

Upon receipt of a valid resolution or duly certified petition calling for an election on the authorization of the performance of one or more additional metropolitan functions, the metropolitan council shall cause to be called a special election to be held not more than one hundred and twenty days nor less than sixty days following such receipt. Such special election shall be conducted and canvassed as provided in this chapter for an election on the question of forming a metropolitan municipal corporation. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

"Shall the . . . . . metropolitan municipal corporation be authorized to perform the additional metropolitan functions of . . . . . (here insert the title of each of the additional functions to be authorized as set forth in the petition or resolution)?

YES.....

NO.....

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition shall vote in favor thereof, the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform such additional metropolitan function or functions. [2009 c 549 s 2098; 1967 c 105 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.100. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 10.]

**RCW 35.58.110 Additional functions—Authorized without election.**

A metropolitan municipal corporation may be authorized to perform one or more metropolitan functions in addition to those which it previously has been authorized to perform, without an election, in the manner provided in this section. A resolution providing for the

performance of such additional metropolitan function or functions shall be adopted by the metropolitan council. A copy of such resolution shall be transmitted by registered mail to the legislative body of each component city and county. If, within ninety days after the date of such mailing, a concurring resolution is adopted by the legislative body of each component county, of each component city of the first class, and of at least two-thirds of all other component cities, and such concurring resolutions are transmitted to the metropolitan council, such council shall by resolution declare that the metropolitan municipal corporation has been authorized to perform such additional metropolitan function or functions. A copy of such resolution shall be transmitted by registered mail to the legislative body of each component city and county and of each special district which will be affected by the particular additional metropolitan function authorized. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.110. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 11.]

*Election required to authorize public transportation function: RCW 35.58.245.*

**RCW 35.58.112 Recommended comprehensive plan for performance of additional function—Study and preparation.** The metropolitan council of a metropolitan municipal corporation upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of such council may make planning, engineering, legal, financial and feasibility studies preliminary to or incident to the preparation of a recommended comprehensive plan for any metropolitan function, and may prepare such a recommended comprehensive plan before the metropolitan municipal corporation has been authorized to perform such function. The studies and plan may cover territory within and without the metropolitan municipal corporation. A recommended comprehensive plan prepared pursuant to this section for any metropolitan function may not be adopted by the metropolitan council unless the metropolitan municipal corporation shall have been authorized to perform such function. [1967 c 105 s 7.]

**RCW 35.58.114 Recommended comprehensive plan for performance of additional function—Resolution for special election to authorize additional function—Contents—Hearings—Election procedure.** Whenever a recommended comprehensive plan for the performance of any additional metropolitan function shall have been prepared and the metropolitan council shall have found the plan to be feasible the council may by resolution call a special election to authorize the performance of such additional function without the filing of the petitions or resolutions provided for in RCW 35.58.100.

If the metropolitan council shall determine that the performance of such function requires enlargement of the metropolitan area, such resolution shall contain a description of the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan area and may be adopted only after a public hearing thereon before the council. Notice of such hearing shall be published once a week for at least two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the proposed metropolitan area. The notice shall contain a description of the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan area, shall name the additional function or functions to be performed and shall state the

time and place of the hearing and the fact that any changes in the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan area will be considered at such time and place. At such hearing any interested person may appear and be heard. The council may make such changes in the proposed metropolitan area as they shall deem reasonable and proper, but may not delete any portion of the existing metropolitan area and may not delete any portion of the proposed additional area which will create an island of included or excluded lands. If the council shall determine that the proposed additional area should be further enlarged, a second hearing shall be held and notice given in the same manner as for the original hearing. The council may adjourn the hearing or hearings from time to time.

Following the conclusion of such hearing or hearings the council may adopt a resolution fixing the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan area and calling a special election on the performance of such additional function. If the metropolitan municipal corporation is then authorized to perform the function of metropolitan sewage disposal the council may provide in such resolution that local governmental agencies collecting sewage from areas outside the metropolitan area as same is constituted on the date of adoption of such resolution will not thereafter be required to discharge such sewage into the metropolitan sewer system or to secure approval of local construction plans from the metropolitan municipal corporation unless such local agency shall first have entered into a contract with the metropolitan municipal corporation for the disposal of such sewage. The metropolitan council may also provide in such resolution that the authorization to perform such additional function be effective only if the voters at such election also authorize the issuance of any general obligation bonds required to carry out the recommended comprehensive plan.

The resolution calling such election shall fix the form of the ballot proposition and the same may vary from that specified in RCW 35.58.100. If the metropolitan council shall find that the issuance of general obligation bonds is necessary to perform such additional function and to carry out such recommended comprehensive plan then the ballot proposition shall set forth the principal amount of such bonds and the maximum maturity thereof and the proposition shall be so worded that the voters may by a single yes or no vote authorize the performance of the designated function in the area described in the resolution and the issuance of such general obligation bonds.

The persons voting at such election shall be all of the qualified voters who have resided within the boundaries of the proposed metropolitan area for at least thirty days preceding the date of the election. The election shall be conducted and canvassed as provided in RCW 35.58.090.

If the resolution calling such election does not require the approval of general obligation bonds as a condition of the performance of such additional function and if a majority of the persons voting on the ballot proposition residing within the existing metropolitan municipal corporation shall vote in favor thereof and a majority of the persons residing within the area proposed to be added to the existing metropolitan municipal corporation shall vote in favor thereof the boundaries described in the resolution calling the election shall become the boundaries of the metropolitan municipal corporation and the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the additional function described in the proposition.

If the resolution calling such election shall require the authorization of general obligation bonds as a condition of the performance of such additional function, then to be effective the ballot proposition must be approved as provided in the preceding paragraph and must also be approved by at least three-fifths of the persons voting thereon and the number of persons voting on such proposition must constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast within such area at the last preceding state general election. [1967 c 105 s 8.]

**RCW 35.58.116 Proposition for issuance of general obligation bonds or levy of general tax—Submission at same election or special election.** The metropolitan council may at the same election called to authorize the performance of an additional function or at a special election called by the council after it has been authorized to perform any metropolitan function submit a proposition for the issuance of general obligation bonds for capital purposes as provided in RCW 35.58.450 or a proposition for the levy of a general tax for any authorized purpose for one year in such total dollar amount as the metropolitan council may determine and specify in such proposition. Any such proposition to be effective must be assented to by at least three-fifths of the persons voting thereon and the number of persons voting on such proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast within the metropolitan area at the last preceding state general election. Any such proposition shall only be effective if the performance of the additional function shall be authorized at such election or shall have been authorized prior thereto. [1967 c 105 s 9.]

**RCW 35.58.120 Metropolitan council—Composition.** Unless the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation have been assumed by a county as provided in chapter 36.56 RCW, a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be governed by a metropolitan council composed of elected officials of the component counties and component cities, and possibly other persons, as determined by agreement of each of the component counties and the component cities equal in number to at least twenty-five percent of the total number of component cities that have at least seventy-five percent of the combined component city populations. The agreement shall remain in effect until altered in the same manner as the initial composition is determined. [1993 c 240 s 4; 1983 c 92 s 1; 1981 c 190 s 3; 1974 ex.s. c 70 s 5; 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 5; 1969 ex.s. c 135 s 1; 1967 c 105 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.120. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 12.]

**RCW 35.58.130 Metropolitan council—Organization, chair, procedures.** At the first meeting of the metropolitan council following the formation of a metropolitan municipal corporation, the mayor of the central city shall serve as temporary chair. As its first official act the council shall elect a chair. The chair shall be a voting member of the council and shall preside at all meetings. In the event of his or her absence or inability to act the council shall select one of its members to act as chair pro tempore. A majority of all members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the

transaction of business. A smaller number of councilmembers than a quorum may adjourn from time to time and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as the council may provide. The council shall determine its own rules and order of business, shall provide by resolution for the manner and time of holding all regular and special meetings and shall keep a journal of its proceedings which shall be a public record. Every legislative act of the council of a general or permanent nature shall be by resolution. [2009 c 549 s 2099; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.130. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 13.]

**RCW 35.58.140 Metropolitan council—Terms.** Each member of a metropolitan council except those selected under the provisions of RCW 35.58.120, shall hold office at the pleasure of the body which selected him or her. Each member, who shall hold office ex officio, may not hold office after he or she ceases to hold the position of elected county executive, mayor, commissioner, or councilmember. The chair shall hold office until the second Tuesday in July of each even-numbered year and may, if reelected, serve more than one term. Each member shall hold office until his or her successor has been selected as provided in this chapter. [2009 c 549 s 2100; 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 6; 1969 ex.s. c 135 s 2; 1967 c 105 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.140. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 14.]

**RCW 35.58.150 Metropolitan council—Vacancies.** A vacancy in the office of a member of the metropolitan council shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the original selection. The meeting of mayors to fill a vacancy of the member selected under the provisions of RCW 35.58.120 or of special district representatives to fill a vacancy of a member selected under RCW 35.58.120 shall be held at such time and place as shall be designated by the chair of the metropolitan council after ten days' written notice mailed to the mayors of each of the cities specified in RCW 35.58.120 or to the representatives of the special purpose districts specified in RCW 35.58.120, whichever is applicable. [2009 c 549 s 2101; 1984 c 44 s 1; 1967 c 105 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.150. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 15.]

**RCW 35.58.160 Metropolitan council—Compensation—Waiver of compensation.** The chair and committee chairs of the metropolitan council except elected public officials serving on a full-time salaried basis may receive such compensation as the other members of the metropolitan council shall provide. Members of the council other than the chair and committee chairs shall receive compensation of fifty dollars per day or portion thereof for attendance at metropolitan council or committee meetings, or for performing other services on behalf of the metropolitan municipal corporation, but not exceeding a total of four thousand eight hundred dollars in any year, in addition to any compensation which they may receive as officers of component cities or counties: PROVIDED, That elected public officers serving in such capacities on a full-time basis shall not receive compensation for attendance at metropolitan, council, or committee meetings, or otherwise performing services on behalf of the metropolitan municipal corporation: PROVIDED FURTHER, That committee



chairs shall not receive compensation in any one year greater than one-third of the compensation authorized for the county commissioners or county councilmembers of the central county.

Any member of the council may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the council as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the member's selection and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

All members of the council shall be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred by them in the conduct of official business for the metropolitan municipal corporation. [2009 c 549 s 2102; 1985 c 330 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 84 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.160. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 16.]

**RCW 35.58.170 Corporation name and seal.** The name of a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be established by its metropolitan council. Each metropolitan municipal corporation shall adopt a corporate seal containing the name of the corporation and the date of its formation. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.170. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 17.]

**RCW 35.58.180 General powers of corporation.** In addition to the powers specifically granted by this chapter a metropolitan municipal corporation shall have all powers which are necessary to carry out the purposes of the metropolitan municipal corporation and to perform authorized metropolitan functions. A metropolitan municipal corporation may contract with the United States or any agency thereof, any state or agency thereof, any other metropolitan municipal corporation, any county, city, special district, or governmental agency and any private person, firm or corporation for the purpose of receiving gifts or grants or securing loans or advances for preliminary planning and feasibility studies, or for the design, construction or operation of metropolitan facilities and a metropolitan municipal corporation may contract with any governmental agency or with any private person, firm or corporation for the use by either contracting party of all or any part of the facilities, structures, lands, interests in lands, air rights over lands and rights-of-way of all kinds which are owned, leased or held by the other party and for the purpose of planning, constructing or operating any facility or performing any service which the metropolitan municipal corporation may be authorized to operate or perform, on such terms as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties: PROVIDED, That before any contract for the lease or operation of any metropolitan public transportation facilities shall be let to any private person, firm or corporation, a general schedule of rental rates for bus equipment with or without drivers shall be publicly posted applicable to all private certificated carriers, and for other facilities competitive bids shall first be called upon such notice, bidder qualifications and bid conditions as the metropolitan council shall determine.

A metropolitan municipal corporation may sue and be sued in its corporate capacity in all courts and in all proceedings. [1974 ex.s. c 84 s 3; 1967 c 105 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.180. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 18.]

**RCW 35.58.190 Performance of function or functions—Commencement date.** The metropolitan council shall provide by resolution the effective date on which the metropolitan municipal corporation will commence to perform any one or more of the metropolitan functions which it shall have been authorized to perform. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.190. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 19.]

**RCW 35.58.200 Powers relative to water pollution abatement.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan water pollution abatement, it shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

(1) To prepare a comprehensive water pollution abatement plan including provisions for waterborne pollutant removal, water quality improvement, sewage disposal, and stormwater drainage for the metropolitan area.

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of metropolitan facilities for water pollution abatement, including but not limited to, removal of waterborne pollutants, water quality improvement, sewage disposal and stormwater drainage within or without the metropolitan area, including but not limited to trunk, interceptor and outfall sewers, whether used to carry sanitary waste, stormwater, or combined storm and sanitary sewage, lift and pumping stations, pipelines, drains, sewage treatment plants, flow control structures together with all lands, property rights, equipment and accessories necessary for such facilities. Sewer facilities which are owned by a county, city, or special district may be acquired or used by the metropolitan municipal corporation only with the consent of the legislative body of the county, city, or special districts owning such facilities. Counties, cities, and special districts are hereby authorized to convey or lease such facilities to metropolitan municipal corporations or to contract for their joint use on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the legislative body of such county, city, or special district and the metropolitan council, without submitting the matter to the voters of such county, city, or district.

(3) To require counties, cities, special districts and other political subdivisions to discharge sewage collected by such entities from any portion of the metropolitan area which can drain by gravity flow into such metropolitan facilities as may be provided to serve such areas when the metropolitan council shall declare by resolution that the health, safety, or welfare of the people within the metropolitan area requires such action.

(4) To fix rates and charges for the use of metropolitan water pollution abatement facilities, and to expend the moneys so collected for authorized water pollution abatement activities.

(5) To establish minimum standards for the construction of local water pollution abatement facilities and to approve plans for construction of such facilities by component counties or cities or by special districts, which are connected to the facilities of the metropolitan municipal corporation. No such county, city, or special district shall construct such facilities without first securing such approval.

(6) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant, to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of facilities for the local collection of sewage or stormwater in portions of the metropolitan area not contained within any city or special district operating local public sewer facilities and, with the consent of the legislative body of any such city or special district, to exercise such powers within such city or special district and for such purpose to have all the powers conferred by law upon such city or special district with respect to such local collection facilities: PROVIDED, That such consent shall not be required if the department of ecology certifies that a water pollution problem exists within any such city or special district and notifies the city or special district to correct such problem and corrective construction of necessary local collection facilities shall not have been commenced within one year after notification. All costs of such local collection facilities shall be paid for by the area served thereby.

(7) To participate fully in federal and state programs under the federal water pollution control act (86 Stat. 816 et seq., 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) and to take all actions necessary to secure to itself or its component agencies the benefits of that act and to meet the requirements of that act, including but not limited to the following:

(a) authority to develop and implement such plans as may be appropriate or necessary under the act.

(b) authority to require by appropriate regulations that its component agencies comply with all effluent treatment and limitation requirements, standards of performance requirements, pretreatment requirements, a user charge and industrial cost recovery system conforming to federal regulation, and all conditions of national permit discharge elimination system permits issued to the metropolitan municipal corporation or its component agencies. Adoption of such regulations and compliance therewith shall not constitute a breach of any sewage disposal contract between a metropolitan municipal corporation and its component agencies nor a defense to an action for the performance of all terms and conditions of such contracts not inconsistent with such regulations and such contracts, as modified by such regulations, shall be in all respects valid and enforceable. [1975 c 36 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 70 s 6; 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.200. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 20.]

**RCW 35.58.210 Metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan water pollution abatement, the metropolitan council shall, prior to the effective date of the assumption of such function, cause a metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee to be formed by notifying the legislative body of each component city and county which operates a sewer system to appoint one person to serve on such advisory committee and the board of commissioners of each water-sewer district which operates a sewer system, any portion of which lies within the metropolitan area, to appoint one person to serve on such committee. The metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee shall meet at the time and place provided in the notice and elect a chair. The members of such committee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing bodies and shall receive no compensation other than reimbursement for expenses actually incurred in the performance of

their duties. The function of such advisory committee shall be to advise the metropolitan council in matters relating to the performance of the water pollution abatement function. [2011 c 124 s 1; 2009 c 549 s 2103; 1999 c 153 s 33; 1974 ex.s. c 70 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.210. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 21.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.58.215 Powers relative to systems of sewerage.** A metropolitan municipal corporation authorized to perform water pollution abatement may exercise all the powers relating to systems of sewerage authorized by RCW 36.94.010, 36.94.020, and 36.94.140 for counties. [1997 c 447 s 13.]

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

**RCW 35.58.220 Powers relative to water supply.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan water supply, it shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

(1) To prepare a comprehensive plan for the development of sources of water supply, trunk supply mains and water treatment and storage facilities for the metropolitan area.

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of metropolitan facilities for water supply within or without the metropolitan area, including buildings, structures, water sheds, wells, springs, dams, settling basins, intakes, treatment plants, trunk supply mains and pumping stations, together with all lands, property, equipment and accessories necessary to enable the metropolitan municipal corporation to obtain and develop sources of water supply, treat and store water and deliver water through trunk supply mains. Water supply facilities which are owned by a city or special district may be acquired or used by the metropolitan municipal corporation only with the consent of the legislative body of the city or special district owning such facilities. Cities and special districts are hereby authorized to convey or lease such facilities to metropolitan municipal corporations or to contract for their joint use on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the legislative body of such city or special district and the metropolitan council, without submitting the matter to the voters of such city or special district.

(3) To fix rates and charges for water supplied by the metropolitan municipal corporation.

(4) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of facilities for the local distribution of water in portions of the metropolitan area not contained within any city, or water-sewer district that operates a water system, and, with the consent of the legislative body of any city or the water-sewer district, to exercise such powers within such city or water-sewer district and for such purpose to have all the powers conferred by law upon such city or water-sewer district with respect to such local

distribution facilities. All costs of such local distribution facilities shall be paid for by the area served thereby. [1999 c 153 s 34; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.220. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 22.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.58.230 Metropolitan water advisory committee.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan water supply, the metropolitan council shall, prior to the effective date of the assumption of such function, cause a metropolitan water advisory committee to be formed by notifying the legislative body of each component city which operates a water system to appoint one person to serve on such advisory committee and the board of commissioners of each water-sewer district that operates a water system, any portion of which lies within the metropolitan area, to appoint one person to serve on such committee who shall be a water-sewer district commissioner. The metropolitan water advisory committee shall meet at the time and place provided in the notice and elect a chair. The members of such committee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing bodies and shall receive no compensation other than reimbursement for expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties. The function of such advisory committee shall be to advise the metropolitan council with respect to matters relating to the performance of the water supply function.

The requirement to create a metropolitan water advisory committee shall not apply to a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW. [2009 c 549 s 2104; 1999 c 153 s 35; 1993 c 240 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.230. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 23.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.58.240 Powers relative to transportation.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan transportation, it shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

(1) To prepare, adopt, and carry out a general comprehensive plan for public transportation service which will best serve the residents of the metropolitan area and to amend said plan from time to time to meet changed conditions and requirements.

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate, and regulate the use of metropolitan transportation facilities and properties within or without the metropolitan area, including systems of surface, underground, or overhead railways, tramways, buses, or any other means of local transportation except taxis, and including escalators, moving sidewalks, or other people-moving systems, passenger terminal and parking facilities and properties, and such other facilities and properties as may be necessary for passenger and vehicular access to and from such people-moving systems, terminal and parking facilities and properties, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment, and accessories necessary for such

systems and facilities. Public transportation facilities and properties which are owned by any city may be acquired or used by the metropolitan municipal corporation only with the consent of the city council of the city owning such facilities. Cities are hereby authorized to convey or lease such facilities to metropolitan corporations or to contract for their joint use on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the city council of such city and the metropolitan council, without submitting the matter to the voters of such city.

(3) To fix rates, tolls, fares, and charges for the use of such facilities and to establish various routes and classes of service. Fares or charges may be adjusted or eliminated for any distinguishable class of users including, but not limited to, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and students. Classes of service and fares will be maintained in the several parts of the metropolitan area at such levels as will provide, insofar as reasonably practicable, that the portion of any annual transit operating deficit of the metropolitan municipal corporation attributable to the operation of all routes, taken as a whole, which are located within the central city is approximately in proportion to the portion of total taxes collected by or on behalf of the metropolitan municipal corporation for transit purposes within the central city, and that the portion of such annual transit operating deficit attributable to the operation of all routes, taken as a whole, which are located outside the central city, is approximately in proportion to the portion of such taxes collected outside the central city.

In the event any metropolitan municipal corporation shall extend its metropolitan transportation function to any area or service already offered by any company holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Washington utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.68.040, it shall by purchase or condemnation acquire at the fair market value, from the person holding the existing certificate for providing the services, that portion of the operating authority and equipment representing the services within the area of public operation. [2020 c 274 s 11; 1981 c 25 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 8; 1967 c 105 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.240. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 24.]

**RCW 35.58.245 Public transportation function—Authorization by election required—Procedure.** Notwithstanding any other provision of chapter 35.58 RCW a metropolitan municipal corporation may perform the function of metropolitan public transportation only if the performance of such function is authorized by election. The metropolitan council may call such election and certify the ballot proposition. The election shall be conducted and canvassed as provided in RCW 35.58.090 and the municipality shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan public transportation if a majority of the persons voting on the proposition shall vote in favor. [1971 ex.s. c 303 s 1.]

**RCW 35.58.250 Other local public passenger transportation service prohibited—Agreements—Purchase—Condemnation.** Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided herein, upon the effective date on which the metropolitan municipal corporation commences to perform the metropolitan transportation function, no

person or private corporation shall operate a local public passenger transportation service within the metropolitan area with the exception of taxis, buses owned or operated by a school district or private school, and buses owned or operated by any corporation or organization solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization and for the use of which no fee or fare is charged.

An agreement may be entered into between the metropolitan municipal corporation and any person or corporation legally operating a local public passenger transportation service wholly within or partly within and partly without the metropolitan area and on said effective date under which such person or corporation may continue to operate such service or any part thereof for such time and upon such terms and conditions as provided in such agreement. Where any such local public passenger transportation service will be required to cease to operate within the metropolitan area, the commission may agree with the owner of such service to purchase the assets used in providing such service, or if no agreement can be reached, the commission shall condemn such assets in the manner provided herein for the condemnation of other properties.

Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or partly within a metropolitan municipal corporation, the Washington utilities and transportation commission shall continue to exercise jurisdiction over such operation as provided by law. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.250. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 25.]

**RCW 35.58.260 Transportation function—Acquisition of city system.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the metropolitan transportation function, it shall, upon the effective date of the assumption of such power, have and exercise all rights with respect to the construction, acquisition, maintenance, operation, extension, alteration, repair, control and management of passenger transportation which any component city shall have been previously empowered to exercise and, except as provided in RCW 35.21.925 and 36.73.180, such powers shall not thereafter be exercised by such component cities without the consent of the metropolitan municipal corporation: PROVIDED, That any city owning and operating a public transportation system on such effective date may continue to operate such system within such city until such system shall have been acquired by the metropolitan municipal corporation and a metropolitan municipal corporation may not acquire such system without the consent of the city council of such city. [2010 c 251 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.260. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 26.]

**RCW 35.58.262 Transportation function—Fuel purchasing strategies—Reports.** (1) In performing the metropolitan transportation function, metropolitan municipal corporations and counties that have assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of metropolitan municipal corporations under chapter 36.56 RCW may explore and implement strategies designed to reduce the overall cost of fuel and mitigate the impact of market fluctuations and pressure on both short-term and long-term fuel costs. These strategies may include, but are not limited to, futures contracts, hedging, swap transactions, option contracts, costless collars, and long-term storage.

(2) Metropolitan municipal corporations and counties that have assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of metropolitan municipal corporations under chapter 36.56 RCW that choose to implement the strategies authorized in this section must submit periodic reports to the transportation committees of the legislature on the status of any such implemented strategies. Each report must include a description of each contract established to mitigate fuel costs, the amounts of fuel covered by the contracts, the cost mitigation results, and any related recommendations. The first report must be submitted within one year of implementation. [2008 c 126 s 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2008 c 126:** "The legislature finds and declares that units of state and local government purchasing large amounts of fuel in the regular course of performing their function should have substantial flexibility in acquiring fuel to obtain predictability and control of fuel costs, and to maximize the use of renewable fuels. The legislature hereby declares its intent to allow certain units of government that regularly purchase large amounts of fuel to explore and implement strategies that are designed to reduce the overall cost of fuel and mitigate the impact of market fluctuations and pressure on both short-term and long-term fuel costs." [2008 c 126 s 1.]

**RCW 35.58.263 Transportation function—Fuel purchasing strategies—Liability immunity.** If metropolitan municipal corporations and counties that have assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of metropolitan municipal corporations under chapter 36.56 RCW choose to implement the strategies authorized in RCW 35.58.262, the state is not liable for any financial losses that may be incurred as the result of participating in such strategies. [2008 c 126 s 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2008 c 126:** See note following RCW 35.58.262.

**RCW 35.58.265 Acquisition of existing transportation system—Assumption of labor contracts—Transfer of employees—Preservation of employee benefits—Collective bargaining.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall perform the metropolitan transportation function and shall acquire any existing transportation system, it shall assume and observe all existing labor contracts relating to such system and, to the extent necessary for operation of facilities, all of the employees of such acquired transportation system whose duties are necessary to operate efficiently the facilities acquired shall be appointed to comparable positions to those which they held at the time of such transfer, and no employee or retired or pensioned employee of such systems shall be placed in any worse position with respect to pension seniority, wages, sick leave, vacation or other benefits that he or she enjoyed as an employee of such system prior to such acquisition. The metropolitan municipal corporation shall engage in collective bargaining with the duly appointed representatives of any employee labor organization having existing contracts with the acquired transportation system and may enter into labor contracts with such employee labor organization. [2009 c 549 s 2105; 1965 c 91 s 1.]



*Retention of employees, preservation of pension rights and other benefits upon acquisition of metropolitan facility: RCW 35.58.380 through 35.58.400.*

**RCW 35.58.268 Public transportation employees—Payroll deduction for political action committees.** Any public official authorized to disburse funds in payment of salaries and wages of public transportation employees may, upon written request of the employee, deduct from the salary or wages of the employee, contributions for payment of voluntary deductions for political action committees sponsored by labor or employee organizations with public transportation employees as members. For the purposes of this section, "public transportation employees" means employees of a public transportation system specified in RCW 35.58.272 who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. [1985 c 204 s 1.]

**RCW 35.58.270 Metropolitan transit commission.** (1) If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan transportation with a commission form of management, a metropolitan transit commission shall be formed prior to the effective date of the assumption of such function. Except as provided in this section, the metropolitan transit commission shall exercise all powers of the metropolitan municipal corporation with respect to metropolitan transportation facilities, including but not limited to the power to construct, acquire, maintain, operate, extend, alter, repair, control and manage a local public transportation system within and without the metropolitan area, to establish new passenger transportation services and to alter, curtail, or abolish any services as the commission may deem desirable and to fix tolls and fares.

(2) The comprehensive plan for public transportation service and any amendments thereof shall be adopted by the metropolitan council and the metropolitan transit commission shall provide transportation facilities and service consistent with such plan. The metropolitan transit commission shall authorize expenditures for transportation purposes within the budget adopted by the metropolitan council. Tolls and fares may be fixed or altered by the commission only after approval thereof by the metropolitan council. Bonds of the metropolitan municipal corporation for public transportation purposes shall be issued by the metropolitan council as provided in this chapter.

(3) The metropolitan transit commission shall consist of seven members. Six of such members shall be appointed by the metropolitan council and the seventh member shall be the chair of the metropolitan council who shall be ex officio the chair of the metropolitan transit commission. Three of the six appointed members of the commission shall be residents of the central city and three shall be residents of the metropolitan area outside of the central city. The three central city members of the first metropolitan transit commission shall be selected from the existing transit commission of the central city, if there be a transit commission in such city. The terms of first appointees shall be for one, two, three, four, five and six years, respectively. Thereafter, commissioners shall serve for a term of four years. Compensation of transit commissioners shall be determined by the metropolitan council.

(4) There is one nonvoting member of the metropolitan transit commission. The nonvoting member is recommended by the labor organization representing the public transportation employees within the local public transportation system. If the public transportation employees are represented by more than one labor organization, all such labor organizations shall select the nonvoting member by majority vote. The nonvoting member is appointed for a term of four years. The nonvoting member shall comply with all governing bylaws and policies of the commission. The chair or cochairs of the commission shall exclude the nonvoting member from attending any executive session held for the purpose of discussing negotiations with labor organizations. The chair or cochairs may exclude the nonvoting member from attending any other executive session.

(5) The requirement to create a metropolitan transit commission shall not apply to a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW. [2010 c 278 s 1; 2009 c 549 s 2106; 1993 c 240 s 6; 1967 c 105 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.270. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 27.]

**RCW 35.58.271 Public transportation in municipalities—  
Financing.** See chapter 35.95 RCW.

**RCW 35.58.2711 Local sales and use taxes for financing public  
transportation systems.** See RCW 82.14.045 through 82.14.060.

**RCW 35.58.2712 Public transportation feasibility study—Advanced  
financial support payments.** Any municipality, as defined in RCW 35.95.020, may be eligible to receive a one-time advanced financial support payment to perform a feasibility study to determine the need for public transportation to serve its residents. This payment shall be governed by the following conditions:

(1) The payment shall precede any advanced financial support payment to develop a plan pursuant to RCW 36.57A.150;

(2) The amount of such payment shall be commensurate with the number of residents in and the size of the land area of such municipality and the number and size of school districts in such municipality and shall not exceed one hundred ten thousand dollars; and

(3) Repayment of an advanced financial support payment shall be made to the general fund by the municipality within two years after the date such advanced payment was received. The study shall be completed within one year after the date such advanced payment was received. The study and its recommendations shall then be presented to the legislative authority of the municipality. Within six months of its receipt of the study and its recommendations, the legislative authority shall pass a resolution adopting or rejecting all or part of the study. A copy of the resolution shall be transmitted to the state agency administering this section. Such repayment shall be waived within two years of the date such advanced payment was received if the legislative authority or the voters in such municipality do not elect to levy and collect taxes to support public transportation in their

area. Such repayment shall not be waived in the event any of the provisions of this subsection are not followed;

(4) The feasibility study shall give consideration to consolidating or coordinating all or any portion of the K-12 pupil transportation system within the proposed boundaries of the municipality. Any school district lying wholly or in part within the proposed boundaries shall fully cooperate in the study unless the school board shall pass a resolution to the contrary setting forth the reasons therefor. A copy of the resolution shall be forwarded to the secretary of the department of transportation for inclusion in the municipality's application file.

The department of transportation shall provide technical assistance in the preparation of feasibility studies, and shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section. [1979 c 59 s 1; 1977 ex.s. c 44 s 6.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 44:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.030.

**RCW 35.58.272 Public transportation systems—Definitions.**

"Municipality" as used in \*RCW 35.58.272 through 35.58.279, as now or hereafter amended, and in RCW 36.57.080, 36.57.100, 36.57.110, 35.58.2721, 35.58.2794, and chapter 36.57A RCW, means any metropolitan municipal corporation which shall have been authorized to perform the function of metropolitan public transportation; any county performing the public transportation function as authorized by RCW 36.57.100 and 36.57.110 or which has established a county transportation authority pursuant to chapter 36.57 RCW; any public transportation benefit area established pursuant to chapter 36.57A RCW; and any city, which is not located within the boundaries of a metropolitan municipal corporation unless provided otherwise in RCW 35.21.925 and 36.73.180, county transportation authority, or public transportation benefit area, and which owns, operates or contracts for the services of a publicly owned or operated system of transportation: PROVIDED, That the term "municipality" shall mean in respect to any county performing the public transportation function pursuant to RCW 36.57.100 and 36.57.110 only that portion of the unincorporated area lying wholly within such unincorporated transportation benefit area.

"Motor vehicle" as used in \*RCW 35.58.272 through 35.58.279, as now or hereafter amended, shall have the same meaning as in RCW 82.44.010.

"County auditor" shall mean the county auditor of any county or any person designated to perform the duties of a county auditor pursuant to RCW 82.44.140.

"Person" shall mean any individual, corporation, firm, association or other form of business association. [2010 c 251 s 8; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 255 s 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.58.273 through 35.58.279 were repealed by 2002 c 6 s 2.

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 270:** "If any provision of this 1975 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 30.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 270:** "This 1975 amendatory act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1975." [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 31.]

**Construction—1969 ex.s. c 255:** "The powers and authority conferred upon municipalities under the provisions of this 1969 act shall be in addition to and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law, and nothing contained herein limits any other power or authority of such municipalities." [1969 ex.s. c 255 s 21.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 255:** "If any provision of this 1969 act, or its application to any municipality, person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this 1969 act or the application of the provisions to other municipalities, persons or circumstances is not affected." [1969 ex.s. c 255 s 22.]

*Contracts between political subdivisions for services and use of public transportation systems: RCW 39.33.050.*

**RCW 35.58.2721 Public transportation systems—Authority of municipalities to acquire, operate, etc.—Indebtedness—Bond issues.**

(1) In addition to any other authority now provided by law, and subject only to constitutional limitations, the governing body of any municipality shall be authorized to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain a public transportation system and additions and betterments thereto, and to issue general obligation bonds for public mass transportation capital purposes including but not limited to replacement of equipment: PROVIDED, That the general indebtedness incurred under this section when considered together with all the other outstanding general indebtedness of the municipality shall not exceed the amounts of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW and chapter 35.58 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without and with the assent of the voters. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

Any municipality is authorized to pledge for the payment or security of the principal of and interest on any bonds issued for authorized public transportation purposes all or any portion of any taxes authorized to be levied by the issuer, including, but not limited to, the local sales and use tax authorized pursuant to RCW 82.14.045, as now or hereafter amended. No motor vehicle excise taxes under \*RCW 35.58.273 may be pledged for bonds.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1990 c 42 s 315; 1983 c 167 s 46; 1979 ex.s. c 175 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.58.273 was repealed by 2002 c 6 s 2.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 46.68.090.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 270:** See notes following RCW 35.58.272.

*Financing of public transportation systems in municipalities: Chapter 35.95 RCW and RCW 82.14.045.*

**RCW 35.58.2794 Public transportation systems—Research, testing, development, etc., of systems—Powers to comply with federal laws.** Any city, county, public transportation benefit area authority, county transportation authority, or metropolitan municipal corporation operating a public transportation system shall be authorized to conduct, contract for, participate in and support research, demonstration, testing and development of public transportation systems, equipment and use incentives and shall have all powers necessary to comply with any criteria, standards, and regulations which may be adopted under the urban mass transportation act (78 Stat. 302 et seq., 49 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and to take all actions necessary to meet the requirements of that act. Any county in which a county transportation authority or public transportation benefit area shall have been established and any metropolitan municipal corporation which shall have been authorized to perform the function of metropolitan public transportation shall have, in addition to such powers, the authority to prepare, adopt and carry out a comprehensive transit plan and to make such other plans and studies and to perform such programs as the governing body of the county authority public transportation benefit area authority or metropolitan municipal corporation shall deem necessary to implement and comply with said federal act. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 8.]

**Severability—Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 270:** See notes following RCW 35.58.272.

**RCW 35.58.2795 Public transportation systems—Six-year transit plans.** By September 1st of each year, the legislative authority of each municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, and each regional transit authority shall prepare a six-year transit development plan for that calendar year and the ensuing five years. The program shall be consistent with the comprehensive plans adopted by counties, cities, and towns, pursuant to chapter 35.63, 35A.63, or 36.70 RCW, the inherent authority of a first-class city or charter county derived from its charter, or chapter 36.70A RCW. The program shall contain information as to how the municipality intends to meet state and local long-range priorities for public transportation, capital improvements, significant operating changes planned for the system, and how the municipality intends to fund program needs. The six-year plan for each municipality and regional transit authority shall specifically set forth those projects of regional significance for inclusion in the transportation improvement program within that region. Each municipality and regional transit authority shall file the six-year program with the state department of transportation, the

transportation improvement board, and cities, counties, and regional planning councils within which the municipality is located.

In developing its program, the municipality and the regional transit authority shall consider those policy recommendations affecting public transportation contained in the state transportation policy plan approved by the state transportation commission and, where appropriate, adopted by the legislature. The municipality shall conduct one or more public hearings while developing its program and for each annual update. [2011 c 371 s 1; 1994 c 158 s 6; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 60; 1989 c 396 s 1.]

**Captions not law—Severability—Effective date—1994 c 158:** See RCW 47.80.902 through 47.80.904.

**Severability—Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17:** See RCW 36.70A.900 and 36.70A.901.

**RCW 35.58.2796 Public transportation systems—Annual reports by department.** (1)(a) The department of transportation shall develop an annual report summarizing the status of public transportation systems in the state for the previous calendar year. By December 1st of each year, the report must be made available to the transportation committees of the legislature and to each municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, and to individual members of the municipality's legislative authority.

(b) To assist the department with preparation of the report, each municipality shall file a system report by September 1st of each year with the state department of transportation identifying its public transportation services for the previous calendar year and its objectives for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of those services. The system report shall address those items required for each public transportation system in the department's report.

(c) The department report shall describe individual public transportation systems, including contracted transportation services and dial-a-ride services, and include a statewide summary of public transportation issues and data. The descriptions shall include the following elements and such other elements as the department deems appropriate after consultation with the municipalities and the transportation committees of the legislature:

(i) Equipment and facilities, including vehicle replacement standards;

(ii) Services and service standards;

(iii) Revenues, expenses, and ending balances, by fund source;

(iv) Policy issues and system improvement objectives, including community participation in development of those objectives and how those objectives address statewide transportation priorities;

(v) Operating indicators applied to public transportation services, revenues, and expenses. Operating indicators shall include operating cost per passenger trip, operating cost per revenue vehicle service hour, passenger trips per revenue service hour, passenger trips per vehicle service mile, vehicle service hours per employee, and farebox revenue as a percent of operating costs.

(d) To the extent that information is available, the department report must include descriptive information on any other modes of public transportation, the impact of public transportation on

transportation system performance, and how public transportation helps the state meet the transportation system policy goals described in RCW 47.04.280.

(2) (a) The department of transportation shall develop an annual report summarizing the status of public transportation system coordination in and between counties with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that border Puget Sound for the previous calendar year. By December 1st of each year, the report must be made available to the transportation committees of the legislature and to each municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, located in a county with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that borders Puget Sound and to individual members of the municipality's legislative authority.

(b) To assist the department with preparation of the report required under this subsection, each municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, located in a county with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that borders Puget Sound shall file a report by September 1st of each year with the department identifying its coordination efforts in the previous calendar year with other municipalities, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, located in counties with a population of seven hundred thousand or more that border Puget Sound in the following areas:

- (i) Integrating marketing efforts;
  - (ii) Aligning fare structures;
  - (iii) Integrating service planning;
  - (iv) Coordinating long-range planning, including capital projects planning and implementation;
  - (v) Integrating other administrative functions and internal business processes as appropriate; and
  - (vi) Integrating certain customer-focused tools and initiatives.
- [2015 3rd sp.s. c 11 s 2; 2011 c 371 s 2; 2005 c 319 s 101; 1989 c 396 s 2.]

**Effective date—2015 3rd sp.s. c 11:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [July 6, 2015]." [2015 3rd sp.s. c 11 s 5.]

**Intent—2015 3rd sp.s. c 11:** "The central Puget Sound is projected to grow considerably, in both population and jobs, over the course of the next several decades. It is thus critical that all its transportation infrastructure be well planned and coordinated, including its transit systems. It is the intent of the legislature to encourage this planning and coordination on the part of central Puget Sound transit systems in order to improve the user experience, increase ridership, and make the most effective use of tax dollars." [2015 3rd sp.s. c 11 s 1.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

**RCW 35.58.280 Powers relative to garbage disposal.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the

function of metropolitan garbage disposal, it shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

(1) To prepare a comprehensive garbage disposal plan for the metropolitan area.

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of metropolitan facilities for garbage disposal within or without the metropolitan area, including garbage disposal sites, central collection station sites, structures, machinery and equipment for the operation of central collection stations and for the hauling and disposal of garbage by any means, together with all lands, property, equipment and accessories necessary for such facilities. Garbage disposal facilities which are owned by a city or county may be acquired or used by the metropolitan municipal corporation only with the consent of the legislative body of the city or county owning such facilities. Cities and counties are hereby authorized to convey or lease such facilities to metropolitan municipal corporations or to contract for their joint use on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the legislative body of such city or county and the metropolitan council, without submitting the matter to the voters of such city or county.

(3) To fix rates and charges for the use of metropolitan garbage disposal facilities.

(4) With the consent of any component city, to acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of facilities for the local collection of garbage within such city, and for such purpose to have all the powers conferred by law upon such city with respect to such local collection facilities. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize the local collection of garbage except in component cities. All costs of such local collection facilities shall be paid for by the area served thereby. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.280. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 28.]

**RCW 35.58.290 Powers relative to parks and parkways.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan parks and parkways, it shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

(1) To prepare a comprehensive plan of metropolitan parks and parkways.

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift or grant, to lease, construct, add to, improve, develop, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of metropolitan parks and parkways, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment and accessories necessary therefor. A park or parkway shall be considered to be a metropolitan facility if the metropolitan council shall by resolution find it to be of use and benefit to all or a major portion of the residents of the metropolitan area. Parks or parkways which are owned by a component city or county may be acquired or used by the metropolitan municipal corporation only with the consent of the legislative body of such city or county. Cities and counties are hereby authorized to convey or lease such facilities to metropolitan municipal corporations or to contract for their joint use on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the legislative bodies of such city or county and the metropolitan council, without submitting



the matter to the voters of such city or county. If parks or parkways which have been acquired or used as metropolitan facilities shall no longer be used for park purposes by the metropolitan municipal corporation, such facilities shall revert to the component city or county which formerly owned them.

(3) To fix fees and charges for the use of metropolitan park and parkway facilities. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.290. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 29.]

**RCW 35.58.300 Metropolitan park board.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan parks and parkways, a metropolitan park board shall be formed prior to the effective date of the assumption of such function. Except as provided in this section, the metropolitan park board shall exercise all powers of the metropolitan municipal corporation with respect to metropolitan park and parkway facilities.

The metropolitan park board shall authorize expenditures for park and parkway purposes within the budget adopted by the metropolitan council. Bonds of the metropolitan municipal corporation for park and parkway purposes shall be issued by the metropolitan council as provided in this chapter.

The metropolitan park board shall consist of five members appointed by the metropolitan council at least two of whom shall be residents of the central city. The terms of first appointees shall be for one, two, three, four and five years, respectively. Thereafter members shall serve for a term of four years. Compensation of park board members shall be determined by the metropolitan council.

The requirement to create a metropolitan park board shall not apply to a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW. [1993 c 240 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.300. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 30.]

**RCW 35.58.310 Powers relative to planning.** If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan comprehensive planning, it shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

(1) To prepare a recommended comprehensive land use and capital facilities plan for the metropolitan area.

(2) To review proposed zoning ordinances and resolutions or comprehensive plans of component cities and counties and make recommendations thereon. Such proposed zoning ordinances and resolutions or comprehensive plans must be submitted to the metropolitan council prior to adoption and may not be adopted until reviewed and returned by the metropolitan council. The metropolitan council shall cause such ordinances, resolutions and plans to be reviewed by the planning staff of the metropolitan municipal corporation and return such ordinances, resolutions and plans, together with their findings and recommendations thereon within sixty days following their submission.

(3) To provide planning services for component cities and counties upon request and upon payment therefor by the cities or counties receiving such service. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.310. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 31.]

**RCW 35.58.320 Eminent domain.** A metropolitan municipal corporation shall have power to acquire by purchase and condemnation all lands and property rights, both within and without the metropolitan area, which are necessary for its purposes. Such right of eminent domain shall be exercised by the metropolitan council in the same manner and by the same procedure as is or may be provided by law for cities, except insofar as such laws may be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. [1993 c 240 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.320. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 32.]

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.58.330 Powers may be exercised with relation to public rights-of-way without franchise—Conditions.** A metropolitan municipal corporation shall have power to construct or maintain metropolitan facilities in, along, on, under, over, or through public streets, bridges, viaducts, and other public rights-of-way without first obtaining a franchise from the county or city having jurisdiction over the same: PROVIDED, That such facilities shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the ordinances and resolutions of such city or county relating to construction, installation and maintenance of similar facilities in such public properties. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.330. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 33.]

**RCW 35.58.340 Disposition of unneeded property.** Except as otherwise provided herein, a metropolitan municipal corporation may sell, or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property acquired in connection with any authorized metropolitan function and which is no longer required for the purposes of the metropolitan municipal corporation in the same manner as provided for cities. When the metropolitan council determines that a metropolitan facility or any part thereof which has been acquired from a component city or county without compensation is no longer required for metropolitan purposes, but is required as a local facility by the city or county from which it was acquired, the metropolitan council shall by resolution transfer it to such city or county. [1993 c 240 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.340. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 34.]

**RCW 35.58.350 Powers and functions of metropolitan municipal corporation—Where vested—Powers of metropolitan council.** All the powers and functions of a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be vested in the metropolitan council unless expressly vested in specific officers, boards, or commissions by this chapter, or vested in the county legislative authority of a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation as provided in chapter 36.56 RCW. Without limitation of the foregoing authority, or of other powers given it by this chapter, the metropolitan council shall have the following powers:

(1) To establish offices, departments, boards and commissions in addition to those provided by this chapter which are necessary to carry out the purposes of the metropolitan municipal corporation, and to prescribe the functions, powers and duties thereof.

(2) To appoint or provide for the appointment of, and to remove or to provide for the removal of, all officers and employees of the metropolitan municipal corporation except those whose appointment or removal is otherwise provided by this chapter.

(3) To fix the salaries, wages and other compensation of all officers and employees of the metropolitan municipal corporation unless the same shall be otherwise fixed in this chapter.

(4) To employ such engineering, legal, financial, or other specialized personnel as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the metropolitan municipal corporation. [1993 c 240 s 10; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.350. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 35.]

**RCW 35.58.360 Rules and regulations—Penalties—Enforcement.** A metropolitan municipal corporation shall have power to adopt by resolution such rules and regulations as shall be necessary or proper to enable it to carry out authorized metropolitan functions and may provide penalties for the violation thereof. Actions to impose or enforce such penalties may be brought in the superior court of the state of Washington in and for the central county. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.360. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 36.]

**RCW 35.58.370 Merit system.** The metropolitan council shall establish and provide for the operation and maintenance of a personnel merit system for the employment, classification, promotion, demotion, suspension, transfer, layoff and discharge of its appointive officers and employees solely on the basis of merit and fitness without regard to political influence or affiliation. The person appointed or body created for the purpose of administering such personnel system shall have power to make, amend and repeal rules and regulations as are deemed necessary for such merit system. Such rules and regulations shall provide:

(1) That the person to be discharged or demoted must be presented with the reasons for such discharge or demotion specifically stated; and

(2) That he or she shall be allowed a reasonable time in which to reply thereto in writing and that he or she be given a hearing thereon within a reasonable time. [2009 c 549 s 2107; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.370. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 37.]

**RCW 35.58.380 Retention of existing personnel.** A metropolitan municipal corporation shall offer to employ every person who on the date such corporation acquires a metropolitan facility is employed in the operation of such facility by a component city or county or by a special district. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.380. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 38.]

*Assumption of labor contracts upon acquisition of transportation system: RCW 35.58.265.*

**RCW 35.58.390 Prior employees pension rights preserved.** Where a metropolitan municipal corporation employs a person employed immediately prior thereto by a component city or county, or by a special district, such employee shall be deemed to remain an employee

of such city, county, or special district for the purposes of any pension plan of such city, county, or special district, and shall continue to be entitled to all rights and benefits thereunder as if he or she had remained as an employee of the city, county, or special district, until the metropolitan municipal corporation has provided a pension plan and such employee has elected, in writing, to participate therein.

Until such election, the metropolitan municipal corporation shall deduct from the remuneration of such employee the amount which such employee is or may be required to pay in accordance with the provisions of the plan of such city, county, or special district and the metropolitan municipal corporation shall pay to the city, county, or special district any amounts required to be paid under the provisions of such plan by employer or employee. [2009 c 549 s 2108; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.390. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 39.]

*Preservation of pension rights upon acquisition of transportation system: RCW 35.58.265.*

*Public employment, civil service and pensions: Title 41 RCW.*

**RCW 35.58.400 Prior employees sick leave and vacation rights preserved.** Where a metropolitan municipal corporation employs a person employed immediately prior thereto by a component city or county or by a special district, the employee shall be deemed to remain an employee of such city, county, or special district for the purposes of any sick leave credit plan of the component city, county, or special district until the metropolitan municipal corporation has established a sick leave credit plan for its employees, whereupon the metropolitan municipal corporation shall place to the credit of the employee the sick leave credits standing to his or her credit in the plan of such city, county, or special district.

Where a metropolitan municipal corporation employs a person theretofore employed by a component city, county, or by a special district, the metropolitan municipal corporation shall, during the first year of his or her employment by the metropolitan municipal corporation, provide for such employee a vacation with pay equivalent to that which he or she would have been entitled if he or she had remained in the employment of the city, county, or special district. [2009 c 549 s 2109; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.400. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 40.]

*Preservation of sick leave, vacation, and other benefits upon acquisition of transportation system: RCW 35.58.265.*

**RCW 35.58.410 Budget—Expenditures—Revenue estimates—Requirements for a county assuming the powers of a metropolitan municipal corporation.** (1) On or before the third Monday in June of each year, each metropolitan municipal corporation shall adopt a budget for the following calendar year. Such budget shall include a separate section for each authorized metropolitan function. Expenditures shall be segregated as to operation and maintenance expenses and capital and betterment outlays. Administrative and other expense general to the corporation shall be allocated between the authorized metropolitan functions. The budget shall contain an

estimate of all revenues to be collected during the following budget year, including any surplus funds remaining unexpended from the preceding year. The metropolitan council shall not be required to confine capital or betterment expenditures made from bond proceeds or emergency expenditures to items provided in the budget. The affirmative vote of three-fourths of all members of the metropolitan council shall be required to authorize emergency expenditures.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW. This subsection (2) shall apply only to each county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW.

Each county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW shall, on or before the third Monday in June of each year, prepare an estimate of all revenues to be collected during the following calendar year, including any surplus funds remaining unexpended from the preceding year for each authorized metropolitan function.

By June 30 of each year, the county shall adopt the rate for sewage disposal that will be charged to component cities and water-sewer districts during the following budget year.

As long as any general obligation indebtedness remains outstanding that was issued by the metropolitan municipal corporation prior to the assumption by the county, the county shall continue to impose the taxes authorized by RCW 82.14.045 and \*35.58.273(4) at the maximum rates and on all of the taxable events authorized by law. If, despite the continued imposition of those taxes, the estimate of revenues made on or before the third Monday in June shows that estimated revenues will be insufficient to make all debt service payments falling due in the following calendar year on all general obligation indebtedness issued by the metropolitan municipal corporation prior to the assumption by the county of the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the metropolitan municipal corporation, the remaining amount required to make the debt service payments shall be designated as "supplemental income" and shall be obtained from component cities and component counties as provided under RCW 35.58.420.

The county shall prepare and adopt a budget each year in accordance with applicable general law or county charter. If supplemental income has been designated under this subsection, the supplemental income shall be reflected in the budget that is adopted. If during the budget year the actual tax revenues from the taxes imposed under the authority of RCW 82.14.045 and \*35.58.273(4) exceed the estimates upon which the supplemental income was based, the difference shall be refunded to the component cities and component counties in proportion to their payments promptly after the end of the budget year. A county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW shall not be required to confine capital or betterment expenditures for authorized metropolitan functions from bond proceeds or emergency expenditures to items provided in the budget. [1999 c 153 s 36; 1998 c 321 s 26 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1993 c 240 s 11; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.410. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 41.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.58.273 was repealed by 2002 c 6 s 2.

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

**Contingent effective dates—1998 c 321 ss 23-42:** "(2) Sections 23 through 30 and 32 through 42 of this act take effect January 1, 1999, and section 31 of this act takes effect June 30, 2000, if sections 1 through 21 and 44 through 46 of this act are validly submitted to and are approved and ratified by the voters at a general election held in November 1998. If sections 1 through 21 and 44 through 46 of this act are not approved and ratified, sections 23 through 42 of this act are null and void in their entirety." [1998 c 321 s 47 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998).]

**RCW 35.58.420 Supplemental income payments by component city and county.** Each component city shall pay such proportion of the supplemental income of the metropolitan municipal corporation as the assessed valuation of property within its limits bears to the total assessed valuation of taxable property within the metropolitan area. Each component county shall pay such proportion of such supplemental income as the assessed valuation of the property within the unincorporated area of such county lying within the metropolitan area bears to the total assessed valuation of taxable property within the metropolitan area. In making such determination, the metropolitan council shall use the last available assessed valuations. The metropolitan council shall certify to each component city and county, prior to the fourth Monday in June of each year, the share of the supplemental income to be paid by such component city or county for the next calendar year. The latter shall then include such amount in its budget for the ensuing calendar year, and during such year shall pay to the metropolitan municipal corporation, in equal quarterly installments, the amount of its supplemental income share from whatever sources may be available to it. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.420. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 42.]

**RCW 35.58.430 Funds—Disbursements—Treasurer—Expenses—Election expenses.** The treasurer of each component county shall create a separate fund into which shall be paid all money collected from taxes levied by the metropolitan municipal corporation on property in such county and such money shall be forwarded quarterly by the treasurer of each such county to the treasurer of the central county as directed by the metropolitan council. The treasurer of the central county shall act as the treasurer of the metropolitan municipal corporation and shall establish and maintain such funds as may be authorized by the metropolitan council. Money shall be disbursed from such funds upon warrants drawn by the auditor of the central county as authorized by the metropolitan council. The central county shall be reimbursed by the metropolitan municipal corporation for services rendered by the treasurer and auditor of the central county in connection with the receipt and disbursement of such funds. The expense of all special

elections held pursuant to this chapter shall be paid by the metropolitan municipal corporation. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.430. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 43.]

**RCW 35.58.450 General obligation bonds—Issuance, sale, form, term, election, payment.** Notwithstanding the limitations of chapter 39.36 RCW and any other statutory limitations otherwise applicable and limiting municipal debt, a metropolitan municipal corporation shall have the power to contract indebtedness and issue general obligation bonds and to pledge the full faith and credit of the corporation to the payment thereof, for any authorized capital purpose of the metropolitan municipal corporation, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general indebtedness, equal to three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property within the metropolitan municipal corporation, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A metropolitan municipal corporation may additionally contract indebtedness and issue general obligation bonds, for any authorized capital purpose of a metropolitan municipal corporation, together with any other outstanding general indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to five percent of the value of the taxable property within the corporation, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when a proposition authorizing the indebtedness has been approved by three-fifths of the persons voting on said proposition at said election at which such election the total number of persons voting on such bond proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting within the area of said metropolitan municipal corporation at the last preceding state general election. Such general obligation bonds may be authorized in any total amount in one or more propositions and the amount of such authorization may exceed the amount of bonds which could then lawfully be issued. Such bonds may be issued in one or more series from time to time out of such authorization. The elections shall be held pursuant to RCW 39.36.050.

Whenever the voters of a metropolitan municipal corporation have, pursuant to RCW 84.52.056, approved excess property tax levies to retire such bond issues, both the principal of and interest on such general obligation bonds may be made payable from annual tax levies to be made upon all the taxable property within the metropolitan municipal corporation in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limit. The principal of and interest on any general obligation bond may be made payable from any other taxes or any special assessments which the metropolitan municipal corporation may be authorized to levy or from any otherwise unpledged revenue which may be derived from the ownership or operation of properties or facilities incident to the performance of the authorized function for which such bonds are issued or may be made payable from any combination of the foregoing sources. The metropolitan council may include in the principal amount of such bond issue an amount for engineering, architectural, planning, financial, legal, urban design and other services incident to acquisition or construction solely for authorized capital purposes.

General obligation bonds shall be issued and sold by the metropolitan council as provided in chapter 39.46 RCW and shall mature in not to exceed forty years from the date of issue. [1993 c 240 s

13; 1984 c 186 s 18; 1983 c 167 s 47; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 24; 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 9; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 38; 1970 ex.s. c 42 s 13; 1970 ex.s. c 11 s 1. Prior: 1969 ex.s. c 255 s 17; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 16; 1967 c 105 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.450; prior: 1957 c 213 s 45.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.58.460 Revenue bonds—Issuance, sale, form, term, payment, reserves, actions.** (1) A metropolitan municipal corporation may issue revenue bonds to provide funds to carry out its authorized metropolitan water pollution abatement, water supply, garbage disposal or transportation purposes, without submitting the matter to the voters of the metropolitan municipal corporation. The metropolitan council shall create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the bonds of each such issue, into which fund or funds the metropolitan council may obligate the metropolitan municipal corporation to pay such amounts of the gross revenue of the particular utility constructed, acquired, improved, added to, or repaired out of the proceeds of sale of such bonds, as the metropolitan council shall determine and may obligate the metropolitan municipal corporation to pay such amounts out of otherwise unpledged revenue which may be derived from the ownership, use or operation of properties or facilities owned, used or operated incident to the performance of the authorized function for which such bonds are issued or out of otherwise unpledged fees, tolls, charges, tariffs, fares, rentals, special taxes or other sources of payment lawfully authorized for such purpose, as the metropolitan council shall determine. The principal of, and interest on, such bonds shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds, and the owners of such bonds shall have a lien and charge against the gross revenue of such utility or any other revenue, fees, tolls, charges, tariffs, fares, special taxes or other authorized sources pledged to the payment of such bonds.

Such revenue bonds and the interest thereon issued against such fund or funds shall be a valid claim of the owners thereof only as against such fund or funds and the revenue pledged therefor, and shall not constitute a general indebtedness of the metropolitan municipal corporation.

Each such revenue bond shall state upon its face that it is payable from such special fund or funds, and all revenue bonds issued



under this chapter shall be negotiable securities within the provisions of the law of this state. Such revenue bonds may be registered either as to principal only or as to principal and interest as provided in RCW 39.46.030, or may be bearer bonds; shall be in such denominations as the metropolitan council shall deem proper; shall be payable at such time or times and at such places as shall be determined by the metropolitan council; shall bear interest at such rate or rates as shall be determined by the metropolitan council; shall be signed by the chair and attested by the secretary of the metropolitan council, any of which signatures may be facsimile signatures, and the seal of the metropolitan municipal corporation shall be impressed or imprinted thereon; any attached interest coupons shall be signed by the facsimile signatures of said officials.

Such revenue bonds shall be sold in such manner, at such price and at such rate or rates of interest as the metropolitan council shall deem to be for the best interests of the metropolitan municipal corporation, either at public or private sale.

The metropolitan council may at the time of the issuance of such revenue bonds make such covenants with the owners of said bonds as it may deem necessary to secure and guarantee the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon, including but not being limited to covenants to set aside adequate reserves to secure or guarantee the payment of such principal and interest, to maintain rates sufficient to pay such principal and interest and to maintain adequate coverage over debt service, to appoint a trustee or trustees for the bond owners to safeguard the expenditure of the proceeds of sale of such bonds and to fix the powers and duties of such trustee or trustees and to make such other covenants as the metropolitan council may deem necessary to accomplish the most advantageous sale of such bonds. The metropolitan council may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source may later be issued on a parity with revenue bonds being issued and sold.

The metropolitan council may include in the principal amount of any such revenue bond issue an amount to establish necessary reserves, an amount for working capital and an amount necessary for interest during the period of construction of any such metropolitan facilities plus six months. The metropolitan council may, if it deems it to be in the best interest of the metropolitan municipal corporation, provide in any contract for the construction or acquisition of any metropolitan facilities or additions or improvements thereto or replacements or extensions thereof that payment therefor shall be made only in such revenue bonds at the par value thereof.

If the metropolitan municipal corporation shall fail to carry out or perform any of its obligations or covenants made in the authorization, issuance and sale of such bonds, the owner of any such bond may bring action against the metropolitan municipal corporation and compel the performance of any or all of such covenants.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2009 c 549 s 2110; 1993 c 240 s 14; 1983 c 167 s 48; 1974 ex.s. c 70 s 8; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 39; 1970 ex.s. c 11 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 255 s 18; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 17; 1967 c 105 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.460. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 46.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds: RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.*

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount: RCW 39.44.140.*

**RCW 35.58.470 Funding, refunding bonds.** The metropolitan council may, by resolution, without submitting the matter to the voters of the metropolitan municipal corporation, provide for the issuance of funding or refunding general obligation bonds to refund any outstanding general obligation bonds or any part thereof at maturity, or before maturity if they are by their terms or by other agreement subject to prior redemption, with the right in the metropolitan council to combine various series and issues of the outstanding bonds by a single issue of funding or refunding bonds, and to issue refunding bonds to pay any redemption premium payable on the outstanding bonds being refunded. The funding or refunding general obligation bonds shall, except as specifically provided in this section, be issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter with respect to general obligation bonds.

The metropolitan council may, by resolution, without submitting the matter to the voters of the metropolitan municipal corporation, provide for the issuance of funding or refunding revenue bonds to refund any outstanding revenue bonds or any part thereof at maturity, or before maturity if they are by their terms or by agreement subject to prior redemption, with the right in the metropolitan council to combine various series and issues of the outstanding bonds by a single issue of refunding bonds, and to issue refunding bonds to pay any redemption premium payable on the outstanding bonds being refunded. The funding or refunding revenue bonds shall be payable only out of a special fund created out of the gross revenue of the particular utility, and shall be a valid claim only as against such special fund and the amount of the revenue of the utility pledged to the fund. The funding or refunding revenue bonds shall, except as specifically provided in this section, be issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter with respect to revenue bonds.

The metropolitan council may exchange the funding or refunding bonds at par for the bonds which are being funded or refunded, or it may sell them in such manner, at such price and at such rate or rates of interest as it deems for the best interest of the metropolitan municipal corporation. [1970 ex.s. c 56 s 40; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 18; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.470. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 47.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 35.58.480 Borrowing money from component city or county.** A metropolitan municipal corporation shall have the power when authorized by a majority of all members of the metropolitan council to borrow money from any component city or county and such cities or counties are hereby authorized to make such loans or advances on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon by the legislative bodies of the metropolitan municipal corporation and any such component city or county to provide funds to carry out the purposes of the metropolitan municipal corporation. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.480. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 48.]

**RCW 35.58.490 Interest bearing warrants.** A metropolitan council shall have the power to authorize the issuance of interest bearing warrants on such terms and conditions as the metropolitan council shall provide and to repay the interest bearing warrants with any moneys legally authorized for such purposes, including tax receipts where appropriate. [1993 c 240 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.490. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 49.]

**RCW 35.58.500 Local improvement districts—Utility local improvement districts.** The metropolitan municipal corporation shall have the power to levy special assessments payable over a period of not exceeding twenty years on all property within the metropolitan area specially benefited by any improvement, on the basis of special benefits conferred, to pay in whole, or in part, the damages or costs of any such improvement, and for such purpose may establish local improvement districts and enlarged local improvement districts, issue local improvement warrants and bonds to be repaid by the collection of local improvement assessments and generally to exercise with respect to any improvements which it may be authorized to construct or acquire the same powers as may now or hereafter be conferred by law upon cities. Such local improvement districts shall be created and such special assessments levied and collected and local improvement warrants and bonds issued and sold in the same manner as shall now or hereafter be provided by law for cities. The duties imposed upon the city treasurer under such acts shall be imposed upon the treasurer of the county in which such local improvement district shall be located.

A metropolitan municipal corporation may provide that special benefit assessments levied in any local improvement district may be paid into such revenue bond redemption fund or funds as may be designated by the metropolitan council to secure the payment of revenue bonds issued to provide funds to pay the cost of improvements for which such assessments were levied. If local improvement district assessments shall be levied for payment into a revenue bond fund, the local improvement district created therefor shall be designated a utility local improvement district. A metropolitan municipal corporation that creates a utility local improvement district shall conform with the laws relating to utility local improvement districts created by a city. [1993 c 240 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.500. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 50.]

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

**RCW 35.58.510 Obligations of corporation are legal investments and security for public deposits.** All banks, trust companies, bankers, savings banks, and institutions, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, investment companies and other persons carrying on a banking or investment business, all insurance companies, insurance associations, and other persons carrying on an insurance business, and all executors, administrators, curators, trustees and other fiduciaries, may legally invest any sinking funds, moneys, or other funds belonging to them or within their control in any bonds or other obligations issued by a metropolitan municipal corporation pursuant to this chapter. Such bonds and other obligations shall be authorized security for all public deposits. It is the purpose of this section to authorize any persons, political subdivisions and officers, public or private, to use any funds owned or controlled by them for the purchase of any such bonds or other obligations. Nothing contained in this section with regard to legal investments shall be construed as relieving any person of any duty of exercising reasonable care in selecting securities. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.510. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 51.]

**RCW 35.58.520 Investment of corporate funds.** A metropolitan municipal corporation shall have the power to invest its funds held in reserves or sinking funds or any such funds which are not required for immediate disbursement, in any investments in which a city is authorized to invest, as provided in RCW 35.39.030. [1993 c 240 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.520. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 52.]

**RCW 35.58.530 Annexation—Requirements, procedure.** Territory located within a component county that is annexed to a component city after the establishment of a metropolitan municipal corporation shall by such act be annexed to the metropolitan municipal corporation. Territory within a metropolitan municipal corporation may be annexed to a city which is not within such metropolitan municipal corporation in the manner provided by law and in such event either (1) such city may be annexed to such metropolitan municipal corporation by ordinance of the legislative body of the city concurred in by resolution of the metropolitan council, or (2) if such city shall not be so annexed such territory shall remain within the metropolitan municipal corporation unless such city shall by resolution of its legislative body request the withdrawal of such territory subject to any outstanding indebtedness of the metropolitan corporation and the metropolitan council shall by resolution consent to such withdrawal.

Any territory located within a component county that is contiguous to a metropolitan municipal corporation and lying wholly within an incorporated city or town may be annexed to such metropolitan municipal corporation by ordinance of the legislative body of such city or town requesting such annexation concurred in by resolution of the metropolitan council.

Any other territory located within a component county that is adjacent to a metropolitan municipal corporation may be annexed

thereto by vote of the qualified electors residing in the territory to be annexed, in the manner provided in this chapter. An election to annex such territory may be called pursuant to a petition or resolution in the following manner:

(1) A petition calling for such an election shall be signed by at least four percent of the qualified voters residing within the territory to be annexed and shall be filed with the auditor of the central county.

(2) A resolution calling for such an election may be adopted by the metropolitan council.

Any resolution or petition calling for such an election shall describe the boundaries of the territory to be annexed, and state that the annexation of such territory to the metropolitan municipal corporation will be conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons or property within the metropolitan municipal corporation and within the territory proposed to be annexed.

Upon receipt of such a petition, the auditor shall examine the same and certify to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon. Within thirty days following the receipt of such petition, the auditor shall transmit the same to the metropolitan council, together with his or her certificate as to the sufficiency thereof. [2009 c 549 s 2111; 1993 c 240 s 18; 1969 ex.s. c 135 s 3; 1967 c 105 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.58.530. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 53.]

**RCW 35.58.540 Annexation—Hearings—Inclusion, exclusion of territory—Boundaries—Calling election.** Upon receipt of a duly certified petition calling for an election on the annexation of territory to a metropolitan municipal corporation, or if the metropolitan council shall determine without a petition being filed, that an election on the annexation of any adjacent territory shall be held, the metropolitan council shall fix a date for a public hearing thereon which shall be not more than sixty nor less than forty days following the receipt of such petition or adoption of such resolution. Notice of such hearing shall be published once a week for at least four consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory proposed to be annexed. The notice shall contain a description of the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed and shall state the time and place of the hearing thereon and the fact that any changes in the boundaries of such territory will be considered at such time and place. At such hearing or any continuation thereof, any interested person may appear and be heard on all matters relating to the proposed annexation. The metropolitan council may make such changes in the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed as it shall deem reasonable and proper, but may not delete any portion of the proposed area which will create an island of included or excluded lands and may not delete a portion of any city. If the metropolitan council shall determine that any additional territory should be included in the territory to be annexed, a second hearing shall be held and notice given in the same manner as for the original hearing. The metropolitan council may adjourn the hearing on the proposed annexation from time to time not exceeding thirty days in all. At the next regular meeting following the conclusion of such hearing, the metropolitan council shall, if it finds that the annexation of such territory will be conducive to the welfare and benefit of the persons and property therein and the

welfare and benefit of the persons and property within the metropolitan municipal corporation, adopt a resolution fixing the boundaries of the territory to be annexed and causing to be called a special election on such annexation to be held not more than one hundred twenty days nor less than sixty days following the adoption of such resolution. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.540. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 54.]

**RCW 35.58.550 Annexation—Election—Favorable vote.** An election on the annexation of territory to a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be conducted and canvassed in the same manner as provided for the conduct of an election on the formation of a metropolitan municipal corporation except that notice of such election shall be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the territory proposed to be annexed and the ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

ANNEXATION TO (here insert name of metropolitan municipal corporation).

"Shall the territory described in a resolution of the metropolitan council of (here insert name of metropolitan municipal corporation) adopted on the . . . . ., 19. . ., be annexed to such incorporation?"

YES.....   
NO.....

If a majority of those voting on such proposition vote in favor thereof, the territory shall thereupon be annexed to the metropolitan municipal corporation. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.550. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 55.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

**RCW 35.58.560 Taxes—Counties or cities not to impose on certain operations—Credits or offsets against state taxes—Refund of motor vehicle fuel taxes paid.** No county or city shall have the right to impose a tax upon the gross revenues derived by a metropolitan municipal corporation from the operation of a metropolitan sewage disposal, water supply, garbage disposal or public transportation system.

A metropolitan municipal corporation may credit or offset against the amount of any tax which is levied by the state during any calendar year upon the gross revenues derived by such metropolitan municipal corporation from the performance of any authorized function, the amount of any expenditures made from such gross revenues by such metropolitan municipal corporation during the same calendar year or any year prior to May 21, 1971 in planning for or performing the function of metropolitan public transportation and including interest on any moneys advanced for such purpose from other funds and to the extent of such credit a metropolitan municipal corporation may expend such revenues for such purposes.

A metropolitan municipal corporation authorized to perform the function of metropolitan public transportation and engaged in the

operation of an urban passenger transportation system shall receive a refund of the amount of the motor vehicle fuel tax levied by the state and paid on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel used, whether such vehicle fuel tax has been paid either directly to the vendor from whom the motor vehicle fuel was purchased or indirectly by adding the amount of such tax to the price of such fuel: PROVIDED, That no refunds authorized by this section shall be granted on fuel used by any urban transportation vehicle on any trip where any portion of said trip is more than six road miles beyond the corporate limits of the metropolitan municipal corporation in which said trip originated. [1971 ex.s. c 303 s 10; 1967 c 105 s 16.]

**RCW 35.58.570 Sewage facilities—Capacity charge.** (1) A metropolitan municipal corporation that is engaged in the transmission, treatment, and disposal of sewage may impose a capacity charge on users of the metropolitan municipal corporation's sewage facilities when the user connects, reconnects, or establishes a new service to sewer facilities of a city, county, or special district that discharges into the metropolitan facilities. The capacity charge shall be based upon the cost of the sewage facilities' excess capacity that is necessary to provide sewerage treatment for new users to the system.

(2) The capacity charge is a monthly charge reviewed and approved annually by the metropolitan council. A metropolitan municipal corporation may charge property owners seeking to connect to the sewage facilities of the metropolitan municipal corporation as a condition to granting the right to so connect, in addition to the cost of such connection, such reasonable capacity charge as the legislative body of the metropolitan municipal corporation shall determine proper in order that such property owners shall bear their equitable share of the cost of such system. The equitable share may include interest charges applied from the date of construction of the sewage facilities until the connection, or for a period not to exceed ten years, at a rate commensurate with the rate of interest applicable to the metropolitan municipal corporation at the time of construction or major rehabilitation of the sewage facilities, or at the time of installation of the sewer lines to which the property owner is seeking to connect but not to exceed ten percent per year: PROVIDED, That the aggregate amount of interest shall not exceed the equitable share of the cost of the sewage facilities allocated to such property owners. Capacity charges collected shall be considered revenue of the sewage facilities.

(3) The council of the metropolitan municipal corporation shall enforce the collection of the capacity charge in the same manner provided for the collection, enforcement, and payment of rates and charges for water-sewer districts provided in RCW 57.08.081. At least thirty days before commencement of an action to foreclose a lien for a capacity charge, the metropolitan municipal corporation shall send written notice of delinquency in payment of the capacity charge to any first mortgage or deed of trust holder of record at the address of record. [2000 c 161 s 1; 1996 c 230 s 1602; 1989 c 389 s 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**RCW 35.58.580 Public transportation fares—Proof of payment—Civil infractions.** (1) Persons traveling on public transportation operated by a metropolitan municipal corporation or a city-owned transit system shall pay the fare established by the metropolitan municipal corporation or the city-owned transit system and shall produce proof of payment in accordance with the terms of use established by the metropolitan municipal corporation or the city-owned transit system. Such persons shall produce proof of payment when requested by a person designated to monitor fare payment. The required manner of producing proof of payment specified in the terms of use established by the metropolitan municipal corporation or the city-owned transit system may include, but is not limited to, requiring a person using an electronic fare payment card to validate the card by presenting the card to an electronic card reader before or upon entering a public transportation vehicle or a restricted fare paid area.

(2) The following constitute civil infractions punishable according to the schedule of fines and penalties established by a metropolitan municipal corporation or a city-owned transit system under RCW 35.58.585:

(a) Failure to pay the required fare, except when a metropolitan municipal corporation or a city-owned transit system under RCW 35.58.585 fails to meet the requirements of subsection (3) of this section;

(b) Failure to produce proof of payment in the manner required by the terms of use established by the metropolitan municipal corporation or the city-owned transit system including, but not limited to, the failure to produce a validated fare payment card when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment; and

(c) Failure to depart the bus or other mode of public transportation when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment.

(3) If fare payment is required before entering a transit vehicle, as defined in RCW 9.91.025(2)(b), or before entering a fare paid area in a transit facility, as defined in RCW 9.91.025(2)(a), signage must be conspicuously posted at the place of boarding or within ten feet of the nearest entrance to a transit facility that clearly indicates: (a) The locations where tickets or fare media may be purchased; and (b) that a person using an electronic fare payment card must present the card to an electronic card reader before entering a transit vehicle or before entering a restricted fare paid area. [2012 c 68 s 1; 2008 c 123 s 1.]

**RCW 35.58.585 Public transportation fares—Schedule of fines and penalties—Who may monitor fare payment—Administration of citations.**

(1) Both a metropolitan municipal corporation and a city-owned transit system may establish, by resolution, a schedule of fines and penalties for civil infractions established in RCW 35.58.580. Fines established shall not exceed those imposed for class 1 infractions under RCW 7.80.120.

(2) (a) Both a metropolitan municipal corporation and a city-owned transit system may designate persons to monitor fare payment who are equivalent to, and are authorized to exercise all the powers of, an enforcement officer as defined in RCW 7.80.040. Both a metropolitan municipal corporation and a city-owned transit system may employ



personnel to either monitor fare payment or contract for such services, or both.

(b) In addition to the specific powers granted to enforcement officers under RCW 7.80.050 and 7.80.060, persons designated to monitor fare payment may also take the following actions:

(i) Request proof of payment from passengers;

(ii) Request personal identification from a passenger who does not produce proof of payment when requested;

(iii) Issue a citation for a civil infraction established in RCW 35.58.580 conforming to the requirements established in RCW 7.80.070, except that the form for the notice of civil infraction must be approved by the administrative office of the courts and must not include vehicle information; and

(iv) Request that a passenger leave the bus or other mode of public transportation when the passenger has not produced proof of payment after being asked to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment.

(3) Both a metropolitan municipal corporation and a city-owned transit system shall keep records of citations in the manner prescribed by RCW 7.80.150. All civil infractions established by this section and RCW 35.58.580 and 35.58.590 shall be heard and determined by a district court as provided in RCW 7.80.010 (1) and (4). [2016 c 95 s 10; 2008 c 123 s 2.]

**Intent—2016 c 95:** See note following RCW 36.62.252.

**RCW 35.58.590 Public transportation fares—Powers of law enforcement authorities.** RCW 35.58.580 and 35.58.585 do not prevent law enforcement authorities from prosecuting for theft, trespass, or other charges by any individual who:

(1) Fails to pay the required fare on more than one occasion within a twelve-month period;

(2) Fails to timely select one of the options for responding to the notice of civil infraction after receiving a statement of the options for responding to the notice of infraction and the procedures necessary to exercise these options; or

(3) Fails to depart the bus or other mode of public transportation when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment. [2008 c 123 s 3.]

**RCW 35.58.595 Public transportation fares—Powers and authority are supplemental to other laws.** The powers and authority conferred by RCW 35.58.580 through 35.58.590 shall be construed as in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law, and nothing contained therein shall be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of any public agency. [2008 c 123 s 4.]

**RCW 35.58.600 Collaboration with local coordinating coalitions to advance transportation services for persons with special transportation needs.** A municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, and each regional transit authority shall work collaboratively with the appropriate local coordinating coalition or coalitions as described under \*RCW 47.06B.070 to advance the coordination of and

maximize efficiencies in transportation services provided to persons with special transportation needs as defined in \*RCW 47.06B.012. [2009 c 515 s 13.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 47.06B.070 and 47.06B.012 were repealed by 2011 c 60 s 51.

**RCW 35.58.610 Supplemental transportation improvements.** If the legislative authority of a city provides or contracts for supplemental transportation improvements, as described in RCW 35.21.925 or under chapter 36.73 RCW, a metropolitan municipal corporation serving the city or border jurisdictions shall coordinate its services with the supplemental transportation improvements to maximize efficiencies in public transportation services within and across service boundaries. [2010 c 251 s 4.]

**RCW 35.58.900 Liberal construction.** The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this chapter, but the same shall be liberally construed in all respects in order to carry out the purposes and objects for which this chapter is intended. [1965 c 7 s 35.58.900. Prior: 1957 c 213 s 56.]

**RCW 35.58.911 Prior proceedings validated, ratified, approved and confirmed.** All proceedings which have been taken prior to the date \*this 1967 amendatory act takes effect for the purpose of financing or aiding in the financing of any work, undertaking or project by any metropolitan municipal corporation, including all proceedings for the authorization and issuance of bonds and for the sale, execution, and delivery thereof, are hereby validated, ratified, approved, and confirmed, notwithstanding any lack of power (other than constitutional) of such metropolitan municipal corporation or the governing body or officers thereof, to authorize and issue such bonds, or to sell, execute, or deliver the same and notwithstanding any defects or irregularities (other than constitutional) in such proceedings. [1967 c 105 s 17.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The effective date of "this 1967 amendatory act" [1967 c 105] is March 21, 1967; see preface to 1967 session laws. For codification of 1967 c 105, see Codification Tables.

**Chapter 35.59 RCW**  
**MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTERS**

**Sections**

- 35.59.010 Definitions.
- 35.59.020 Legislative finding—Purposes for which authority granted may be exercised.
- 35.59.030 Acquisition, construction, operation, etc., of community centers authorized.
- 35.59.040 Conveyance or lease of lands or facilities to other municipality for community center development—Participation in financing.
- 35.59.050 Powers of condemnation.
- 35.59.060 Appropriation and expenditure of public moneys, issuance of general obligation bonds authorized—Procedure.
- 35.59.070 Revenue bonds.
- 35.59.080 Lease or contract for use or operation of facilities.
- 35.59.090 Counties authorized to establish community centers.
- 35.59.100 Prior proceedings validated and ratified.
- 35.59.110 Powers and authority conferred deemed additional and supplemental.

**RCW 35.59.010 Definitions.** "Municipality" as used in this chapter means any county, city or town of the state of Washington.

"Government agency" as used in this chapter means the federal government or any agency thereof, or the state or any agency, subdivision, taxing district or municipal corporation thereof other than a county, city or town.

"Person" as used in this chapter means any private corporation, partnership, association or individual.

"Multi-purpose community center" as used in this chapter means the lands, interests in lands, property, property rights, equipment, buildings, structures and other improvements developed as an integrated, multi-purpose, public facility on a single site or immediately adjacent sites for the housing and furnishing of any combination of the following community or public services or facilities: Administrative, legislative or judicial offices and chambers of any municipality, public health facilities, public safety facilities including without limitation, adult and juvenile detention facilities, fire and police stations, public halls, auditoria, libraries and museums, public facilities for the teaching, practice or exhibition of arts and crafts, educational facilities, playfields, playgrounds, parks, indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities. The term multi-purpose community center shall also mean and include walks, ramps, bridges, terminal and parking facilities for private vehicles and public transportation vehicles and systems, utilities, accessories, landscaping, and appurtenances incident to and necessary for such centers. [1967 c 110 s 1.]

**Effective date—1967 c 110:** "This act shall take effect on June 9, 1967." [1967 c 110 s 13.]

**RCW 35.59.020 Legislative finding—Purposes for which authority granted may be exercised.** The legislature finds that in many areas of

the state local services and facilities can be more effectively and economically provided by combining two or more services and/or facilities in a single multi-purpose community center or a system of such centers. Any municipality shall have and exercise the authority and powers granted by this chapter whenever it appears to the legislative body of such municipality that the acquisition, construction, development and operation of a multi-purpose community center or a system of such centers will accomplish one or more of the following: Reduce costs of land acquisition, construction, maintenance or operation for affected public services or facilities; avoid duplication of structures, facilities or personnel; improve communication and coordination between departments of a municipality or governmental agency or between municipalities and governmental agencies; make local public services or facilities more convenient or useful to the residents and citizens of such municipality. [1967 c 110 s 2.]

**RCW 35.59.030 Acquisition, construction, operation, etc., of community centers authorized.** Any municipality is authorized either individually or jointly with any other municipality or municipalities or any governmental agency or agencies, or any combination thereof, to acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift or grant, to lease as lessee, and to construct, install, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate and regulate the use of multi-purpose community centers located within such municipality, and to pay for any investigations and any engineering, planning, financial, legal and professional services incident to the development and operation of such multi-purpose community centers. [1967 c 110 s 3.]

**RCW 35.59.040 Conveyance or lease of lands or facilities to other municipality for community center development—Participation in financing.** Any municipality, and any agency, subdivision, taxing district or municipal corporation of the state is authorized to convey or lease any lands, properties or facilities to any other municipality for the development by such other municipality of a multi-purpose community center or a system of such centers or to provide for the joint use of such lands, properties or facilities or any other facilities of a multi-purpose community center, and is authorized to participate in the financing of all or any part of such multi-purpose community center or system of such centers on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the respective legislative bodies without submitting the matter to a vote of the electors thereof, unless the provisions of the Constitution or laws of this state applicable to the incurring of indebtedness shall require such submission. [1967 c 110 s 4.]

*Joint operations by municipal corporations, deposit and control of funds: RCW 43.09.285.*

**RCW 35.59.050 Powers of condemnation.** The accomplishment of the objectives authorized by this chapter is declared to be a strictly public purpose of the municipality or municipalities authorized to perform the same. Any such municipality shall have the power to

acquire by condemnation and purchase any lands and property rights within its boundaries which are necessary to carry out the purposes authorized by this chapter. Such right of eminent domain shall be exercised by the legislative body of each such municipality in the manner provided by applicable general law. [1967 c 110 s 5.]

**RCW 35.59.060 Appropriation and expenditure of public moneys, issuance of general obligation bonds authorized—Procedure.** To carry out the purposes of this chapter any municipality shall have the power to appropriate and/or expend any public moneys available therefor and to issue general obligation bonds within the limitations now or hereafter prescribed by the Constitution and laws of this state. Such general obligation bonds shall be issued and sold as provided in chapter 39.46 RCW. If the governing body of any municipality shall submit a proposition for the approval of general obligation bonds at any general or special election and shall declare in the ordinance or resolution setting forth such proposition that its purpose is the creation of a single integrated multi-purpose community center or a citywide or countywide system of such centers, all pursuant to this chapter, and that the creation of such center or system of centers constitutes a single purpose, such declaration shall be presumed to be correct and, upon the issuance of the bonds, such presumption shall become conclusive. Any such election shall be held pursuant to RCW 39.36.050. [1984 c 186 s 19; 1983 c 167 s 49; 1967 c 110 s 6.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.59.070 Revenue bonds.** (1) To carry out the purposes authorized by this chapter the legislative body of any municipality shall have the power to issue revenue bonds, and to create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such bonds into which fund or funds the legislative body may obligate the municipality to pay all or part of the revenues derived from any one or more facilities or properties which will form part of the multi-purpose community center. The provisions of chapter 35.41 RCW not inconsistent with this chapter shall apply to the issuance and retirement of any revenue bonds issued for the purposes authorized in this chapter and for such purposes any municipality shall have and may exercise the powers, duties, and functions incident thereto held by cities and towns under such chapter 35.41 RCW. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The legislative body of any municipality may fix the denominations of such bonds in any amount and the manner of executing such bonds, and may take such action as may be necessary and incidental to the issuance of such bonds and the retirement thereof.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 50; 1967 c 110 s 7.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.59.080 Lease or contract for use or operation of facilities.** The legislative body of any municipality owning or operating a multi-purpose community center acquired or developed pursuant to this chapter shall have power to lease to any municipality, governmental agency or person, or to contract for the use or operation by any municipality, governmental agency or person, of all or any part of the multi-purpose community center facilities authorized by this chapter, for such period and under such terms and conditions and upon such rentals, fees and charges as such legislative body may determine, and may pledge all or any portion of such rentals, fees and charges and any other revenue derived from the ownership and/or operation of any facilities of a multi-purpose community center to pay and to secure the payment of general obligation bonds and/or revenue bonds of such municipality issued for multi-purpose community center purposes. [1967 c 110 s 8.]

**RCW 35.59.090 Counties authorized to establish community centers.** Counties may establish multi-purpose community centers, pursuant to this chapter, in unincorporated areas and/or within cities or towns: PROVIDED, That no such center shall be located in any city or town without the prior consent of the legislative body of such city or town. [1967 c 110 s 9.]

**RCW 35.59.100 Prior proceedings validated and ratified.** All proceedings which have been taken prior to the date this chapter takes effect for the purpose of financing or aiding in the financing of any work, undertaking or project authorized in this chapter by any municipality, including all proceedings for the authorization and issuance of bonds and for the sale, execution and delivery thereof, are hereby validated, ratified, approved and confirmed, notwithstanding any lack of power (other than constitutional) of such municipality or the legislative body or officers thereof to authorize and issue such bonds, or to sell, execute, or deliver the same and notwithstanding any defects or irregularities (other than constitutional) in such proceedings. [1967 c 110 s 10.]

**RCW 35.59.110 Powers and authority conferred deemed additional and supplemental.** The powers and authority conferred upon municipalities under the provisions of this chapter, shall be construed as in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of such municipalities. [1967 c 110 s 11.]

**Chapter 35.60 RCW**  
**WORLD FAIRS OR EXPOSITIONS—PARTICIPATION BY MUNICIPALITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.60.010 "Municipality" defined.
- 35.60.020 Participation, exercise of powers declared public purpose and necessity.
- 35.60.030 Participation authorized—Powers—Costs.
- 35.60.040 Bonds—Laws applicable to authorization and issuance.
- 35.60.050 Authorization to appropriate funds and levy taxes.
- 35.60.060 Cooperation between municipalities—Use of facilities after conclusion of fair or exposition—Intergovernmental disposition of property.
- 35.60.070 Chapter supplemental to other laws.

**RCW 35.60.010 "Municipality" defined.** "Municipality" as used in this chapter, means any political subdivision or municipal corporation of the state. [1965 c 7 s 35.60.010. Prior: 1961 c 149 s 1; prior: 1961 c 39 s 1.]

**RCW 35.60.020 Participation, exercise of powers declared public purpose and necessity.** The participation of any municipality in any world fair or exposition, whether held within the boundaries of such municipality or within the boundaries of another municipality; the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of necessary lands therefor; the acquisition, lease, construction, improvements, maintenance, and equipping of buildings or other structures upon such lands or other lands; the operation and maintenance necessary for such participation, and the exercise of any other powers herein granted to such municipalities, are hereby declared to be public, governmental, county and municipal functions, exercised for a public purpose, and matters of public necessity, and such lands and other property acquired, constructed, improved, maintained, equipped, used, and disposed of by such municipalities in the manner and for the purposes enumerated in this chapter shall and are hereby declared to be acquired, constructed, improved, maintained, equipped, used, and disposed of for public, governmental, county, and municipal purposes and as a matter of public necessity. [1965 c 7 s 35.60.020. Prior: 1961 c 149 s 2; prior: 1961 c 39 s 2.]

**RCW 35.60.030 Participation authorized—Powers—Costs.** Municipalities are authorized to participate in any world fair or exposition to be held within the state by the state or any political subdivision or municipal corporation thereof, whether held within the boundaries of such municipality or within the boundaries of another municipality. Any municipality so participating is authorized, through its governing authorities, to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire property, real or personal; to construct, improve, maintain and equip buildings or other structures; and expend moneys for investigations, planning, operations, and maintenance necessary for such participation.

The cost of any such acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, equipping, investigations, planning, operation, or

maintenance necessary for such participation may be paid for by appropriation of moneys available therefor, gifts, or wholly or partly from the proceeds of bonds of the municipality, as the governing authority of the municipality may determine. [1965 c 7 s 35.60.030. Prior: 1961 c 149 s 3; prior: 1961 c 39 s 3.]

**RCW 35.60.040 Bonds—Laws applicable to authorization and issuance.** Any bonds to be issued by any municipality pursuant to the provisions of RCW 35.60.030, shall be authorized and issued in the manner and within the limitations prescribed by the Constitution and laws of this state or charter of the municipality for the issuance and authorization of bonds thereof for public purposes generally and secured by a general tax levy as provided by law. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 s 20; 1983 c 167 s 51; 1965 c 7 s 35.60.040. Prior: 1961 c 149 s 4; prior: 1961 c 39 s 4.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.60.050 Authorization to appropriate funds and levy taxes.** The governing bodies having power to appropriate moneys within such municipalities for the purpose of purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring property, constructing, improving, maintaining, and equipping buildings or other structures, and the investigations, planning, operation or maintenance necessary to participation in any such world fair or exposition, are hereby authorized to appropriate and cause to be raised by taxation or otherwise in such municipalities, moneys sufficient to carry out such purpose. [1965 c 7 s 35.60.050. Prior: 1961 c 149 s 5; prior: 1961 c 39 s 5.]

**RCW 35.60.060 Cooperation between municipalities—Use of facilities after conclusion of fair or exposition—Intergovernmental disposition of property.** In any case where the participation of a municipality includes the construction of buildings or other structures on lands of another municipality, the governing authorities constructing such buildings or structures shall endeavor to cooperate with such other municipality for the construction and maintenance of such buildings or structures to a standard of health and safety common in the county where the world fair or exposition is being or will be held; and shall cooperate with such other municipality in any comprehensive plans it may promulgate for the general construction and maintenance of said world fair or exposition and utilization of the grounds and buildings or structures after the conclusion of such world fair or exposition to the end that a reasonable, economic use of said buildings or structures shall be returned for the life of said buildings or structures.

The governing authorities of any municipality are hereby authorized and empowered to sell, exchange, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of any property, real or personal, acquired or constructed for the purpose of participation in such fair or



exposition, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 39.33.010. [1965 c 7 s 35.60.060. Prior: 1961 c 149 s 6; prior: 1961 c 39 s 6.]

**RCW 35.60.070 Chapter supplemental to other laws.** The powers and authority conferred upon municipalities under the provisions of this chapter, shall be construed as in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of such municipalities. [1965 c 7 s 35.60.070. Prior: 1961 c 149 s 7; prior: 1961 c 39 s 7.]

**Chapter 35.61 RCW**  
**METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICTS**

**Sections**

- 35.61.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 35.61.010 Creation—Territory included.
- 35.61.020 Election—Resolution or petition—Area—Limitations.
- 35.61.030 Election—Review by boundary review board—Question stated.
- 35.61.040 Election—Creation of district—Bridge loan, line of credit.
- 35.61.050 Composition of board—Election of commissioners—Terms—Vacancies.
- 35.61.090 Elections—Laws governing.
- 35.61.100 Indebtedness limit—Without popular vote.
- 35.61.110 Indebtedness limit—With popular vote.
- 35.61.115 Revenue bonds.
- 35.61.120 Park commissioners as officers of district—Organization.
- 35.61.130 Eminent domain—Park commissioners' authority, generally—Prospective staff screening.
- 35.61.132 Disposition of surplus property.
- 35.61.133 Executory conditional sales contracts for purchase of property—Limit on indebtedness—Election, when.
- 35.61.135 Contracts—Competitive bidding—Small works roster—Exemption.
- 35.61.137 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.
- 35.61.140 Park commissioners—Civil service for employees.
- 35.61.150 Park commissioners—Compensation.
- 35.61.180 Designation of district treasurer.
- 35.61.190 Park district bonds—Retirement.
- 35.61.200 Park district bonds—Payment of interest.
- 35.61.210 Park district tax levy—Metropolitan park district fund.
- 35.61.220 Petition for improvements on assessment plan.
- 35.61.230 Objections—Appeal.
- 35.61.240 Assessment lien—Collection.
- 35.61.250 Territorial annexation—Authority—Petition.
- 35.61.260 Territorial annexation—Hearing on petition.
- 35.61.270 Territorial annexation—Election—Method.
- 35.61.275 Territorial annexation—Park district containing city with population over one hundred thousand—Assumption of indebtedness.
- 35.61.280 Territorial annexation—Election—Result.
- 35.61.290 Transfer of property by city, county, or other municipal corporation—Emergency grant or loan of funds by city.
- 35.61.300 Transfer of property by city, county, or other municipal corporation—Assumption of indebtedness—Issuance of refunding bonds.
- 35.61.310 Dissolution.
- 35.61.315 Disincorporation of district located in county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and inactive for five years.
- 35.61.350 Moorage facilities—Regulations authorized—Port charges, delinquency—Abandoned vessels, public sale.
- 35.61.360 Withdrawal or reannexation of areas.

- 35.61.365 Withdrawal or reannexation by a city, town, or county—  
Authority—Procedure.
- 35.61.370 Park district containing city with population over one  
hundred thousand—May commission police officers.
- 35.61.380 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination  
prohibited.

*Acquisition of*

*land for and operation of public parks, beaches or camps:*  
RCW 67.20.010.  
*real or personal property for park purposes, conditional  
sales contracts:* RCW 39.30.010.

*Appeal of assessments and reassessments:* RCW 35.44.200 through  
35.44.270.

*Contracts with community service organizations for public  
improvements:* RCW 35.21.278.

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2  
(Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW,  
RCW 84.52.050.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc.,  
review by boundary review board:* Chapter 36.93 RCW.

*Metropolitan park district property subject to assessment:* RCW  
35.44.170.

*Park and recreation districts:* Chapter 36.69 RCW.

*Public bonds, form, terms of sale, payment, etc.:* Chapter 39.44 RCW.

*Shorelands, parks or playgrounds, application, grant or exchange:* RCW  
79.125.710, 79.125.720.

**RCW 35.61.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** The creation of a metropolitan park district, and an annexation by, or dissolution or disincorporation of, a metropolitan park district may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 31.]

**RCW 35.61.010 Creation—Territory included.** A metropolitan park district may be created for the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities. A metropolitan park district may include territory located in portions or all of one or more cities or counties, or one or more cities and counties, when created or enlarged as provided in this chapter. [2002 c 88 s 1; 1994 c 81 s 60; 1985 c 416 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.010. Prior: 1959 c 45 s 1; 1943 c 264 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-1; prior: 1907 c 98 s 1; RRS s 6720.]

**Validating—1943 c 264:** "Acts of Metropolitan Park District Commissioners, and of the officers, employees and agents of

Metropolitan Park Districts heretofore performed in good faith in accordance with the statutes which are hereby reenacted, are hereby validated, and all assessments, levies and collections and all proceedings to assess, levy and collect as well as all debts, contracts and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any Metropolitan Park District heretofore at any time existing and all bonds or other obligations thereof are hereby declared to be legal and valid and of full force and effect." [1943 c 264 s 23.]

**RCW 35.61.020 Election—Resolution or petition—Area—Limitations.** (1) When proposed by citizen petition or by local government resolution as provided in this section, a ballot proposition authorizing the creation of a metropolitan park district must be submitted by resolution to the voters of the area proposed to be included in the district at any general election, or at any special election which may be called for that purpose.

(2) The ballot proposition must be submitted if the governing body of each city in which all or a portion of the proposed district is located, and the legislative authority of each county in which all or a portion of the proposed district is located within the unincorporated portion of the county, each adopts a resolution submitting the proposition to create a metropolitan park district.

(3) As an alternative to the method provided under subsection (2) of this section, the ballot proposition must be submitted if a petition proposing creation of a metropolitan park district is submitted to the county auditor of each county in which all or a portion of the proposed district is located that is signed by at least fifteen percent of the registered voters residing in the area to be included within the proposed district. Where the petition is for creation of a district in more than one county, the petition must be filed with the county auditor of the county having the greater area of the proposed district, and a copy filed with each other county auditor of the other counties covering the proposed district.

(4) Territory by virtue of its annexation to any city whose territory lies entirely within a park district are deemed to be within the limits of the metropolitan park district. Such an extension of a park district's boundaries is not subject to review by a boundary review board independent of the board's review of the city annexation of territory.

(5) A city, county, or contiguous group of cities or counties proposing or approving a petition regarding formation of a metropolitan park district may limit the purpose and may limit the taxing powers of such proposed metropolitan park district in its resolution in cases where the metropolitan park district is being formed for specifically identified facilities referenced in (a) of this subsection. The ballot proposition must reflect such limitations as follows:

(a) A city, county, or contiguous group of cities or counties may limit the proposed district's purposes to providing the funds necessary to acquire, construct, renovate, expand, operate, maintain, and provide programming for specifically identified public parks or recreational facilities that are otherwise authorized by law for metropolitan park districts. The ballot proposition must specifically identify those public parks or recreational facilities to be funded, which identification may be made by referencing a metropolitan park

district plan that has been approved by the legislative authority of the city, county, or contiguous group of cities or counties proposing the formation of the district;

(b) A city, county, or contiguous group of cities or counties may limit the maximum levy rate that is available to such metropolitan park district to any levy rate that does not exceed the aggregate rate set forth under RCW 35.61.210(1). The ballot proposition must state the maximum regular levy rate.

(6) Nothing herein prevents a city, county, or contiguous group of cities or counties from proposing formation of a metropolitan park district that is not limited under subsection (5) of this section.

[2017 c 215 s 1; 2002 c 88 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.020. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-2, part; prior: 1909 c 131 s 1; 1907 c 98 s 2, part; RRS s 6721, part.]

**RCW 35.61.030 Election—Review by boundary review board—Question stated.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section for review by a boundary review board, the ballot proposition authorizing creation of a metropolitan park district that is submitted to voters for their approval or rejection shall appear on the ballot of the next general election or at the next special election date specified under RCW 29A.04.330 occurring sixty or more days after the last resolution proposing the creation of the park district is adopted or the date the county auditor certifies that the petition proposing the creation of the park district contains sufficient valid signatures. Where the petition or copy thereof is filed with two or more county auditors in the case of a proposed district in two or more counties, the county auditors shall confer and issue a joint certification upon finding that the required number of signatures on the petition has been obtained.

(2) Where the proposed district is located wholly or in part in a county in which a boundary review board has been created, notice of the proposal to create a metropolitan park district shall be filed with the boundary review board as provided under RCW 36.93.090 and the special election at which a ballot proposition authorizing creation of the park district shall be held on the special election date specified under RCW 29A.04.330 that is sixty or more days after the date the boundary review board is deemed to have approved the proposal, approves the proposal, or modifies and approves the proposal. The creation of a metropolitan park district is not subject to review by a boundary review board if the proposed district only includes one or more cities and in such cases the special election at which a ballot proposition authorizing creation of the park district shall be held as if a boundary review board does not exist in the county or counties.

(3) The petition proposing the creation of a metropolitan park district, or the resolution submitting the question to the voters, shall choose and describe the composition of the initial board of commissioners of the district that is proposed under RCW 35.61.050 and shall choose a name for the district. The proposition shall include the following terms:

"For the formation of a metropolitan park district to be governed by [insert board composition described in ballot proposition]."

"Against the formation of a metropolitan park district."

[2015 c 53 s 43; 2002 c 88 s 3; 1985 c 469 s 32; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.030. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-2, part; prior: 1909 c 131 s 1; 1907 c 98 s 2, part; RRS s 6721, part.]

**RCW 35.61.040 Election—Creation of district—Bridge loan, line of credit.** If a majority of the voters voting on the ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the metropolitan park district vote in favor of the formation of a metropolitan park district, the metropolitan park district must be created as a municipal corporation effective immediately upon certification of the election results and its name must be that designated in the ballot proposition. When an ex officio treasurer of a metropolitan park district is a city or county treasurer, the treasurer may provide a bridge loan or line of credit to the newly formed metropolitan park district until such time as the district has received sufficient levy proceeds to pay for the maintenance and operations of the metropolitan park district. [2017 c 215 s 6; 2002 c 88 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.040. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-3, part; prior: 1909 c 131 s 2; 1907 c 98 s 3, part; RRS s 6722, part.]

**RCW 35.61.050 Composition of board—Election of commissioners—Terms—Vacancies.** (1) The resolution or petition submitting the ballot proposition shall designate the composition of the board of metropolitan park commissioners from among the alternatives provided under subsections (2) through (4) of this section. The ballot proposition shall clearly describe the designated composition of the board.

(2) The commissioners of the district may be selected by election, in which case at the same election at which the proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether a metropolitan park district is to be formed, five park commissioners shall be elected. The election of park commissioners shall be null and void if the metropolitan park district is not created. Candidates shall run for specific commission positions. No primary shall be held to nominate candidates. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected as a commissioner. The staggering of the terms of office shall occur as follows: (a) The two persons who are elected receiving the two greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to six-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or five-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; (b) the two persons who are elected receiving the next two greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or three-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; and (c) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The initial commissioners shall take office immediately when they are elected and qualified, and for purposes of computing their terms of office the terms shall be assumed to commence on the first day of January in the year after they are elected. Thereafter, all commissioners shall be elected to six-year terms of office. All commissioners shall serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW

29A.60.280. Vacancies shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW.

(3) In a district wholly located within a city or within the unincorporated area of a county, the governing body of such city or legislative authority of such county may be designated to serve in an ex officio capacity as the board of metropolitan park commissioners, provided that when creation of the district is proposed by citizen petition, the city or county approves by resolution such designation.

(4) Where the proposed district is located within more than one city, more than one county, or any combination of cities and counties, each city governing body and county legislative authority may be designated to collectively serve ex officio as the board of metropolitan park commissioners through selection of one or more members from each to serve as the board, provided that when creation of the district is proposed by citizen petition, each city governing body and county legislative authority approve by resolution such designation. Within six months of the date of certification of election results approving creation of the district, the size and membership of the board shall be determined through interlocal agreement of each city and county. The interlocal agreement shall specify the method for filling vacancies on the board.

(5) Metropolitan park districts created by a vote of the people prior to June 13, 2002, may not change the composition and method of selection of their governing authority without approval of the voters. Should such a change be desired, the board of park commissioners shall submit a ballot proposition to the voters of the metropolitan park district. [2015 c 53 s 44; 2002 c 88 s 5; 1994 c 223 s 23; 1979 ex.s. c 126 s 24; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.050. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-3, part; prior: 1909 c 131 s 2; 1907 c 98 s 3, part; RRS s 6722, part.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**RCW 35.61.090 Elections—Laws governing.** The manner of holding any general or special election in a metropolitan park district shall be in accordance with the general election laws of this state insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. [1985 c 416 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.090. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-3, part; prior: 1909 c 131 s 2; 1907 c 98 s 3, part; RRS s 6722, part.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.61.100 Indebtedness limit—Without popular vote.** Every metropolitan park district through its board of commissioners may contract indebtedness and evidence such indebtedness by the issuance and sale of warrants, short-term obligations as provided by chapter 39.50 RCW, or general obligation bonds, for any purposes authorized for such metropolitan park district and the extension and maintenance thereof, not exceeding, together with all other outstanding nonvoter approved general indebtedness, one-quarter of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such metropolitan park district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. General obligation bonds may not be issued with a maximum term in

excess of the maximum term set forth in chapter 39.46 RCW. Such general obligation bonds must be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2017 c 215 s 2; 1993 c 247 s 1; 1989 c 319 s 2; 1984 c 186 s 21; 1983 c 61 s 1; 1970 ex.s. c 42 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.100. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 6; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-6; prior: 1927 c 268 s 1; 1907 c 98 s 6; RRS s 6725.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

**RCW 35.61.110 Indebtedness limit—With popular vote.** Every metropolitan park district may contract indebtedness not exceeding in amount, together with existing voter-approved indebtedness and nonvoter-approved indebtedness, equal to two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, whenever three-fifths of the voters voting at an election held in the metropolitan park district assent thereto; the election may be either a special or a general election, and the park commissioners of the metropolitan park district may cause the question of incurring such indebtedness, and issuing negotiable bonds of such metropolitan park district, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the district at any time. [1989 c 319 s 3; 1970 ex.s. c 42 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.110. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 7; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-7; prior: 1907 c 98 s 7; RRS s 6726.]

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

*Validation requirement: RCW 39.40.010.*

**RCW 35.61.115 Revenue bonds.** A metropolitan park district may issue and sell revenue bonds as provided in chapter 39.46 RCW to be made payable from the operating revenues of the metropolitan park district. [1989 c 319 s 1.]

**RCW 35.61.120 Park commissioners as officers of district—Organization.** (1) The officers of a metropolitan park district must be a board of park commissioners consisting of five members. The board must annually elect one of their number as president and another of their number as clerk of the board.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, when the boundaries of any metropolitan park district are coterminous with the boundaries of a city, and if the governing body of a city is designated to serve in an ex officio capacity as the board, the number of members of the board of park commissioners must be equal to the number of positions on the relevant city governing body as it may be constituted from time to time. [2017 c 215 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.120. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 4,



part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-4, part; prior: 1919 c 135 s 1, part; 1907 c 98 s 4; RRS s 6723, part.]

**RCW 35.61.130 Eminent domain—Park commissioners' authority, generally—Prospective staff screening.** (1) A metropolitan park district has the right of eminent domain, and may purchase, acquire and condemn lands lying within or without the boundaries of said park district, for public parks, parkways, boulevards, aviation landings and playgrounds, and may condemn such lands to widen, alter and extend streets, avenues, boulevards, parkways, aviation landings and playgrounds, to enlarge and extend existing parks, and to acquire lands for the establishment of new parks, boulevards, parkways, aviation landings and playgrounds. The right of eminent domain shall be exercised and instituted pursuant to resolution of the board of park commissioners and conducted in the same manner and under the same procedure as is or may be provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by incorporated cities and towns of the state of Washington in the acquisition of property rights: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, Funds to pay for condemnation allowed by this section shall be raised only as specified in this chapter.

(2) The board of park commissioners shall have power to employ counsel, and to regulate, manage and control the parks, parkways, boulevards, streets, avenues, aviation landings and playgrounds under its control, and to provide for park police, for a secretary of the board of park commissioners and for all necessary employees, to fix their salaries and duties.

(3) The board of park commissioners shall have power to improve, acquire, extend and maintain, open and lay out, parks, parkways, boulevards, avenues, aviation landings and playgrounds, within or without the park district, and to authorize, conduct and manage the letting of boats, or other amusement apparatus, the operation of bath houses, the purchase and sale of foodstuffs or other merchandise, the giving of vocal or instrumental concerts or other entertainments, the establishment and maintenance of aviation landings and playgrounds, and generally the management and conduct of such forms of recreation or business as it shall judge desirable or beneficial for the public, or for the production of revenue for expenditure for park purposes; and may pay out moneys for the maintenance and improvement of any such parks, parkways, boulevards, avenues, aviation landings and playgrounds as now exist, or may hereafter be acquired, within or without the limits of said city and for the purchase of lands within or without the limits of said city, whenever it deems the purchase to be for the benefit of the public and for the interest of the park district, and for the maintenance and improvement thereof and for all expenses incidental to its duties: PROVIDED, That all parks, boulevards, parkways, aviation landings and playgrounds shall be subject to the police regulations of the city within whose limits they lie.

(4) (a) For the purpose of receiving criminal history record information by metropolitan park districts, metropolitan park districts:

(i) Shall establish by resolution the requirements for a state and federal record check of park district employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in

the course of their work or volunteer activity with the park district, may:

(A) Have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults; or

(B) Be responsible for collecting or disbursing cash or processing credit/debit card transactions; and

(ii) May require a criminal background check conducted through a private organization of park district employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the park district, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults. A background check conducted through a private organization under this subsection is not required in addition to the requirement under (a)(i) of this subsection.

(b) The investigation under (a)(i) of this subsection shall consist of a background check as allowed through the Washington state patrol criminal identification system under RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.834, the Washington state criminal records act under RCW 10.97.030 and 10.97.050, and the federal bureau of investigation.

(c) The background checks conducted under (a)(i) of this subsection must be done through the Washington state patrol identification and criminal history section and may include a national check from the federal bureau of investigation, which shall be through the submission of fingerprints. The Washington state patrol shall serve as the sole source for receipt of fingerprint submissions and the responses to the submissions from the federal bureau of investigation, which must be disseminated to the metropolitan park district.

(d) The park district shall provide a copy of the record report to the employee, prospective employee, volunteer, vendor, or independent contractor.

(e) When necessary, as determined by the park district, prospective employees, volunteers, vendors, or independent contractors may be employed on a conditional basis pending completion of the investigation.

(f) If the employee, prospective employee, volunteer, vendor, or independent contractor has had a record check within the previous twelve months, the park district may waive the requirement upon receiving a copy of the record.

(g) For background checks conducted pursuant to (c) of this subsection, the metropolitan park district must transmit appropriate fees, as the Washington state patrol may require under RCW 10.97.100 and 43.43.838, to the Washington state patrol, unless alternately arranged.

(h) The authority for background checks outlined in this section is in addition to any other authority for such checks provided by law. [2017 c 332 s 4; 2006 c 222 s 1; 1969 c 54 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.130. Prior: (i) 1943 c 264 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-4, part; prior: 1919 c 135 s 1, part; 1907 c 98 s 4; RRS s 6723, part. (ii) 1943 c 264 s 14; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-14; prior: 1919 c 135 s 2; 1907 c 98 s 14; RRS s 6733.]

*Outdoor recreation land acquisition or improvement under marine recreation land act: Chapter 79A.25 RCW.*

**RCW 35.61.132 Disposition of surplus property.** Every metropolitan park district may, by unanimous decision of its board of park commissioners, sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property acquired for park or recreational purposes when such property is declared surplus for park or other recreational purposes: PROVIDED, That where the property is acquired by donation or dedication for park or recreational purposes, the consent of the donor or dedicator, his or her heirs, successors, or assigns is first obtained if the consent of the donor is required in the instrument conveying the property to the metropolitan park district. In the event the donor or dedicator, his or her heirs, successors, or assigns cannot be located after a reasonable search, the metropolitan park district may petition the superior court in the county where the property is located for approval of the sale. If sold, all sales shall be by public bids and sale made only to the highest and best bidder. [1989 c 319 s 4; (2005 c 4 s 1 expired December 31, 2006); 1965 c 7 s 35.61.132. Prior: 1959 c 93 s 1.]

**Expiration date—2005 c 4 s 1:** "Section 1 of this act expires December 31, 2006." [2005 c 4 s 2.]

**RCW 35.61.133 Executory conditional sales contracts for purchase of property—Limit on indebtedness—Election, when.** See RCW 39.30.010.

**RCW 35.61.135 Contracts—Competitive bidding—Small works roster—Exemption.** (1) All work ordered, the estimated cost of which is in excess of \$20,000, shall be let by contract and competitive bidding. Before awarding any such contract the board of park commissioners shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation where the district is located at least once 13 days before the last date upon which bids will be received, inviting sealed proposals for such work, plans, and specifications which must at the time of publication of such notice be on file in the office of the board of park commissioners subject to the public inspection. The notice shall state generally the work to be done and shall call for proposals for doing the same to be sealed and filed with the board of park commissioners on or before the day and hour named therein.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or postal money order payable to the order of the metropolitan park district for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, or accompanied by a bid bond in an amount not less than five percent of the bid with a corporate surety licensed to do business in the state, conditioned that the bidder will pay the metropolitan park district as liquidated damages the amount specified in the bond, unless the bidder enters into a contract in accordance with the bidder's bid, and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by such check, cash, or bid bond. At the time and place named such bids shall be publicly opened and read and the board of park commissioners shall proceed to canvass the bids and may let such contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon plans and specifications on file or to the best bidder submitting the bidder's own plans and specifications. The board of park commissioners may reject all bids for good cause and readvertise and in such case all checks, cash, or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders. If the contract is let, then all checks,

cash, or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder, which shall be retained until a contract is entered into for doing the work, and a bond to perform such work furnished with sureties satisfactory to the board of park commissioners in the full amount of the contract price between the bidder and the metropolitan park district in accordance with the bid. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with the bid and furnish the bond within ten days from the date at which the bidder is notified that the bidder is the successful bidder, the check, cash, or bid bonds and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the metropolitan park district. If the bidder fails to enter into a contract in accordance with the bidder's bid, and the board of park commissioners deems it necessary to take legal action to collect on any bid bond required by this section, then the metropolitan park district is entitled to collect from the bidder any legal expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees occasioned thereby. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project.

(2) As an alternative to requirements under subsection (1) of this section, a metropolitan park district may let contracts using the small works roster process under RCW 39.04.151 through 39.04.154.

(3) Any purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment, with an estimated cost in excess of \$40,000, shall be by contract. Any purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment, with an estimated cost of less than \$50,000 shall be made using the process provided in RCW 39.04.190. Any purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment with an estimated cost of \$50,000 or more shall be made by competitive bidding following the procedure for letting contracts for projects under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) As an alternative to requirements under subsection (3) of this section, a metropolitan park district may let contracts for purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment with the suppliers designated on current state agency, county, city, or town purchasing rosters for the materials, supplies, or equipment, when the roster has been established in accordance with the competitive bidding law for purchases applicable to the state agency, county, city, or town. The price and terms for purchases shall be as described on the applicable roster.

(5) The park board may waive the competitive bidding requirements of this section pursuant to RCW 39.04.280 if an exemption contained within RCW 39.04.280 applies to the purchase or public work. [2023 c 395 s 22; 2009 c 229 s 10; 2001 c 29 s 1.]

**Effective date—2023 c 395 ss 1-30, 32-34, 36, and 37:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**Findings—Intent—2023 c 395:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**RCW 35.61.137 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.** In addition to other authority that a metropolitan park district possesses, a metropolitan park district may provide any public improvement as defined under RCW 39.89.020, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under RCW 39.89.050.

This section does not limit the authority of a metropolitan park district to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere. [2001 c 212 s 12.]

**RCW 35.61.140 Park commissioners—Civil service for employees.**

A metropolitan park district may establish civil service for its employees by resolution upon the following plan:

(1) It shall create a civil service commission with authority to appoint a personnel officer and to make rules and regulations for classification based upon suitable differences in pay for differences in work, and for like pay for like work, and for competitive entrance and promotional examinations; for certifications, appointments, probationary service periods and for dismissals therein; for demotions and promotions based upon merit and for reemployments, suspensions, transfers, sick leaves and vacations; for lay-offs when necessary according to seniority; for separations from the service by discharge for cause; for hearings and reinstatements, for establishing status for incumbent employees, and for prescribing penalties for violations.

(2) The civil service commission and personnel officer shall adopt rules to be known as civil service rules to govern the administration of personnel transactions and procedure. The rules so adopted shall have the force and effect of law, and, in any and all proceedings, the rules shall be liberally interpreted and construed to the end that the purposes and basic requirements of the civil service system may be given the fullest force and effect. [1965 c 7 s 35.61.140. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-4, part; prior: 1919 c 135 s 1, part; 1907 c 98 s 4; RRS s 6723, part.]

*Public employment, civil service and pensions: Title 41 RCW.*

**RCW 35.61.150 Park commissioners—Compensation. (1)**

Metropolitan park commissioners selected by election according to RCW 35.61.050(2) shall perform their duties and may provide, by resolution passed by the commissioners, for the payment of compensation to each of its commissioners at a rate up to the daily compensation maximum amount provided in subsection (3) of this section for each day or portion of a day spent in actual attendance at official meetings or in performance of other official services or duties on behalf of the district. However, the compensation for each commissioner must not exceed the annual compensation maximum amount provided in subsection (3) of this section per year.

(2) Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the clerk of the board. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

(3) (a) For purposes of the references in subsection (1) of this section, the daily compensation maximum amount is one hundred twenty-eight dollars and the annual compensation maximum amount is twelve thousand two hundred eighty-eight dollars. However, for any metropolitan park district with facilities including an aquarium, a wildlife park, and a zoo, accredited by a nationally recognized

accrediting agency, the annual compensation maximum amount is twenty-four thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars.

(b) The dollar thresholds established in this subsection (3) must be adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management every five years, beginning January 1, 2024, based upon changes in the consumer price index during that time period. "Consumer price index" means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer price index, for Washington state, for wage earners and clerical workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor and statistics, United States department of labor. If the bureau of labor and statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people, covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and including all items shall be used for the adjustments for inflation in this section. The office of financial management must calculate the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the office of the code reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

(4) A person holding office as commissioner for two or more special purpose districts shall receive only that per diem compensation authorized for one of his or her commissioner positions as compensation for attending an official meeting or conducting official services or duties while representing more than one of his or her districts. However, such commissioner may receive additional per diem compensation if approved by resolution of all boards of the affected commissions. [2020 c 83 s 1; 2019 c 198 s 1; 2007 c 469 s 1; 2002 c 88 s 6; 1998 c 121 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.150. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-3, part; prior: 1909 c 131 s 2; 1907 c 98 s 3, part; RRS s 6722, part.]

**RCW 35.61.180 Designation of district treasurer.** (1) The county treasurer of the county within which all, or the major portion, of the district lies must be the ex officio treasurer of a metropolitan park district, but may receive no compensation other than his or her regular salary for receiving and disbursing the funds of a metropolitan park district.

(2) A metropolitan park district may designate someone other than the county treasurer who has experience in financial or fiscal affairs to act as the district treasurer if the board has received the approval of the county treasurer to designate this person; or if the district boundaries are coterminous with the boundaries of a city, the city may act as the district treasurer. If the board designates someone other than a county or city treasurer to act as the district treasurer, the board must purchase a bond from a surety company operating in the state that is sufficient to protect the district from loss. [2017 c 215 s 7; 1987 c 203 s 1; 1983 c 167 s 55; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.180. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 13; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-13; prior: 1907 c 98 s 13; RRS s 6732.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.61.190 Park district bonds—Retirement.** Whenever there is money in the metropolitan park district fund and the commissioners

of the park district deem it advisable to apply any part thereof to the payment of bonded indebtedness, they shall advertise in a newspaper of general circulation within the park district for the presentation to them for payment of as many bonds as they may desire to pay with the funds on hand, the bonds to be paid in numerical order, beginning with the lowest number outstanding and called by number.

Thirty days after the first publication of the notice by the board calling in bonds they shall cease to bear interest, and this shall be stated in the notice. [1985 c 469 s 33; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.190. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 11; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-11; prior: 1907 c 98 s 11; RRS s 6730.]

**RCW 35.61.200 Park district bonds—Payment of interest.** Any coupons for the payment of interest on metropolitan park district bonds shall be considered for all purposes as warrants drawn upon the metropolitan park district fund against which the bonds were issued, and when presented after maturity to the treasurer of the county having custody of the fund. If there are no funds in the treasury to pay the coupons, the county treasurer shall endorse said coupons as presented for payment, in the same manner as county warrants are endorsed, and thereafter the coupon shall bear interest at the same rate as the bond to which it was attached. If there are no funds in the treasury to make payment on a bond not having coupons, the interest payment shall continue bearing interest at the bond rate until it is paid, unless otherwise provided in the proceedings authorizing the sale of the bonds. [1983 c 167 s 56; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.200. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 12; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-12; prior: 1907 c 98 s 12; RRS s 6731.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.61.210 Park district tax levy—Metropolitan park district fund.** (1) The board of park commissioners may levy or cause to be levied a general tax on all the property located in said park district each year not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of the property in such park district. In addition, the board of park commissioners may levy or cause to be levied a general tax on all property located in said park district each year not to exceed twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Although park districts are authorized to impose two separate regular property tax levies, the levies are considered to be a single levy for purposes of the limitation provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW.

(2) The maximum levy rate of a metropolitan park district formed subject to the limitations set forth in RCW 35.61.020(5) must be the levy rate set forth in the ballot proposition. At any time after the initial formation of a district subject to a limitation under RCW 35.61.020(5), the board of metropolitan park commissioners may submit to the voters of the district at a general or special election a proposition to alter such maximum regular levy rate, which proposition becomes effective only upon approval by a majority of the votes cast on the proposition. The limitations provided in chapter 84.55 RCW do

not apply in the first year after the approval of any proposition under this subsection.

(3) The board is hereby authorized to levy a general tax in excess of its regular property tax levy or levies when authorized so to do at a special election conducted in accordance with and subject to all the requirements of the Constitution and laws of the state now in force or hereafter enacted governing the limitation of tax levies. The board is hereby authorized to call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the park district a proposition to levy a tax in excess of the regular levy rates authorized for the district under subsection (1) or (2) of this section. The manner of submitting any such proposition, of certifying the same, and of giving or publishing notice thereof, must be as provided by law for the submission of propositions by cities, towns, or counties.

(4) The board must include in its general tax levy for each year a sufficient sum to pay the interest on all outstanding bonds and may include a sufficient amount to create a sinking fund for the redemption of all outstanding bonds. The levy must be certified to the proper county officials for collection the same as other general taxes and, for any metropolitan park district for which the county treasurer serves as the ex officio treasurer, when collected, the general tax must be placed in a separate fund in the office of the county treasurer to be known as the "metropolitan park district fund" and disbursed under RCW \*36.29.010(1) and 39.58.750. [2017 c 215 s 4; 2007 c 295 s 1; 1997 c 3 s 205 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1990 c 234 s 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 25; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.210. Prior: 1951 c 179 s 1; prior: (i) 1943 c 264 s 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-10, part; prior: 1909 c 131 s 4; 1907 c 98 s 10; RRS s 6729. (ii) 1947 c 117 s 1; 1943 c 264 s 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 6741-5; prior: 1925 ex.s. c 97 s 1; 1907 c 98 s 5; RRS s 6724.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 36.29.010 was amended by 2023 c 75 s 1, changing subsection (1) to subsection (1)(a).

**Intent—1997 c 3 ss 201-207:** See note following RCW 84.55.010.

**Application—Severability—Part headings not law—Referral to electorate—1997 c 3:** See notes following RCW 84.40.030.

**Severability—Effective dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

*Limitation on levies: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.61.220 Petition for improvements on assessment plan.** If at any time any proposed improvement of any parkway, avenue, street, or boulevard is deemed by the board of metropolitan park commissioners to be a special benefit to the lands adjoining, contiguous, approximate to or in the neighborhood of the proposed improvement, which lie within the city, the board may so declare, describing the property to be benefited. Thereupon they may petition the city council to cause the improvement contemplated by the commissioners to be done and made on the local assessment plan, and the portion of the cost of the improvement as fixed by such assessment roll to be assessed



against the said property so benefited in the same manner and under the same procedure as of other local improvements, and the remainder of the cost of such improvement to be paid out of the metropolitan park district fund.

The board of park commissioners shall designate the kind, manner and style of the improvement to be made, and may designate the time within which it shall be made. [1965 c 7 s 35.61.220. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 15; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-15; prior: 1909 c 131 s 5; 1907 c 98 s 15; RRS s 6734.]

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

**RCW 35.61.230 Objections—Appeal.** Any person, firm or corporation feeling aggrieved by the assessment against his or her or its property may file objections with the city council and may appeal from the order confirming the assessment roll in the same manner as objections and appeals are made in regard to local improvements in cities of the first class. [2009 c 549 s 2112; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.230. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 16; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-16; prior: 1907 c 98 s 17; RRS s 6736.]

*Appeal of assessments and reassessments: RCW 35.44.200 through 35.44.270.*

**RCW 35.61.240 Assessment lien—Collection.** The assessment for local improvements authorized by this chapter shall become a lien in the same manner, and be governed by the same law, as is provided for local assessments in cities of the first class and be collected as such assessments are collected. [1965 c 7 s 35.61.240. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 17; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-17; prior: 1907 c 98 s 18; RRS s 6737.]

*Collection and foreclosure of assessments: Chapters 35.49, 35.50 RCW.*

**RCW 35.61.250 Territorial annexation—Authority—Petition.** The territory adjoining a metropolitan park district may be annexed to and become a part thereof upon petition and an election held pursuant thereto. The petition shall define the territory proposed to be annexed and must be signed by twenty-five registered voters, resident within the territory proposed to be annexed, unless the territory is within the limits of another city when it must be signed by twenty percent of the registered voters residing within the territory proposed to be annexed. The petition must be addressed to the board of park commissioners requesting that the question be submitted to the legal voters of the territory proposed to be annexed, whether they will be annexed and become a part of the park district. [1985 c 416 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.250. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-20, part; prior: 1907 c 98 s 20, part; RRS s 6739, part.]

**RCW 35.61.260 Territorial annexation—Hearing on petition.** Upon the filing of an annexation petition with the board of park commissioners, if the commissioners concur in the petition, they shall

provide for a hearing to be held for the discussion of the proposed annexation at the office of the board of park commissioners, and shall give due notice thereof by publication at least once a week for two consecutive weeks before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the park district. [1985 c 469 s 34; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.260. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-20, part; prior: 1907 c 98 s 20, part; RRS s 6739, part.]

**RCW 35.61.270 Territorial annexation—Election—Method.** If the park commissioners concur in the petition, they shall cause the proposal to be submitted to the electors of the territory proposed to be annexed, at an election to be held in the territory, which shall be called, canvassed and conducted in accordance with the general election laws. The board of park commissioners by resolution shall fix a time for the holding of the election to determine the question of annexation, and in addition to the notice required by RCW 29A.52.355 shall give notice thereof by causing notice to be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the park district, and by posting notices in five public places within the territory proposed to be annexed in the district.

The ballot to be used at the election shall be in the following form:

- "For annexation to metropolitan park district."
- "Against annexation to metropolitan park district."

[2015 c 53 s 45; 1985 c 469 s 35; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.270. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-20, part; prior: 1907 c 98 s 20, part; RRS s 6739, part.]

*Canvassing returns, generally: Chapter 29A.60 RCW.*

*Conduct of elections—Canvass: RCW 29A.60.010.*

*Times for holding elections: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

**RCW 35.61.275 Territorial annexation—Park district containing city with population over one hundred thousand—Assumption of indebtedness.** The board of park commissioners of any metropolitan park district which includes a city with a population greater than one hundred thousand may submit to the electorate of the territory sought to be annexed a proposition that all property within the area annexed shall, upon annexation, be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing metropolitan park district to pay for all or any portion of the then outstanding indebtedness of the metropolitan park district. [1989 c 319 s 6.]

**RCW 35.61.280 Territorial annexation—Election—Result.** The canvassing authority shall cause a statement of the result of such election to be forwarded to the board of park commissioners for entry on the record of the board. If the majority of the votes cast upon that question at the election shall favor annexation, the territory shall immediately become annexed to the park district, and shall thenceforth be a part of the park district, the same as though

originally included in the district. The expense of such election shall be paid out of park district funds. [1965 c 7 s 35.61.280. Prior: (i) 1943 c 264 s 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-20, part; prior: 1907 c 98 s 20, part; RRS s 6739, part. (ii) 1943 c 264 s 21; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-21; prior: 1907 c 98 s 21; RRS s 6740.]

**RCW 35.61.290 Transfer of property by city, county, or other municipal corporation—Emergency grant or loan of funds by city.** (1) Any city within or comprising any metropolitan park district may turn over to the park district any lands that it may own, or any street, avenue, or public place within the city for playground, park, or other purposes authorized for such district, and thereafter its control and management must vest in the board of park commissioners. However, the police regulations of such city apply to all such premises.

(2) At any time that any such metropolitan park district is unable, through lack of sufficient funds, to provide for the continuous operation, maintenance and improvement of the parks and playgrounds and other properties or facilities owned by it or under its control, and the legislative body of any city within or comprising such metropolitan park district must determine that an emergency exists requiring the financial aid of such city to be extended in order to provide for such continuous operation, maintenance and/or improvement of parks, playgrounds facilities, other properties, and programs of such park district within its limits, such city may grant or loan to such metropolitan park district such of its available funds, or such funds that it may lawfully procure and make available, as it finds necessary to provide for such continuous operation and maintenance and, pursuant thereto, any such city and the board of park commissioners of such district are authorized and empowered to enter into an agreement embodying such terms and conditions of any such grant or loan as may be mutually agreed upon.

(3) The board of metropolitan park commissioners may accept public streets of the city and grounds for public purposes when donated for park, playground, boulevard, and other park purposes authorized for such district.

(4) Counties, cities, and other municipal corporations, including but not limited to park and recreation districts operating under chapter 36.69 RCW, may enter into agreements with metropolitan park districts to transfer to one another, with or without consideration therefor, any lands, facilities, equipment, other interests in real or personal property, or interests under contracts, leases, or similar agreements. The board of metropolitan park commissioners may accept and may make, for metropolitan park district purposes, such transfers of lands, facilities, equipment, other interests in real or personal property, and interests under contracts, leases, or similar agreements. [2017 c 215 s 5; 2005 c 226 s 1; 1985 c 416 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.290. Prior: 1953 c 194 s 1. Formerly: (i) 1943 c 264 s 18; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-18; prior: 1907 c 98 s 16; RRS s 6735. (ii) 1943 c 264 s 19; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-19; prior: 1907 c 98 s 19; RRS s 6738.]

**Application—2005 c 226:** "Sections 1 through 3 of this act apply retroactively to metropolitan park district elections occurring on or after May 1, 2004." [2005 c 226 s 4.]

**Effective date—2005 c 226:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 28, 2005]." [2005 c 226 s 5.]

**RCW 35.61.300 Transfer of property by city, county, or other municipal corporation—Assumption of indebtedness—Issuance of refunding bonds.** (1) When any metropolitan park district is formed pursuant to this chapter and assumes control of the parks, parkways, boulevards, and park property of the city in which said park district is created, or the metropolitan park district accepts, pursuant to RCW 35.61.290, any lands, facilities, equipment, other interests in real or personal property, or interests under contracts, leases, or similar agreements from a county or other municipal corporation (including but not limited to a park and recreation district operating under chapter 36.69 RCW), such metropolitan park district may assume all existing indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, incurred in relation to the transferred property or interest, in which case it shall arrange by taxation or issuing bonds, as herein provided, for the payment of such indebtedness, and shall relieve such city, county, or municipal corporation from such payment.

(2) A metropolitan park district is hereby given authority to issue refunding bonds when necessary, subject to chapters 39.36 and 39.53 RCW, in order to enable it to comply with this section.

(3) (a) In addition, refunding bonds issued under subsection (2) of this section for the purpose of assuming existing voter-approved indebtedness may be issued, by majority vote of the commissioners, as voter-approved indebtedness, if:

(i) The boundaries of the metropolitan park district are identical to the boundaries of the taxing district in which voter approval was originally obtained;

(ii) The governing body of the original taxing district has adopted a resolution declaring its intent to dissolve its operations and has named the metropolitan park district as its successor; and

(iii) The requisite number of voters of the original taxing district approved issuance of the indebtedness and the levy of excess taxes to pay and retire that indebtedness.

(b) A metropolitan park district acting under this subsection (3) is deemed the successor to the original taxing district and any refunding bonds issued under this subsection (3) constitute voter-approved indebtedness. The metropolitan park district shall levy and collect annual property taxes in excess of the district's regular property tax levy, in an amount sufficient to pay and retire the principal of and interest on those refunding bonds. [2005 c 226 s 2; 1985 c 416 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.300. Prior: 1943 c 264 s 22; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 6741-22; prior: 1907 c 98 s 22; RRS s 6741.]

**Application—Effective date—2005 c 226:** See notes following RCW 35.61.290.

**RCW 35.61.310 Dissolution.** A board of commissioners of a metropolitan park district may, upon a majority vote of all its members, dissolve in its entirety any metropolitan park district, prorate the liabilities thereof, and turn over to the city and/or

county so much of the district as is respectively located therein, when:

(1) Such city and/or county, through its governing officials, agrees to, and petitions for, such dissolution and the assumption of such assets and liabilities; or

(2) Ten percent of the voters of such city and/or county who voted at the last general election petition the governing officials for such a vote. [2019 c 138 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.61.310. Prior: 1953 c 269 s 1.]

*Dissolution of special districts: Chapters 36.96 and 53.48 RCW.*

**RCW 35.61.315 Disincorporation of district located in county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and inactive for five years.** See chapter 57.90 RCW.

**RCW 35.61.350 Moorage facilities—Regulations authorized—Port charges, delinquency—Abandoned vessels, public sale.** See RCW 53.08.310 and 53.08.320.

**RCW 35.61.360 Withdrawal or reannexation of areas.** (1) As provided in this section, a metropolitan park district may withdraw areas from its boundaries, or reannex areas into the metropolitan park district that previously had been withdrawn from the metropolitan park district under this section.

(2) The withdrawal of an area shall be authorized upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the park district commissioners requesting the withdrawal and finding that, in the opinion of the commissioners, inclusion of this area within the metropolitan park district will result in a reduction of the district's tax levy rate under the provisions of RCW 84.52.010; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the withdrawal, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the withdrawal, if the area is located outside of a city or town. A withdrawal shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the resolutions are adopted, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a metropolitan park district shall not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the metropolitan park district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(3) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a metropolitan park district under this section may be reannexed into the metropolitan park district upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the park district commissioners proposing the reannexation; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the reannexation, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the reannexation, if the area is located outside of a city or town. The reannexation shall

be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution. Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the city or town council, or county legislative authority, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions shall be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date according to RCW 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the reannexation by a simple majority vote shall authorize the reannexation. [2006 c 344 s 24; 1987 c 138 s 2.]

**Effective date—2006 c 344 ss 1-16 and 18-40:** See note following RCW 29A.04.311.

**RCW 35.61.365 Withdrawal or reannexation by a city, town, or county—Authority—Procedure.** (1) As provided in this section, a city, town, or county may withdraw that portion of the city, town, or county from a metropolitan park district that was formed under this chapter when:

(a) The governing body of a district, which is part of the district, adopts a resolution and findings of fact supporting the deannexation of that portion of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district; and the governing body of a city, town, or county, which is part of the district, adopts a resolution and findings of fact supporting the deannexation of that portion of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district;

(b) Ten percent of the voters of such city or county who voted at the last general election petition the governing officials for such a vote; or

(c) A district located in a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more has not actively carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was formed within the preceding consecutive five-year period.

(2)(a) After adoption of the resolution approving the deannexation, receipt of a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters, or determination that the district has been inactive, the governing body of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district, must draft a ballot title, give notice as required by law for ballot measures, and perform other duties as required to put the measure approving or not approving the deannexation before the voters of the city, town, or county, which is part of the district.

(b) The ballot proposition authorizing the deannexation from a proposed metropolitan park district must be submitted to the voters of the district for their approval or rejection at the next general election. The ballot measure is approved if greater than fifty percent

of the total persons voting on the ballot measure vote to approve the deannexation.

(3) The resolution under subsection (1) of this section and the ballot under subsection (2) of this section must set forth the specific land boundaries being deannexed from the district.

(4) A deannexation under this section is effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the ballot measure under subsection (2) of this section is approved.

(5) The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a metropolitan park district does not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the metropolitan park district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(6) (a) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a metropolitan park district under this section may be reannexed into the metropolitan park district upon:

(i) Adoption of a resolution by the governing body proposing the reannexation; and

(ii) Adoption of a resolution by the metropolitan park district approving the reannexation.

(b) The reannexation is effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries are established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

(c) Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the metropolitan park district, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

(d) If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions must be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation must be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date according to RCW 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the reannexation by a simple majority vote authorizes the reannexation.

(7) For purposes of this section, "deannex" means to withdraw a specified portion of land from a metropolitan park district formed under this chapter. [2019 c 138 s 4.]

**RCW 35.61.370 Park district containing city with population over one hundred thousand—May commission police officers.** A metropolitan park district which contains a city with a population greater than one hundred thousand may commission its own police officers with full police powers to enforce the laws and regulations of the city or county on metropolitan park district property. Police officers initially employed after June 30, 1989, pursuant to this section shall be required to successfully complete basic law enforcement training in accordance with chapter 43.101 RCW. [1989 c 319 s 5.]

**RCW 35.61.380 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination prohibited.** The antidiscrimination provisions of RCW 49.60.500 apply to community athletics programs and facilities operated, conducted, or administered by a metropolitan park district. [2009 c 467 s 5.]

**Findings—Declarations—2009 c 467:** See note following RCW 49.60.500.



**Chapter 35.62 RCW**  
**NAME—CHANGE OF**

**Sections**

- 35.62.010 Authority for.
- 35.62.021 Election—Petition or resolution.
- 35.62.031 Ballot—One name proposed.
- 35.62.041 Ballot—More than one name proposed—Votes necessary.
- 35.62.060 Results—Certification.

**RCW 35.62.010 Authority for.** Any city or town may change its name in accordance with the procedure provided in this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.62.010. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 146 s 1; RRS s 8891-1.]

**RCW 35.62.021 Election—Petition or resolution.** The question of whether the name of a city or town shall be changed shall be presented to the voters of the city or town upon either: (1) The adoption of a resolution by the city or town council proposing a specific name change; or (2) the submission of a petition proposing a specific name change that has been signed by voters of the city or town equal in number to at least ten percent of the total number of voters of the city or town who voted at the last municipal general election. However, for any newly incorporated city or town that has not had city officials elected at a normal general municipal election, the election that is used as the base for determining the number of required signatures shall be the election at which the initial elected officials were elected.

The election on changing the name of the city or town shall be held at the next general election occurring sixty or more days after the resolution was adopted, or the resolution [petition] was submitted that has been certified by the county auditor as having sufficient valid signatures. [1990 c 193 s 1.]

**RCW 35.62.031 Ballot—One name proposed.** Where only one new name has been proposed by petition or resolution such question shall be in substantially the following form:

"Shall the name of the city (or town) of           (insert name)           be changed to the city (or town) of           (insert the proposed new name)          ?"

Yes . . .  
No . . ."

If a majority of the votes cast favor the name change, the city or town shall have its name changed effective thirty days after the certification of the election results. [1990 c 193 s 2.]

**RCW 35.62.041 Ballot—More than one name proposed—Votes necessary.** Where more than one name is proposed by either petition or resolution, the question shall be separated into two separate parts and shall be in substantially the following form:

"Shall the name of the city (or town) of           (insert name)           be changed?

Yes . . .  
No . . ."

"If a name change is approved, which of the following should be the new name?

          (insert name)            
          (insert name)            
Vote for one."

Voters may select a name change whether or not they vote in favor of changing the name of the city or town. If a majority of the votes cast on the first proposition favor changing the name, the name that receives at least a majority of the total number of votes cast for an alternative name shall become the new name of the city or town effective thirty days after the certification of the election results.

If no alternative name receives a simple majority vote, then an election shall be held at the next November special election date, at which voters shall be given the option of choosing which of the two alternative names that received the most votes shall become the new name of the city or town. This ballot proposition shall be worded substantially as follows:

"Which of the following names shall become the new name of the city (or town) of           (insert name)          ?

          (insert name)            
          (insert name)            
Vote for one."

The name that receives the majority vote shall become the new name of the city or town effective thirty days after the certification of the election results. [1990 c 193 s 3.]

**RCW 35.62.060 Results—Certification.** Whenever any city or town has changed its name, the clerk shall certify the new name to the secretary of state prior to the date when the change takes effect. [1965 c 7 s 35.62.060. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 146 s 6; RRS s 8891-6.]

**Chapter 35.63 RCW**  
**PLANNING COMMISSIONS**

**Sections**

- 35.63.010 Definitions.
- 35.63.015 "Solar energy system" defined.
- 35.63.020 Commissioners—Manner of appointment.
- 35.63.030 Commissioners—Number—Tenure—Compensation.
- 35.63.040 Commissions—Organization—Meeting—Rules.
- 35.63.050 Expenditures.
- 35.63.060 Powers of commissions.
- 35.63.065 Public notice—Identification of affected property.
- 35.63.070 Regional commissions—Appointment—Powers.
- 35.63.080 Restrictions on buildings—Use of land.
- 35.63.090 Restrictions—Purposes of.
- 35.63.100 Restrictions—Recommendations of commission—Hearings—  
Adoption of comprehensive plan—Certifying—Filing or  
recording.
- 35.63.105 Amendments to comprehensive plan to be adopted, certified,  
and recorded or filed in accordance with RCW 35.63.100.
- 35.63.110 Restrictive zones.
- 35.63.120 Supplemental restrictions—Hearing—Affirmance,  
disaffirmance, modification of commission's decision.
- 35.63.125 Development regulations—Consistency with comprehensive  
plan.
- 35.63.126 Development regulations—Jurisdictions specified—Electric  
vehicle infrastructure—City retrofitting incentive  
programs.
- 35.63.127 Development regulations—Jurisdictions specified—Electric  
vehicle infrastructure—County retrofitting incentive  
programs.
- 35.63.130 Hearing examiner system—Adoption authorized—Alternative—  
Functions—Procedures.
- 35.63.140 Residential care facilities—Review of need and demand—  
Adoption of ordinances.
- 35.63.150 Conformance with chapter 43.97 RCW required.
- 35.63.160 Regulation of manufactured homes—Definitions.
- 35.63.161 Manufactured housing communities—Prohibitions of city due  
to community status as a nonconforming use.
- 35.63.170 Definitions.
- 35.63.180 Child care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption  
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- 35.63.185 Family day-care provider's home facility—City may not  
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- 35.63.200 Moratoria, interim zoning controls—Public hearing—  
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- 35.63.220 Treatment of residential structures occupied by persons  
with handicaps.
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- 35.63.240 Planning regulations—Copies provided to county assessor.
- 35.63.250 General aviation airports.
- 35.63.260 Conditional and special use permit applications by parties  
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- health services or the department of corrections—  
Mediation prior to appeal required.
- 35.63.270 Application for a permit to site an energy plant or  
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States department of defense.
- 35.63.280 Increased density bonus for affordable housing located on  
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- 35.63.290 Development regulations to implement comprehensive plans—  
Siting of organic materials management facilities.
- 35.63.300 Pollinator habitats—Beehives—Definitions.

*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection,  
preservation, or open space purposes by cities or towns: RCW  
64.04.130.*

*Airport zoning: Chapter 14.12 RCW.*

*Appearance of fairness doctrine—Application to local land use  
decisions: RCW 42.36.010.*

*Approval of proposed plats, subdivisions, and dedications of land:  
Chapter 58.17 RCW.*

*Boundaries and plats: Title 58 RCW.*

*Counties, planning enabling act: Chapter 36.70 RCW.*

*County sewerage, water and drainage systems: Chapter 36.94 RCW.*

*Housing authorities law: Chapter 35.82 RCW.*

*Joint operations by municipal corporations or political subdivisions,  
deposit and control of funds: RCW 43.09.285.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc.,  
review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Municipal revenue bond act: Chapter 35.41 RCW.*

*Police and sanitary regulations: State Constitution Art. 11 s 11.*

*Recording of plats: Chapter 58.08 RCW.*

**RCW 35.63.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter the  
following terms shall have the meaning herein given them:

"Appointive members" means all members of a commission other than  
ex officio members;

"Board" means the board of county commissioners;

"City" includes every incorporated city and town;

"Commission" means a city or county planning commission;

"Council" means the chief legislative body of a city;

"Ex officio members" means the members of a commission chosen  
from among city or county officials;

"Highways" include streets, roads, boulevards, lanes, alleys,  
viaducts and other traveled ways;

"Mayor" means the chief executive of a city;

"Municipality" includes every county and city. [1965 c 7 s 35.63.010. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 1; RRS s 9322-1.]

**RCW 35.63.015 "Solar energy system" defined.** As used in this chapter, "solar energy system" means any device or combination of devices or elements which rely upon direct sunlight as an energy source, including but not limited to any substance or device which collects sunlight for use in:

- (1) The heating or cooling of a structure or building;
- (2) The heating or pumping of water;
- (3) Industrial, commercial, or agricultural processes; or
- (4) The generation of electricity.

A solar energy system may be used for purposes in addition to the collection of solar energy. These uses include, but are not limited to, serving as a structural member or part of a roof of a building or structure and serving as a window or wall. [1979 ex.s. c 170 s 2.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 170:** See note following RCW 64.04.140.

*Local governments authorized to encourage and protect solar energy systems: RCW 64.04.140.*

**RCW 35.63.020 Commissioners—Manner of appointment.** If any council or board desires to avail itself of the powers conferred by this chapter it shall create a city or county planning commission consisting of from three to twelve members to be appointed by the mayor or chair of the municipality and confirmed by the council or board: PROVIDED, That in cities of the first class having a commission form of government consisting of three or more members, the commissioner of public works shall appoint the planning commission, which appointment shall be confirmed by a majority of the city commissioners. Cities of the first class operating under self-government charters may extend the membership and the duties and powers of its commission beyond those prescribed in this chapter. [2009 c 549 s 2113; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.020. Prior: (i) 1935 c 44 s 2, part; RRS s 9322-2, part. (ii) 1935 c 44 s 12; RRS s 9322-12.]

**RCW 35.63.030 Commissioners—Number—Tenure—Compensation.** The ordinance, resolution, or act creating the commission shall set forth the number of members to be appointed, not more than one-third of which number may be ex officio members by virtue of office held in any municipality. The term of office for ex officio members shall correspond to their respective tenures. The term of office for the first appointive members appointed to such commission shall be designated from one to six years in such manner as to provide that the fewest possible terms will expire in any one year. Thereafter the term of office for each appointive member shall be either four or six years, as determined by legislative action of the council.

Vacancies occurring otherwise than through the expiration of terms shall be filled for the unexpired term. Members may be removed, after public hearing, by the appointing official, with the approval of

his or her council or board, for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

The members shall be selected without respect to political affiliations and they shall serve without compensation. [2011 c 59 s 1; 2009 c 549 s 2114; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.030. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 2, part; RRS s 9322-2, part.]

**RCW 35.63.040 Commissions—Organization—Meeting—Rules.** The commission shall elect its own chair and create and fill such other offices as it may determine it requires. The commission shall hold at least one regular meeting in each month for not less than nine months in each year. It shall adopt rules for transaction of business and shall keep a written record of its meetings, resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations which record shall be a public record. [2009 c 549 s 2115; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.040. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 3; RRS s 9322-3.]

**RCW 35.63.050 Expenditures.** The expenditures of any commission or regional commission authorized and established under this chapter, exclusive of gifts, shall be within the amounts appropriated for the purpose by the council or board. Within such limits, any commission may employ such employees and expert consultants as are deemed necessary for its work. [1965 c 7 s 35.63.050. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 4; RRS s 9322-4.]

**RCW 35.63.060 Powers of commissions.** The commission may act as the research and fact-finding agency of the municipality. To that end it may make such surveys, analyses, researches and reports as are generally authorized or requested by its council or board, or by the state with the approval of its council or board. The commission, upon such request or authority may also:

- (1) Make inquiries, investigations, and surveys concerning the resources of the county, including but not limited to the potential for solar energy development and alternative means to encourage and protect access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems;
- (2) Assemble and analyze the data thus obtained and formulate plans for the conservation of such resources and the systematic utilization and development thereof;
- (3) Make recommendations from time to time as to the best methods of such conservation, utilization, and development;
- (4) Cooperate with other commissions and with other public agencies of the municipality, state and United States in such planning, conservation, and development; and
- (5) In particular cooperate with and aid the state within its territorial limits in the preparation of the state master plan provided for in RCW 43.21A.350 and in advance planning of public works programs.

In carrying out its powers and duties, the commission should demonstrate how land use planning is integrated with transportation planning. [2002 c 189 s 1; 1988 c 127 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 170 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.060. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 10; RRS s 9322-10.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 170:** See note following RCW 64.04.140.

**RCW 35.63.065 Public notice—Identification of affected property.** Any notice made under chapter 35.63 RCW that identifies affected property may identify this affected property without using a legal description of the property including, but not limited to, identification by an address, written description, vicinity sketch, or other reasonable means. [1988 c 168 s 9.]

**RCW 35.63.070 Regional commissions—Appointment—Powers.** The commissions of two or more adjoining counties, of two or more adjacent cities and towns, of one or more cities and towns and/or one or more counties, together with the boards of such counties and the councils of such cities and towns may cooperate to form, organize and administer a regional planning commission for the making of a regional plan for the region defined as may be agreed upon by the commissions, boards and councils. The regional commission when requested by the commissions of its region, may further perform any of the other duties for its region that are specified in RCW 35.63.060 for city and county commissions. The number of members of a regional commission, their method of appointment and the proportion of the cost of regional planning, surveys and studies to be borne respectively by the various counties and cities in the region, shall be such as may be agreed upon by commissions, boards and councils.

Any regional planning commission, or the councils or boards respectively of any city, town, or county, are authorized to receive grants-in-aid from the government of the United States or of any of its agencies, and are authorized to enter into any reasonable agreement with any department or agency of the government of the United States to arrange for the receipt of federal funds for planning in the interest of furthering the planning program. [1965 c 7 s 35.63.070. Prior: 1957 c 130 s 1; 1935 c 44 s 11; RRS s 9322-11.]

*Commission as employer for retirement system purposes: RCW 41.40.010.*

**RCW 35.63.080 Restrictions on buildings—Use of land.** (1) The council or board may provide for the preparation by its commission and the adoption and enforcement of coordinated plans for the physical development of the municipality. For this purpose the council or board, in such measure as is deemed reasonably necessary or requisite in the interest of health, safety, morals, and the general welfare, upon recommendation by its commission, by general ordinances of the city or general resolution of the board, may:

- (a) Regulate and restrict:
  - (i) The location and the use of buildings, structures, and land for residence, trade, industrial, and other purposes;
  - (ii) The height, number of stories, size, construction, and design of buildings and other structures;
  - (iii) The size of yards, courts, and other open spaces on the lot or tract;
  - (iv) The density of population;
  - (v) The setback of buildings along highways, parks, or public water frontages; and
  - (vi) The subdivision and development of land;
- (b) Eliminate the minimum gross floor area requirements for single-family detached dwellings or reduce the requirements below the

minimum performance standards and objectives contained in the state building code; and

(c) Encourage and protect access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems.

(2) The council of a city where ordinances adopted in accordance with this section are in effect may, on the recommendation of its commission, provide for the appointment of a board of adjustment to make, in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards established by ordinance, special exceptions in harmony with the general purposes and intent and in accordance with general or specific rules therein contained. [2018 c 302 s 3; 1979 ex.s. c 170 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.080. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 5; RRS s 9322-5.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 170:** See note following RCW 64.04.140.

**RCW 35.63.090 Restrictions—Purposes of.** All regulations shall be worked out as parts of a comprehensive plan which each commission shall prepare for the physical and other generally advantageous development of the municipality and shall be designed, among other things, to encourage the most appropriate use of land throughout the municipality; to lessen traffic congestion and accidents; to secure safety from fire; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to promote a coordinated development of the unbuilt areas; to encourage the formation of neighborhood or community units; to secure an appropriate allotment of land area in new developments for all the requirements of community life; to conserve and restore natural beauty and other natural resources; to encourage and protect access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems; and to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage and other public uses and requirements, including protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies. Each plan shall include a review of drainage, flooding, and stormwater runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound. [1985 c 126 s 1; 1984 c 253 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 170 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.090. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 7; RRS s 9322-7.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 170:** See note following RCW 64.04.140.

**RCW 35.63.100 Restrictions—Recommendations of commission—Hearings—Adoption of comprehensive plan—Certifying—Filing or recording.** The commission may recommend to its council or board the plan prepared by it as a whole, or may recommend parts of the plan by successive recommendations; the parts corresponding with geographic or political sections, division or subdivisions of the municipality, or with functional subdivisions of the subject matter of the plan, or in the case of counties, with suburban settlement or arterial highway area. It may also prepare and recommend any amendment or extension thereof or addition thereto.

Before the recommendation of the initial plan to the municipality the commission shall hold at least one public hearing thereon, giving notice of the time and place by one publication in a newspaper of



general circulation in the municipality and in the official gazette, if any, of the municipality.

The council may adopt by resolution or ordinance and the board may adopt by resolution the plan recommended to it by the commission, or any part of the plan, as the comprehensive plan.

A true copy of the resolution of the board adopting or embodying such plan or any part thereof or any amendment thereto shall be certified by the clerk of the board and filed with the county auditor. A like certified copy of any map or plat referred to or adopted by the county resolution shall likewise be filed with the county auditor. The auditor shall record the resolution and keep on file the map or plat.

The original resolution or ordinance of the council adopting or embodying such plan or any part thereof or any amendment thereto shall be certified by the clerk of the city and filed by him or her. The original of any map or plat referred to or adopted by the resolution or ordinance of the council shall likewise be certified by the clerk of the city and filed by him or her. The clerk shall keep on file the resolution or ordinance and map or plat. [2009 c 549 s 2116; 1967 ex.s. c 144 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.63.100. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 8; RRS s 9322-8.]

**Effective date—1967 ex.s. c 144:** The effective date of 1967 ex.s. c 144 is July 30, 1967.

**Severability—1967 ex.s. c 144:** See note following RCW 36.900.030.

**Validation—1967 ex.s. c 144:** "Any city comprehensive plan and all amendments thereto which have been filed or recorded with the county auditor prior to the effective date of this 1967 amendatory act shall be valid and need not be refiled with the clerk of the city to remain valid and in full force and effect." [1967 ex.s. c 144 s 10.]

**RCW 35.63.105 Amendments to comprehensive plan to be adopted, certified, and recorded or filed in accordance with RCW 35.63.100.** All amendments to a comprehensive plan shall be adopted, certified, and recorded or filed in the same manner as authorized in RCW 35.63.100 for an initial comprehensive plan. [1967 ex.s. c 144 s 9.]

**Severability—1967 ex.s. c 144:** See note following RCW 36.900.030.

**Validation—1967 ex.s. c 144:** See note following RCW 35.63.100.

**RCW 35.63.110 Restrictive zones.** For any or all of such purposes the council or board, on recommendation of its commission, may divide the municipality or any portion thereof into districts of such size, shape and area, or may establish such official maps, or development plans for the whole or any portion of the municipality as may be deemed best suited to carry out the purposes of this chapter and within such districts it may regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or use of buildings, structures or land. [1965 c 7 s 35.63.110. Prior: 1935 c 44 s 6; RRS s 9322-6.]

**RCW 35.63.120 Supplemental restrictions—Hearing—Affirmance, disaffirmance, modification of commission's decision.** Any ordinance or resolution adopting any such plan or regulations, or any part thereof, may be amended, supplemented or modified by subsequent ordinance or resolution.

Proposed amendments, supplementations, or modifications shall first be heard by the commission and the decision shall be made and reported by the commission within ninety days of the time that the proposed amendments, supplementations, or modifications were made.

The council or board, pursuant to public hearing called by them upon application therefor by any interested party or upon their own order, may affirm, modify or disaffirm any decision of the commission. [1965 c 7 s 35.63.120. Prior: 1957 c 194 s 1; 1935 c 44 s 9; RRS s 9322-9.]

**RCW 35.63.125 Development regulations—Consistency with comprehensive plan.** Beginning July 1, 1992, the development regulations of each city and county that does not plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall not be inconsistent with the city's or county's comprehensive plan. For the purposes of this section, "development regulations" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 36.70A.030. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 22.]

**Severability—Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17:**  
See RCW 36.70A.900 and 36.70A.901.

**RCW 35.63.126 Development regulations—Jurisdictions specified—Electric vehicle infrastructure—City retrofitting incentive programs.**

(1) By July 1, 2010, the development regulations of any jurisdiction:

(a) Adjacent to Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520, with a population over twenty thousand, and located in a county with a population over one million five hundred thousand; or

(b) Adjacent to Interstate 5 and located in a county with a population greater than six hundred thousand; or

(c) Adjacent to Interstate 5 and located in a county with a state capitol within its borders;

planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(2) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the development regulations of any jurisdiction adjacent to Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520 planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(3) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the

development regulations of any jurisdiction planning under this chapter must allow battery charging stations as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(4) Cities are authorized to adopt incentive programs to encourage the retrofitting of existing structures with the electrical outlets capable of charging electric vehicles. Incentives may include bonus height, site coverage, floor area ratio, and transferable development rights for use in urban growth areas.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(6) If federal funding for public investment in electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, or alternative fuel distribution infrastructure is not provided by February 1, 2010, subsection (1) of this section is null and void. [2009 c 459 s 9.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090.

*Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

**RCW 35.63.127 Development regulations—Jurisdictions specified—Electric vehicle infrastructure—County retrofitting incentive programs.** (1) By July 1, 2010, the development regulations of any jurisdiction with a population over six hundred thousand or with a state capitol within its borders planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas within one mile of Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520, except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(2) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the development regulations of any jurisdiction adjacent to Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405, or state route number 520 planning under this chapter must allow electric vehicle infrastructure as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(3) By July 1, 2011, or six months after the distribution required under RCW 43.31.970 occurs, whichever is later, the development regulations of any jurisdiction planning under this chapter must allow battery charging stations as a use in all areas except those zoned for residential or resource use or critical areas. A jurisdiction may adopt and apply other development regulations that do not have the effect of precluding the siting of electric vehicle infrastructure in areas where that use is allowed.

(4) Counties are authorized to adopt incentive programs to encourage the retrofitting of existing structures with the electrical outlets capable of charging electric vehicles. Incentives may include bonus height, site coverage, floor area ratio, and transferable development rights for use in urban growth areas.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(6) If federal funding for public investment in electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, or alternative fuel distribution infrastructure is not provided by February 1, 2010, subsection (1) of this section is null and void. [2009 c 459 s 13.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090.

*Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

**RCW 35.63.130 Hearing examiner system—Adoption authorized—**

**Alternative—Functions—Procedures.** (1) As an alternative to those provisions of this chapter relating to powers or duties of the planning commission to hear and report on any proposal to amend a zoning ordinance, the legislative body of a city or county may adopt a hearing examiner system under which a hearing examiner or hearing examiners may hear and decide applications for amending the zoning ordinance when the amendment which is applied for is not of general applicability. In addition, the legislative body may vest in a hearing examiner the power to hear and decide those issues it believes should be reviewed and decided by a hearing examiner, including but not limited to:

(a) Applications for conditional uses, variances, subdivisions, shoreline permits, or any other class of applications for or pertaining to development of land or land use;

(b) Appeals of administrative decisions or determinations; and

(c) Appeals of administrative decisions or determinations pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW.

The legislative body shall prescribe procedures to be followed by the hearing examiner.

(2) Each city or county legislative body electing to use a hearing examiner pursuant to this section shall by ordinance specify the legal effect of the decisions made by the examiner. The legal effect of such decisions may vary for the different classes of applications decided by the examiner but shall include one of the following:

(a) The decision may be given the effect of a recommendation to the legislative body;

(b) The decision may be given the effect of an administrative decision appealable within a specified time limit to the legislative body; or

(c) Except in the case of a rezone, the decision may be given the effect of a final decision of the legislative body.

(3) Each final decision of a hearing examiner shall be in writing and shall include findings and conclusions, based on the record, to support the decision. Such findings and conclusions shall also set forth the manner in which the decision would carry out and conform to the city's or county's comprehensive plan and the city's or county's development regulations. Each final decision of a hearing examiner, unless a longer period is mutually agreed to in writing by the applicant and the hearing examiner, shall be rendered within ten working days following conclusion of all testimony and hearings. [1995 c 347 s 423; 1994 c 257 s 8; 1977 ex.s. c 213 s 1.]

**Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

**Severability—1994 c 257:** See note following RCW 36.70A.270.

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 213:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1977 ex.s. c 213 s 5.]

**RCW 35.63.140 Residential care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** Each municipality that does not provide for the siting of residential care facilities in zones or areas that are designated for single-family or other residential uses, shall conduct a review of the need and demand for the facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 31, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 427 s 36.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**RCW 35.63.150 Conformance with chapter 43.97 RCW required.** With respect to the National Scenic Area, as defined in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, P.L. 99-663, the exercise of any power or authority by a county or city pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to and in conformity with the requirements of chapter 43.97 RCW, including the Interstate Compact adopted by RCW 43.97.015, and with the management plan regulations and ordinances adopted by the Columbia River Gorge commission pursuant to the Compact. [1987 c 499 s 6.]

**RCW 35.63.160 Regulation of manufactured homes—Definitions.**

(1) A "designated manufactured home" is a manufactured home constructed after June 15, 1976, in accordance with state and federal requirements for manufactured homes, which:

(a) Is comprised of at least two fully enclosed parallel sections each of not less than twelve feet wide by thirty-six feet long;

(b) Was originally constructed with and now has a composition or wood shake or shingle, coated metal, or similar roof of nominal 3:12 pitch; and

(c) Has exterior siding similar in appearance to siding materials commonly used on conventional site-built uniform building code single-family residences.

(2) "New manufactured home" means any manufactured home required to be titled under Title 46 RCW, which has not been previously titled to a retail purchaser, and is not a "used mobile home" as defined in RCW 82.45.032(2).

(3) Nothing in this section precludes cities from allowing any manufactured home from being sited on individual lots through local standards which differ from the designated manufactured home or new manufactured home as described in this section, except that the term "designated manufactured home" and "new manufactured home" shall not

be used except as defined in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.  
[2004 c 256 s 5; 1988 c 239 s 1.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2004 c 256:** See notes following RCW 35.21.684.

**RCW 35.63.161 Manufactured housing communities—Prohibitions of city due to community status as a nonconforming use.** (1) After June 10, 2004, a city may designate a new manufactured housing community as a nonconforming use, but may not order the removal or phased elimination of an existing manufactured housing community because of its status as a nonconforming use.

(2) A city may not prohibit the entry or require the removal of a manufactured/mobile home, park model, or recreational vehicle authorized in a manufactured housing community under chapter 59.20 RCW on the basis of the community's status as a nonconforming use. [2011 c 158 s 9; 2004 c 210 s 1.]

**Transfer of residual funds to manufactured home installation training account—2011 c 158:** See note following RCW 43.22A.100.

**RCW 35.63.170 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 35.22.660, 35.63.180, 35A.63.210, 36.32.520, and 36.70.675:

(1) "Family day care home" means a person regularly providing care during part of the twenty-four-hour day to six or fewer children in the family abode of the person or persons under whose direct care the children are placed.

(2) "Mini-day care center" means a person or agency providing care during part of the twenty-four-hour day to twelve or fewer children in a facility other than the family abode of the person or persons under whose direct care the children are placed, or for the care of seven through twelve children in the family abode of such person or persons.

(3) "Day care center" means a person or agency that provides care for thirteen or more children during part of the twenty-four-hour day.

(4) "Child care facility" means a family day care home, mini-day care center, and day care center. [1989 c 335 s 3.]

**Findings—1989 c 335:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) A majority of women with preschool and school-age children in Washington state are working outside of the home and are in need of child care services for their children;

(2) The supply of licensed child care facilities in Washington state is insufficient to meet the growing demand for child care services;

(3) The most convenient location of child care facilities for many working families is near the family's home or workplace." [1989 c 335 s 1.]

**Purpose—1989 c 335:** "The purpose of this act is to encourage the dispersion of child care facilities throughout cities and counties in Washington state so that child care services are available at convenient locations to working parents." [1989 c 335 s 2.]

**Severability—1989 c 335:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1989 c 335 s 10.]

**RCW 35.63.180 Child care facilities—Review of need and demand—Adoption of ordinances.** Each municipality that does not provide for the siting of family day care homes in zones or areas that are designated for single-family or other residential uses, and for the siting of mini-day care centers and day care centers in zones or areas that are designated for any residential or commercial uses, shall conduct a review of the need and demand for child care facilities, including the cost of any conditional or special use permit that may be required. The review shall be completed by August 31, 1990. A copy of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from the review shall be sent to the \*department of community development by September 30, 1990.

On or before June 30, 1991, each municipality that plans and zones under this chapter shall have adopted an ordinance or ordinances that are necessary to implement the findings of this review, if the findings indicate that such changes are necessary, or shall notify the \*department of community development as to why such implementing ordinances were not adopted. [1989 c 335 s 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of community development and the department of trade and economic development were transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic development by 1993 c 280, effective July 1, 1994. The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—1989 c 335:** See notes following RCW 35.63.170.

**Definitions for RCW 35.63.180:** See RCW 35.63.170.

**RCW 35.63.185 Family day-care provider's home facility—City may not prohibit in residential or commercial area—Conditions.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, no city may enact, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, development regulation, zoning regulation, or official control, policy, or administrative practice that prohibits the use of a residential dwelling, located in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, as a family day-care provider's home facility.

(2) A city may require that the facility: (a) Comply with all building, fire, safety, health code, and business licensing requirements; (b) conform to lot size, building size, setbacks, and lot coverage standards applicable to the zoning district except if the structure is a legal nonconforming structure; (c) is certified by the department of children, youth, and families licenser as providing a safe passenger loading area; (d) include signage, if any, that conforms to applicable regulations; and (e) limit hours of operations to facilitate neighborhood compatibility, while also providing appropriate opportunity for persons who use family day-care and who work a nonstandard work shift.



(3) A city may also require that the family day-care provider, before state licensing, require proof of written notification by the provider that the immediately adjoining property owners have been informed of the intent to locate and maintain such a facility. If a dispute arises between neighbors and the family day-care provider over licensing requirements, the licensor may provide a forum to resolve the dispute.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a city from imposing zoning conditions on the establishment and maintenance of a family day-care provider's home in an area zoned for residential or commercial use, so long as such conditions are no more restrictive than conditions imposed on other residential dwellings in the same zone and the establishment of such facilities is not precluded. As used in this section, "family day-care provider" is as defined in RCW 43.216.010. [2018 c 58 s 25; 2007 c 17 s 10; 2003 c 286 s 3; 1995 c 49 s 1; 1994 c 273 s 14.]

**Effective date—2018 c 58:** See note following RCW 28A.655.080.

**RCW 35.63.200 Moratoria, interim zoning controls—Public hearing—Limitation on length.** A council or board that adopts a moratorium or interim zoning control, without holding a public hearing on the proposed moratorium or interim zoning control, shall hold a public hearing on the adopted moratorium or interim zoning control within at least sixty days of its adoption, whether or not the council or board received a recommendation on the matter from the commission. If the council or board does not adopt findings of fact justifying its action before this hearing, then the council or board shall do so immediately after this public hearing. A moratorium or interim zoning control adopted under this section may be effective for not longer than six months, but may be effective for up to one year if a work plan is developed for related studies providing for such a longer period. A moratorium or interim zoning control may be renewed for one or more six-month periods if a subsequent public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each renewal. [1992 c 207 s 1.]

**RCW 35.63.220 Treatment of residential structures occupied by persons with handicaps.** No city may enact or maintain an ordinance, development regulation, zoning regulation or official control, policy, or administrative practice which treats a residential structure occupied by persons with handicaps differently than a similar residential structure occupied by a family or other unrelated individuals. As used in this section, "handicaps" are as defined in the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3602). [1993 c 478 s 20.]

**RCW 35.63.230 Watershed restoration projects—Permit processing—Fish habitat enhancement project.** A permit required under this chapter for a watershed restoration project as defined in RCW 89.08.460 shall be processed in compliance with RCW 89.08.450 through 89.08.510. A fish habitat enhancement project meeting the criteria of RCW 77.55.181 shall be reviewed and approved according to the

provisions of RCW 77.55.181. [2014 c 120 s 10; 2003 c 39 s 15; 1998 c 249 s 5; 1995 c 378 s 8.]

**Findings—Purpose—Report—Effective date—1998 c 249:** See notes following RCW 77.55.181.

**RCW 35.63.240 Planning regulations—Copies provided to county assessor.** By July 31, 1997, a city planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall provide to the county assessor a copy of the city's comprehensive plan and development regulations in effect on July 1st of that year and shall thereafter provide any amendments to the plan and regulations that were adopted before July 31st of each following year. [1996 c 254 s 3.]

**RCW 35.63.250 General aviation airports.** Adoption and amendment of comprehensive plan provisions and development regulations under this chapter affecting a general aviation airport are subject to RCW 36.70.547. [1996 c 239 s 3.]

**RCW 35.63.260 Conditional and special use permit applications by parties licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections—Mediation prior to appeal required.** (1) Prior to filing an appeal of a final decision by a hearing examiner involving a conditional or special use permit application requested by a party that is licensed or certified by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections, the aggrieved party must, within five days after the final decision, initiate formal mediation procedures in an attempt to resolve the parties' differences. If, after initial evaluation of the dispute, the parties agree to proceed with a mediation, the mediation shall be conducted by a trained mediator selected by agreement of the parties. The agreement to mediate shall be in writing and subject to chapter 7.07 RCW. If the parties are unable to agree on a mediator, each party shall nominate a mediator and the mediator shall be selected by lot from among the nominees. The mediator must be selected within five days after formal mediation procedures are initiated. The mediation process must be completed within fourteen days from the time the mediator is selected except that the mediation process may extend beyond fourteen days by agreement of the parties. The mediator shall, within the fourteen-day period or within the extension if an extension is agreed to, provide the parties with a written summary of the issues and any agreements reached. If the parties agree, the mediation report shall be made available to the governing jurisdiction. The cost of the mediation shall be shared by the parties.

(2) Any time limits for filing of appeals are tolled during the pendency of the mediation process.

(3) As used in this section, "party" does not include county, city, or town. [2005 c 172 s 18; 1998 c 119 s 1.]

**Short title—Effective date—2005 c 172:** See RCW 7.07.900 and 7.07.904.

**RCW 35.63.270 Application for a permit to site an energy plant or alternative energy resource—Written notice to United States department of defense.** (1) Upon receipt of an application for a permit to site an energy plant or alternative energy resource that is connected to electrical transmission facilities of a nominal voltage of at least one hundred fifteen thousand volts, the city or town shall notify in writing the United States department of defense. The notification shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) A description of the proposed energy plant or alternative energy resource;
- (b) The location of the site;
- (c) The placement of the energy plant or alternative energy resource on the site;
- (d) The date and time by which comments must be received by the city or town; and
- (e) Contact information of the city or town permitting authority and the applicant.

(2) The purpose of the written notification is to provide an opportunity for the United States department of defense to comment upon the application, and to identify potential issues relating to the placement and operations of the energy plant or alternative energy resource, before a permit application is approved. The time period set forth by the city or town for receipt of such comments shall not extend the time period for the city's processing of the application.

(3) For the purpose of this section, "alternative energy resource," "energy plant," and "electrical transmission facility" shall each have the meaning set forth in RCW 80.50.020. [2011 c 261 s 3.]

**RCW 35.63.280 Increased density bonus for affordable housing located on property owned by a religious organization.** (1) A city planning under this chapter must allow an increased density bonus consistent with local needs for any affordable housing development of any single-family or multifamily residence located on real property owned or controlled by a religious organization provided that:

- (a) The affordable housing development is set aside for or occupied exclusively by low-income households;
- (b) The affordable housing development is part of a lease or other binding obligation that requires the development to be used exclusively for affordable housing purposes for at least fifty years, even if the religious organization no longer owns the property; and
- (c) The affordable housing development does not discriminate against any person who qualifies as a member of a low-income household based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or mental or physical disability; or otherwise act in violation of the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq.).

(2) A city may develop policies to implement this section if it receives a request from a religious organization for an increased density bonus for an affordable housing development.

(3) The religious organization developing the affordable housing development must pay all fees, mitigation costs, and other charges required through the development of the affordable housing development.

(4) If applicable, the religious organization developing the affordable housing development should work with the local transit agency to ensure appropriate transit services are provided to the affordable housing development.

(5) This section applies to any religious organization rehabilitating an existing affordable housing development.

(6) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Affordable housing development" means a proposed or existing structure in which one hundred percent of all single-family or multifamily residential dwelling units within the development are set aside for or are occupied by low-income households at a sales price or rent amount that may not exceed thirty percent of the income limit for the low-income housing unit;

(b) "Low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is less than eighty percent of the median family income, adjusted for household size, for the county where the affordable housing development is located; and

(c) "Religious organization" has the same meaning as in RCW 35.21.915. [2019 c 218 s 1.]

**RCW 35.63.290 Development regulations to implement comprehensive plans—Siting of organic materials management facilities.** For cities not planning under RCW 36.70A.040, development regulations to implement comprehensive plans under RCW 35.63.100 that are newly developed, updated, or amended after January 1, 2025, must allow for the siting of organic materials management facilities in the areas identified by the county in which the city is located under RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(i) to the extent necessary to provide for the establishment of the organic materials management volumetric capacity identified under RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(ii). [2022 c 180 s 603.]

**Findings—Intent—Scope of authority of chapter 180, Laws of 2022—2022 c 180:** See notes following RCW 70A.205.007.

**RCW 35.63.300 Pollinator habitats—Beehives—Definitions.** (1) A city may encourage an applicant of a project permit or commercial building permit to include pollinator friendly plants in any landscaped area to the extent practicable by:

(a) Providing the list of native forage plants as developed by the department of agriculture in compliance with RCW 39.04.410 to applicants for project permits;

(b) Providing information regarding the benefits of pollinators and pollinator habitat; and

(c) Offering incentives, including expedited processing or reduced application fees, for permit applicants that include pollinator habitat as part of the permit application.

(2) A city may set restrictions related to beehives, but may not adopt an ordinance banning beehives.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Commercial building permit" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 19.27.015.

(b) "Pollinator habitat" means an area of land that is or may be developed as habitat beneficial for the feeding, nesting, and

reproduction of all pollinators. "Pollinator habitat" does not include beehives, except for mason bee houses.

(c) "Project permit" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 36.70B.020. [2024 c 337 s 1.]

**Chapter 35.64 RCW  
ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**

**Sections**

- 35.64.010 Contracts for management and operation—Terms—Public hearing.
- 35.64.020 Construction—Collective bargaining agreement not affected.

**RCW 35.64.010 Contracts for management and operation—Terms—Public hearing.** (1) If the legislative authority of a city with a population over one hundred fifty thousand that is not in a metropolitan park district contracts with one or more nonprofit corporations or other public organizations for the overall management and operation of a zoo, an aquarium, or both, that contract shall be subject to this section. No such contract for the overall management and operation of zoo or aquarium facilities by a nonprofit corporation or other public organization shall have an initial term or any renewal term longer than twenty years, but may be renewed by the legislative authority of the city upon the expiration of an initial term or any renewal term.

(2) Before approving each initial and any renewal contract with a nonprofit corporation or other public organization for the overall management and operation of any facilities, the city legislative authority shall hold a public hearing on the proposed management and operation by the nonprofit corporation or other public organization. At least thirty days prior to the hearing, a public notice setting forth the date, time, and place of the hearing must be published at least once in a local newspaper of general circulation. Notice of the hearing shall also be mailed or otherwise delivered to all who would be entitled to notice of a special meeting of the city legislative authority under RCW 42.30.080. The notice shall identify the facilities involved and the nonprofit corporation or other public organization proposed for management and operation under the contract with the city. The terms and conditions under which the city proposes to contract with the nonprofit corporation or other public organization for management and operation shall be available upon request from and after the date of publication of the hearing notice and at the hearing, but after the public hearing the city legislative authority may amend the proposed terms and conditions at open public meetings.

(3) As part of the management and operation contract, the legislative authority of the city may authorize the managing and operating entity to grant to any nonprofit corporation or public or private organization franchises or concessions that further the public use and enjoyment of the zoo or aquarium, as the case may be, and may authorize the managing and operating entity to contract with any public or private organization for any specific services as are routinely so procured by the city.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision in the charter of the city so contracting for the overall management and operation of a zoo or an aquarium, or any other provision of law, the nonprofit corporation or other public organization with responsibility for overall management or operation of any such facilities pursuant to a contract under this section may, in carrying out that responsibility under such contract,

manage, supervise, and control those employees of the city employed in connection with the zoo or aquarium and may hire, fire, and otherwise discipline those employees. Notwithstanding any provision in the charter of the city so contracting for the overall management and operation of a zoo or an aquarium, or any other provision of law, the civil service system of any such city shall provide for the nonprofit corporation or other public organization to manage, supervise, control, hire, fire, and otherwise discipline those employees of the city employed in connection with the zoo or aquarium.

(5) As part of the management and operation contract, the legislative authority of the city shall provide for oversight of the managing and operating entity to ensure public accountability of the entity and its performance in a manner consistent with the contract. [2000 c 206 s 1.]

**RCW 35.64.020 Construction—Collective bargaining agreement not affected.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect any terms, conditions, or practices contained in a collective bargaining agreement in effect on June 8, 2000. [2000 c 206 s 2.]

**Chapter 35.66 RCW  
POLICE MATRONS**

**Sections**

- 35.66.010 Authority to establish.
- 35.66.020 Appointment.
- 35.66.030 Assistance by police.
- 35.66.040 Compensation.
- 35.66.050 Persons under arrest—Separate quarters.

**RCW 35.66.010 Authority to establish.** There shall be annexed to the police force of each city in this state having a population of not less than ten thousand inhabitants one or more police matrons who, subject to the control of the chief of police or other proper officer, shall have the immediate care of all females under arrest and while detained in the city prison until they are finally discharged therefrom. [1965 c 7 s 35.66.010. Prior: 1893 c 15 s 1; RRS s 9282.]

**RCW 35.66.020 Appointment.** The police matron or matrons employed or appointed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall be employed or appointed in the same manner as other regular members of the police departments in the city where the appointment is made. [1965 c 7 s 35.66.020. Prior: 1939 c 115 s 1; 1893 c 15 s 4; RRS s 9285.] [SLC-RO-4]

**RCW 35.66.030 Assistance by police.** Any person on the police force or, in their absence, any other person present, must aid and assist the matron when from necessity she may require it. [1965 c 7 s 35.66.030. Prior: 1893 c 15 s 2; RRS s 9283.]

**RCW 35.66.040 Compensation.** A police matron must be paid such compensation for her services as shall be fixed by the city council and at such time as may be appointed for the payment of police officers. [2007 c 218 s 68; 1965 c 7 s 35.66.040. Prior: 1893 c 15 s 6; RRS s 9287.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**RCW 35.66.050 Persons under arrest—Separate quarters.** For the purpose of effecting the main object of this chapter, no member of one sex under arrest shall be confined in the same cell or apartment of the city jail or prison, with any member of the other sex whatever. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 53; 1965 c 7 s 35.66.050. Prior: 1893 c 15 s 3; RRS s 9284.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.



**Chapter 35.67 RCW**  
**SEWERAGE SYSTEMS—REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

**Sections**

- 35.67.010 Definitions—"System of sewerage," "public utility."
- 35.67.020 Authority to construct system and fix rates and charges—  
Classification of services and facilities—Assistance  
for low-income persons.
- 35.67.022 Extension outside city subject to review by boundary  
review board.
- 35.67.025 Public property subject to rates and charges for  
stormwater control facilities.
- 35.67.030 Adoption of plan—Ordinance.
- 35.67.065 General obligation bonds—Issuance.
- 35.67.110 General obligation bonds—Payment—Revenue from service  
charges.
- 35.67.120 Revenue bond fund—Authority to establish.
- 35.67.130 Revenue bond fund—Limitations upon creation.
- 35.67.140 Revenue bonds—Authority—Denominations—Terms.
- 35.67.150 Revenue bonds—Signatures—Form.
- 35.67.160 Revenue bonds—Obligation against fund, not city.
- 35.67.170 Revenue bonds—Sale of—Other disposition.
- 35.67.180 Revenue bonds—Remedy of owners.
- 35.67.190 Revenues from system—Classification of services—Minimum  
rates—Compulsory use.
- 35.67.194 Revenue bonds validated.
- 35.67.200 Sewerage lien—Authority.
- 35.67.210 Sewerage lien—Extent—Notice—Emergency declaration.
- 35.67.215 Sewerage lien—Extension of coverage.
- 35.67.220 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Parts—Tracts.
- 35.67.230 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Limitation on time of  
commencement.
- 35.67.240 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Procedure.
- 35.67.250 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Trial.
- 35.67.260 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Redemption.
- 35.67.270 Sewerage sale acquired property—Disposition.
- 35.67.280 Sewerage sale acquired property—Payment of delinquent  
taxes.
- 35.67.290 Sewerage lien—Enforcement—Alternative method.
- 35.67.300 Water-sewer districts and municipalities—Joint  
agreements.
- 35.67.310 Sewers—Outside city connections.
- 35.67.331 Water, sewerage, garbage systems—Combined facilities.
- 35.67.340 Statutes governing combined facility.
- 35.67.350 Penalty for sewer connection without permission.
- 35.67.360 Conservation of stormwater and sewer services—Use of  
public moneys.
- 35.67.370 Mobile home parks—Replacement of septic systems—Charges  
for unused sewer service.
- 35.67.380 Cooperative watershed management.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Municipal water and sewer facilities act: Chapter 35.91 RCW.*

*Prepayment of taxes and assessments: RCW 35.21.650.*

*Sewer facilities act: Chapter 35.91 RCW.*

*Sewerage improvement districts: Chapter 85.08 RCW.*

**RCW 35.67.010 Definitions—"System of sewerage," "public utility."** A "system of sewerage" means and may include any or all of the following:

(1) Sanitary sewage collection, treatment, and/or disposal facilities and services, on-site or off-site sanitary sewerage facilities, inspection services and maintenance services for public or private on-site systems, or any other means of sewage treatment and disposal approved by the city;

(2) Combined sanitary sewage disposal and storm or surface water sewers;

(3) Storm or surface water sewers;

(4) Outfalls for storm drainage or sanitary sewage and works, plants, and facilities for storm drainage or sanitary sewage treatment and disposal, and rights and interests in property relating to the system;

(5) Combined water and sewerage systems;

(6) Point and nonpoint water pollution monitoring programs that are directly related to the sewerage facilities and programs operated by a city or town;

(7) Public restroom and sanitary facilities; and

(8) Any combination of or part of any or all of such facilities.

The words "public utility" when used in this chapter has the same meaning as the words "system of sewerage." [1997 c 447 s 7; 1965 c 110 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.010. Prior: 1955 c 266 s 2; prior: 1941 c 193 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-4, part.]

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

**RCW 35.67.020 Authority to construct system and fix rates and charges—Classification of services and facilities—Assistance for low-income persons.** (1) Every city and town may construct, condemn and purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, conduct, and operate systems of sewerage and systems and plants for refuse collection and disposal together with additions, extensions, and betterments thereto, within and without its limits. Every city and town has full jurisdiction and authority to manage, regulate, and control them and, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, to fix, alter, regulate, and control the rates and charges for their use.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the rates charged under this section must be uniform for the same class of customers or service and facilities furnished. In classifying customers served or service and facilities furnished by such system of sewerage, the city or town legislative body may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors:

(a) The difference in cost of service and facilities to the various customers;

(b) The location of the various customers within and without the city or town;

(c) The difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system;

(d) The different character of the service and facilities furnished various customers;

(e) The quantity and quality of the sewage delivered and the time of its delivery;

(f) The achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use practices;

(g) Capital contributions made to the system, including but not limited to, assessments;

(h) The public benefit nonprofit corporation status, as defined in RCW 24.03A.245, of the land user; and

(i) Any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction.

(3) The rate a city or town may charge under this section for storm or surface water sewer systems or the portion of the rate allocable to the storm or surface water sewer system of combined sanitary sewage and storm or surface water sewer systems shall be reduced by a minimum of ten percent for any new or remodeled commercial building that utilizes a permissive rainwater harvesting system. Rainwater harvesting systems shall be properly sized to utilize the available roof surface of the building. The jurisdiction shall consider rate reductions in excess of ten percent dependent upon the amount of rainwater harvested.

(4) Rates or charges for on-site inspection and maintenance services may not be imposed under this chapter on the development, construction, or reconstruction of property.

(5) A city or town may provide assistance to aid low-income persons in connection with services provided under this chapter.

(6) Under this chapter, after July 1, 1998, any requirements for pumping the septic tank of an on-site sewage system should be based, among other things, on actual measurement of accumulation of sludge and scum by a trained inspector, trained owner's agent, or trained owner. Training must occur in a program approved by the state board of health or by a local health officer.

(7) Before adopting on-site inspection and maintenance utility services, or incorporating residences into an on-site inspection and maintenance or sewer utility under this chapter, notification must be provided, prior to the applicable public hearing, to all residences within the proposed service area that have on-site systems permitted by the local health officer. The notice must clearly state that the residence is within the proposed service area and must provide information on estimated rates or charges that may be imposed for the service.

(8) A city or town shall not provide on-site sewage system inspection, pumping services, or other maintenance or repair services under this section using city or town employees unless the on-site system is connected by a publicly owned collection system to the city or town's sewerage system, and the on-site system represents the first step in the sewage disposal process. Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of state or local health officers to carry out their responsibilities under any other applicable law. [2021 c 176 s 5211; 2003 c 394 s 1; 1997 c 447 s 8; 1995 c 124 s 3; 1991 c 347 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.020. Prior: 1959 c 90 s 1; 1955 c 266 s 3; prior: 1941 c 193 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-4, part.]

**Effective date—2021 c 176:** See note following RCW 24.03A.005.

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

**RCW 35.67.022 Extension outside city subject to review by boundary review board.** The extension of sewer facilities outside of the boundaries of a city or town may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 32.]

**RCW 35.67.025 Public property subject to rates and charges for stormwater control facilities.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for stormwater control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by cities and towns pursuant to RCW 35.67.020. In setting these rates and charges, consideration may be made of in-kind services, such as stream improvements or donation of property. [1986 c 278 s 55; 1983 c 315 s 1.]

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Severability—1983 c 315:** See note following RCW 90.03.500.

*Flood control zone districts—Stormwater control improvements: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

*Rates and charges for stormwater control facilities—Limitations—Definitions: RCW 90.03.500 through 90.03.525. See also RCW 35.92.021, 36.89.085, and 36.94.145.*

**RCW 35.67.030 Adoption of plan—Ordinance.** Whenever the legislative body of any city or town, shall deem it advisable that such city or town shall purchase, acquire or construct any public utility mentioned in RCW 35.67.020, or make any additions, betterments, or alterations thereto, or extensions thereof, such legislative body shall provide therefor by ordinance, which shall specify and adopt the system or plan proposed, and declare the estimated cost thereof as near as may be. [1985 c 445 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.030. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-5.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

*Limitations upon indebtedness, how exceeded: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.67.065 General obligation bonds—Issuance.** General obligation bonds issued by a city or town to pay for all or part of the costs of purchasing, acquiring, or constructing any public utility

mentioned in RCW 35.67.020, or the costs of making any additions, betterments, or alterations thereto, or extensions thereof, shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1985 c 445 s 2.]

**RCW 35.67.110 General obligation bonds—Payment—Revenue from service charges.** In addition to taxes pledged to pay the principal of and interest on general obligation bonds issued to pay for costs of purchasing, acquiring, or constructing any public utility mentioned in RCW 35.67.020, or to make any additions, betterments, or alterations thereto, or extensions thereof, the city or town legislative body, may set aside into a special fund and pledge to the payment of such principal and interest any sums or amounts which may accrue from the collection of service rates and charges for the private and public use of said sewerage system or systems for the collection and disposal of refuse, in excess of the cost of operation and maintenance thereof as constructed or added to, and the same shall be applied solely to the payment of such interest and bonds. Such pledge of revenue shall constitute a binding obligation, according to its terms, to continue the collection of such revenue so long as such bonds or any of them are outstanding. If the rates and charges are sufficient to meet the debt service requirements on such bonds no general tax need be levied. [1985 c 445 s 3; 1965 c 118 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.110. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-6, part.]

**RCW 35.67.120 Revenue bond fund—Authority to establish.** After the city or town legislative body adopts a proposition for any such public utility, and either (1) no general indebtedness has been authorized, or (2) the city or town legislative body does not desire to incur a general indebtedness, and the legislative body can lawfully proceed without submitting the proposition to a vote of the people, it may create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of defraying the cost of the proposed system, or additions, betterments or extensions thereto.

The city or town legislative body may obligate the city or town to set aside and pay into this special fund: (1) A fixed proportion of the gross revenues of the system, or (2) a fixed amount out of and not exceeding a fixed proportion of the gross revenues, or (3) a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, and (4) amounts received from any utility local improvement district assessments pledged to secure such bonds. [1967 c 52 s 24; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.120. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-7, part.]

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds: RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.*

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount: RCW 39.44.140.*

**RCW 35.67.130 Revenue bond fund—Limitations upon creation.** In creating the special fund, the city or town legislative body shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the system as constructed or added to, and to any proportion or part of the

revenue previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds, warrants and other indebtedness. It shall not set aside into the special fund a greater amount or proportion of the revenue and proceeds than in its judgment will be available over and above the cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion of the revenue so previously pledged. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.130. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-7, part.]

**RCW 35.67.140 Revenue bonds—Authority—Denominations—Terms.** A city or town may issue revenue bonds against the special fund or funds created solely from revenues. The revenue bonds so issued shall: (1) Be registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030 or coupon bonds, (2) be issued in denominations of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, (3) be numbered from one upwards consecutively, (4) bear the date of their issue, (5) be serial in form finally maturing not more than thirty years from their date, (6) bear interest at the rate or rates as authorized by the legislative body of the city or town, payable annually or semiannually, (7) be payable as to principal and interest at such place as may be designated therein, and (8) shall state upon their face that they are payable from a special fund, naming it and the ordinance creating it: PROVIDED, That such bonds may also be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 59; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 43; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 71; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.140. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-7, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 35.67.150 Revenue bonds—Signatures—Form.** Every revenue bond and any coupon shall be signed by the mayor and attested by the clerk. The seal of the city or town shall be attached to all bonds but not to any coupons. Signatures on any coupons may be printed or may be the lithographic facsimile of the signatures. The bonds shall be printed, engraved or lithographed upon good bond paper. [1983 c 167 s 60; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.150. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-7, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.67.160 Revenue bonds—Obligation against fund, not city.** Revenue bonds or warrants and interest shall be payable only out of the special fund. Every bond or warrant and interest thereon issued against the special fund shall be a valid claim of the holder thereof only as against that fund and its fixed proportion of the amount of revenue pledged to the fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the city or town. Every warrant as well as every bond shall state

on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming it and the ordinance creating it. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.160. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-7, part.]

**RCW 35.67.170 Revenue bonds—Sale of—Other disposition.** Revenue bonds and warrants may be sold in any manner the city or town legislative body deems for the best interests of the city or town. The legislative body may provide in any contract for the construction or acquisition of a proposed utility that payment therefor shall be made only in revenue bonds and warrants at their par value. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.170. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-7, part.]

**RCW 35.67.180 Revenue bonds—Remedy of owners.** If a city or town fails to set aside and pay into the special fund created for the payment of revenue bonds and warrants the amount which it has obligated itself in the ordinance creating the fund to set aside and pay therein, the owner of any bond or warrant issued against the fund may bring suit against the city or town to compel it to do so. [1983 c 167 s 61; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.180. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 c 9354-7, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.67.190 Revenues from system—Classification of services—Minimum rates—Compulsory use.** (1) The legislative body of such city or town may provide by ordinance for revenues by fixing rates and charges for the furnishing of service to those served by its system of sewerage or system for refuse collection and disposal, which rates and charges shall be uniform for the same class of customer or service. In classifying customers served or service furnished by such system of sewerage, the city or town legislative body may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors: (a) The difference in cost of service to the various customers; (b) the location of the various customers within and without the city or town; (c) the difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system; (d) the different character of the service furnished various customers; (e) the quantity and quality of the sewage delivered and the time of its delivery; (f) capital contributions made to the system, including but not limited to, assessments; (g) the public benefit nonprofit corporation status, as defined in RCW 24.03A.245, of the land user; and (h) any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction.

(2) If special indebtedness bonds or warrants are issued against the revenues, the legislative body shall by ordinance fix charges at rates which will be sufficient to take care of the costs of maintenance and operation, bond and warrant principal and interest, sinking fund requirements, and all other expenses necessary for efficient and proper operation of the system.

(3) All property owners within the area served by such sewerage system shall be compelled to connect their private drains and sewers with such city or town system, under such penalty as the legislative

body of such city or town may by ordinance direct. Such penalty may in the discretion of such legislative body be an amount equal to the charge that would be made for sewer service if the property was connected to such system. All penalties collected shall be considered revenue of the system. [2021 c 176 s 5212; 1995 c 124 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.190. Prior: 1959 c 90 s 2; 1941 c 193 s 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-8.]

**Effective date—2021 c 176:** See note following RCW 24.03A.005.

**RCW 35.67.194 Revenue bonds validated.** Any and all water, sewer, or water and sewer revenue bonds part or all of which may have been heretofore (prior to June 8, 1955) issued by any city or town for the purpose of providing funds to pay part or all of the cost of acquiring, constructing, or installing a system of storm or surface water sewers or any part thereof necessary for the proper and efficient operation of a system of sanitary sewage disposal sewers or a sanitary sewage treatment plant, the proceedings for the issuance of which were valid in all other respects, are approved, ratified and validated, and are declared to be legal and binding obligations of such city or town, both principal of and interest on which are payable only out of the revenues of the utility or utilities pledged for such payment. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.194. Prior: 1955 c 266 s 5.]

**RCW 35.67.200 Sewerage lien—Authority.** Cities and towns owning their own sewer systems shall have a lien for delinquent and unpaid rates and charges for sewer service, penalties levied pursuant to RCW 35.67.190, and connection charges, including interest thereon, against the premises to which such service has been furnished or is available, which lien shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances except general taxes and local and special assessments. The city or town by ordinance may provide that delinquent charges shall bear interest at not exceeding eight percent per annum computed on a monthly basis: PROVIDED, That a city or town using the property tax system for utility billing may, by resolution or ordinance, adopt the alternative lien procedure as set forth in RCW 35.67.215. [1991 c 36 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.200. Prior: 1959 c 90 s 4; prior: 1941 c 193 s 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-9, part.]

**RCW 35.67.210 Sewerage lien—Extent—Notice—Emergency declaration.** (1) Except as provided for in subsection (2) of this section, the sewerage lien shall be effective for a total of not to exceed six months' delinquent charges without the necessity of any writing or recording. In order to make such lien effective for more than six months' charges the city or town treasurer, clerk, or official charged with the administration of the affairs of the utility shall cause to be filed for record in the office of the county auditor of the county in which such city or town is located, a notice in substantially the following form:

"Sewerage lien notice  
City (or town) of.....  
vs.



..... reputed owner.

Notice is hereby given that the city (or town) of . . . . . has and claims a lien for sewer charges against the following described premises situated in . . . . . county, Washington, to wit:

(here insert legal description of premises)

Said lien is claimed for not exceeding six months such charges and interest now delinquent, amount to \$. . . . ., and is also claimed for future sewerage charges against said premises.

Dated.....

City (or town) of.....

By..... "

The lien notice may be signed by the city or town treasurer or clerk or other official in charge of the administration of the utility. The lien notice shall be recorded as prescribed by law for the recording of mechanics' liens.

(2) A sewage lien may exceed six months' delinquent charges without the necessity of any writing or recording if collection of charges was impacted by the declaration of an emergency by the governor. In such circumstances, a lien may be filed for all charges due during the period covered by the declaration and may be effective for six months after the expiration of the declaration of the emergency. [2021 c 296 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.210. Prior: 1959 c 90 s 5; prior: 1941 c 193 s 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-9, part.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2021 c 296:** See notes following RCW 82.14.310.

**RCW 35.67.215 Sewerage lien—Extension of coverage.** Any city or town may, by resolution or ordinance, provide that the sewerage lien shall be effective for a total not to exceed one year's delinquent service charges without the necessity of any writing or recording of the lien with the county auditor, in lieu of the provisions provided for in RCW 35.67.210. [1991 c 36 s 3.]

**RCW 35.67.220 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Parts—Tracts.** The city or town may foreclose its sewerage lien in an action in the superior court. All or any of the tracts subject to the lien may be proceeded against in the same action, and all parties appearing of record as owning or claiming to own, having or claiming to have any interest in or lien upon the tracts involved in the action shall be impleaded in the action as parties defendant. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.220. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-10, part.]

**RCW 35.67.230 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Limitation on time of commencement.** An action to foreclose a sewerage lien pursuant to a lien notice filed as required by law must be commenced within two years from the date of the filing thereof.

An action to foreclose a six months' lien may be commenced at any time after six months subsequent to the furnishing of the sewerage

service for which payment has not been made. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.230. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-10, part.]

**RCW 35.67.240 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Procedure.** The service of summons, and all other proceedings except as herein otherwise prescribed including appeal, order of sale, sale, redemption, and issuance of deed, shall be governed by the statutes now or hereafter in force relating to the foreclosure of mortgages on real property. The terms "judgment debtor" or "successor in interest" in the statutes governing redemption when applied herein shall include an owner or a vendee. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.240. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-10, part.]

**RCW 35.67.250 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Trial.** A sewerage lien foreclosure action shall be tried before the court without a jury. The court may allow in addition to interest on the service charges at a rate not exceeding eight percent per year from date of delinquency, costs and disbursements as provided by statute and such attorneys' fees as the court may adjudge reasonable.

If the owners and parties interested in any particular tract default, the court may enter judgment of foreclosure and sale as to such parties and tracts and the action may proceed as to the remaining defendants and tracts. The judgment shall specify separately the amount of the sewerage charges, with interest, penalty and costs chargeable to each tract. The judgment shall have the effect of a separate judgment as to each tract described in the judgment, and any appeal shall not invalidate or delay the judgment except as to the property concerning which the appeal is taken. In the judgment the court shall order the tracts therein described sold at one general sale, and an order of sale shall issue pursuant thereto for the enforcement of the judgment. Judgment may be entered as to any one or more separate tracts involved in the action, and the court shall retain jurisdiction of other properties. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.250. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-10, part.]

**RCW 35.67.260 Sewerage lien foreclosure—Redemption.** All sales shall be subject to the right of redemption within one year from date of sale. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.260. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-10, part.]

**RCW 35.67.270 Sewerage sale acquired property—Disposition.** At any time after deed is issued to it pursuant to lien, a city or town may lease or sell or convey any property at public or private sale for such price and on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the city or town legislative body, any provision of law, charter or ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.270. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-11.]

**RCW 35.67.280 Sewerage sale acquired property—Payment of delinquent taxes.** After the entry of judgment of foreclosure against any tract, the city or town may pay delinquent general taxes or

purchase certificates of delinquency for general taxes on the tract or purchase the tract at county tax foreclosure or from the county after foreclosure.

After entry of judgment of foreclosure against any premises the city or town may pay local or special assessments which are delinquent or are about to become delinquent and if the tract has been foreclosed upon for local or special assessments and the time for redemption has not expired, it may redeem it.

No moneys shall be expended for the purposes enumerated in this section except upon enactment by the city or town legislative body of a resolution determining the desirability or necessity of making the expenditure. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.280. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 9; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-12.]

**RCW 35.67.290 Sewerage lien—Enforcement—Alternative method.** As an additional and concurrent method of enforcing the lien authorized in this chapter any city or town operating its own municipal water system may provide by ordinance for the enforcement of the lien by cutting off the water service from the premises to which such sewer service was furnished after the charges become delinquent and unpaid, until the charges are paid.

The right to enforce the lien by cutting off and refusing water service shall not be exercised after two years from the date of the recording of sewerage lien notice except to enforce payment of six months' charges for which no lien notice is required to be recorded. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.290. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-13.]

**RCW 35.67.300 Water-sewer districts and municipalities—Joint agreements.** Any city, town, or organized and established water-sewer district owning or operating its own sewer system, whenever topographic conditions shall make it feasible and whenever such existing sewer system shall be adequate therefor in view of the sewerage and drainage requirements of the property in such city, town, or water-sewer district, served or to be served by such system, may contract with any other city, town, or organized and established water-sewer district for the discharge into its sewer system of sewage from all or any part or parts of such other city, town, or water-sewer district upon such terms and conditions and for such periods of time as may be deemed reasonable.

Any city, town, or organized and established water-sewer district may contract with any other city, town, or organized and established water-sewer district for the construction and/or operation of any sewer or sewage disposal facilities for the joint use and benefit of the contracting parties upon such terms and conditions and for such period of time as the governing bodies of the contracting parties may determine. Any such contract may provide that the responsibility for the management of the construction and/or maintenance and operation of any sewer disposal facilities or part thereof covered by such contract shall be vested solely in one of the contracting parties, with the other party or parties thereto paying to the managing party such portion of the expenses thereof as shall be agreed upon. [1999 c 153 s 37; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.300. Prior: 1947 c 212 s 3; 1941 c 193 s 11; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9354-14.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.67.310 Sewers—Outside city connections.** Every city or town may permit connections with any of its sewers, either directly or indirectly, from property beyond its limits, upon such terms, conditions and payments as may be prescribed by ordinance, which may be required by the city or town to be evidenced by a written agreement between the city or town and the owner of the property to be served by the connecting sewer.

If any such agreement is made and filed with the county auditor of the county in which said property is located, it shall constitute a covenant running with the land and the agreements and covenants therein shall be binding on the owner and all persons subsequently acquiring any right, title or interest in or to said property.

If the terms and conditions of the ordinance or of the agreement are not kept and performed, or the payments made, as required, the city or town may disconnect the sewer and for that purpose may at any time enter upon any public street or road or upon said property.

[1965 c 7 s 35.67.310. Prior: 1941 c 75 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-19.]

**RCW 35.67.331 Water, sewerage, garbage systems—Combined facilities.** A city or town may by ordinance provide that its water system, sewerage system, and garbage and refuse collection and disposal system may be acquired, constructed, maintained and operated jointly, either by combining any two of such systems or all three. All powers granted to cities and towns to acquire, construct, maintain and operate such systems may be exercised in the joint acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of such combined systems: PROVIDED, That if a general indebtedness is to be incurred to pay a part or all of the cost of construction, maintenance, or operation of such a combined system, no such indebtedness shall be incurred without such indebtedness first being authorized by a vote of the people at a special or general election conducted in the manner prescribed by law: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in chapter 51, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. shall be construed to supersede charter provisions to the contrary. [1969 ex.s. c 51 s 1.]

**RCW 35.67.340 Statutes governing combined facility.** The operation by a city or town of a combined facility as provided for in RCW 35.67.331 shall be governed by the statutes relating to the establishment and maintenance of a city or town water system if the water system is one of the systems included in the combined acquisition, construction, or operation; otherwise the combined system shall be governed by the statutes relating to the establishment and maintenance of a city or town sewerage system. [1969 ex.s. c 51 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.67.340. Prior: 1941 c 193 s 12, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-15, part.]

**RCW 35.67.350 Penalty for sewer connection without permission.** It is unlawful and a misdemeanor to make or cause to be made or to

maintain any sewer connection with any sewer of any city or town, or with any sewer which is connected directly or indirectly with any sewer of any city or town without having permission from the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.67.350. Prior: 1943 c 100 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 s 9354-20.]

**RCW 35.67.360 Conservation of stormwater and sewer services—Use of public moneys.** Any city, code city, town, county, special purpose district, municipal corporation, or quasi-municipal corporation that is engaged in the sale or distribution of stormwater or sewer services may use public moneys or credit derived from operating revenues from the sale of stormwater or sewer services to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of stormwater or sewer services in such structures or equipment. Except for the necessary support of the poor and infirm, an appropriate charge-back shall be made for the extension of public moneys or credit. The charge-back shall be a lien against the structure benefited or a security interest in the equipment benefited. [1998 c 31 s 2.]

**Findings—Intent—1998 c 31:** "The legislature finds that the voters approved an amendment to Article VIII, section 10 of the state Constitution in 1997. The legislature finds that this amendment to the state Constitution will allow necessary improvements to be made to stormwater and sewer services so that less pollution is discharged into the waters of the state, less treatment will be needed, and capacity for existing treatment systems will be saved. It is the intent of the legislature to enact legislation that grants specific authority to units of local government that provide stormwater and sewer services to operate programs that are consistent with the authority granted in House Joint Resolution No. 4209." [1998 c 31 s 1.]

**Effective date—1998 c 31 s 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1, 1998." [1998 c 31 s 3.]

**RCW 35.67.370 Mobile home parks—Replacement of septic systems—Charges for unused sewer service.** (1) Cities, towns, or counties may not require existing mobile home parks to replace existing, functional septic systems with a sewer system within the community unless the local board of health determines that the septic system is failing. (2) Cities, towns, and counties are prohibited from requiring existing mobile home parks to pay a sewer service availability charge, standby charge, consumption charge, or any other similar types of charges associated with available but unused sewer service, including any interest or penalties for nonpayment or enforcement charges, until the mobile home park connects to the sewer service. When a mobile home park connects to a sewer, cities, towns, and counties may only charge mobile home parks prospectively from the date of connection for their sewer service. Chapter 297, Laws of 2003 is remedial in nature and applies retroactively to 1993. [2003 c 297 s 1; 1998 c 61 s 1.]

**RCW 35.67.380 Cooperative watershed management.** In addition to the authority provided in RCW 35.67.020, a city may, as part of maintaining a system sewerage, participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 s 12.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 327:** See note following RCW 39.34.190.

**Chapter 35.68 RCW**  
**SIDEWALKS, GUTTERS, CURBS, AND DRIVEWAYS—ALL CITIES AND TOWNS**

**Sections**

- 35.68.010 Authority conferred.
- 35.68.020 Resolution—Contents.
- 35.68.030 Resolution—Publication—Notice—Hearing.
- 35.68.040 "Sidewalk construction fund."
- 35.68.050 Assessment roll—Hearing—Notice—Confirmation—Appeal.
- 35.68.060 Method of payment of assessments.
- 35.68.070 Collection of assessments.
- 35.68.075 Curb ramps for persons with disabilities—Required—  
Standards and requirements.
- 35.68.076 Curb ramps for persons with disabilities—Model standards.
- 35.68.080 Construction of chapter.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**RCW 35.68.010 Authority conferred.** Any city or town, hereinafter referred to as city, is authorized to construct, reconstruct, and repair sidewalks, gutters and curbs along and driveways across sidewalks, which work is hereafter referred to as the improvement, and to pay the costs thereof from any available funds, or to require the abutting property owner to construct the improvement at the owner's own cost or expense, or, subject to the limitations in RCW 35.69.020 (2) and (3), to assess all or any portion of the costs thereof against the abutting property owner. [1996 c 19 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.68.010. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332a.]

**RCW 35.68.020 Resolution—Contents.** No such improvement shall be undertaken or required except pursuant to a resolution of the council or commission of the city or town, hereinafter referred to as the city council. The resolution shall state whether the cost of the improvement shall be borne by the city or whether all or a specified portion shall be borne by the city or whether all or a specified portion shall be borne by the abutting property owner; or whether the abutting owner is required to construct the improvement at his or her own cost and expense. If the abutting owner is required to construct the improvement the resolution shall specify the time within which the construction shall be commenced and completed; and further that if the improvement or construction is not undertaken and completed within the time specified that the city will perform or complete the improvement and assess the cost against the abutting owner. [2009 c 549 s 2117; 1965 c 7 s 35.68.020. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332b.]

**RCW 35.68.030 Resolution—Publication—Notice—Hearing.** If all or any portion of the cost is to be assessed against the abutting property owner, or if the abutting property owner is required to construct the improvement, the resolution shall fix a time from and after its passage, and a place, for hearing on the resolution. The resolution shall be published for two consecutive weeks before the time of hearing in the official newspaper or regularly published

official publication of the city or town and a notice of the date of the hearing shall be given each owner or reputed owner of the abutting property by mailing to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer, at the address shown thereon a notice of the date of hearing, the mailing to be at least ten days before the date fixed for the hearing. If the publication and mailing is made as herein required, proof thereof by affidavit shall be filed with the city clerk, comptroller or auditor of the city before the hearing. The hearing may be postponed from time to time to a definite date until the hearing is held. At the time of hearing the council shall hear persons who appear for or against the improvement, and determine whether it will or will not proceed with the improvement and whether it will make any changes in the original plan, and what the changes shall be. This action may be taken by motion adopted in the usual manner. [1985 c 469 s 37; 1965 c 7 s 35.68.030. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332c.]

**RCW 35.68.040 "Sidewalk construction fund."** When all or any portion of the cost is to be assessed against the abutting property owner, the city council may create a "sidewalk construction fund No. . . . ." to be numbered differently for each improvement; and with warrants drawn on this fund the cost of the respective improvements may be paid. The city may advance as a loan to the sidewalk construction fund from any available funds the amounts necessary to pay any costs of the improvement. When any assessments are made for the improvement, payments therefor shall be paid into the particular sidewalk improvement fund; and whenever any funds are available over the amounts necessary to pay outstanding warrants any advances or loans made to the fund shall be repaid. Whenever warrants are drawn on any such fund which are not paid for want of sufficient funds, they shall be so stamped and shall bear interest until called and paid at a rate established by the city council by resolution. [1965 c 7 s 35.68.040. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332d.]

**RCW 35.68.050 ~~Assessment roll—Hearing—Notice—Confirmation—~~Appeal.** Where all or any portion of the costs are to be assessed against the abutting property, an assessment roll shall be prepared by the proper city official or by the city council which shall to the extent necessary be based on benefits and which shall describe the property assessed, the name of the owner, if known, otherwise stating that the owner is unknown and fixing the amount of the assessment. The assessment roll shall be filed with the city clerk, and when so filed the council shall by resolution fix a date for hearing thereon and direct the clerk to give notice of the hearing and the time and place thereof. The notice of hearing shall be mailed to the person whose name appears on the county treasurer's tax roll as the owner or reputed owner of the property, at the address shown thereon, and shall be published before the date fixed for the hearing for two consecutive weeks in the official newspaper or regular official publication of the city. The notice shall be mailed and first publication made at least ten days before the hearing date. Proof of mailing and publication shall be made by affidavit and shall be filed with the city clerk before the date fixed for the hearing. Following the hearing the city council shall by ordinance affirm, modify, or reject or order



recasting of the assessment roll. An appeal may be taken to the superior court from the ordinance confirming the assessment roll in the same manner as is provided for appeals from the assessment roll by chapters 35.43 to 35.54 RCW, inclusive, as now or hereafter amended. [1985 c 469 s 38; 1965 c 7 s 35.68.050. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332e.]

**RCW 35.68.060 Method of payment of assessments.** The city council shall by resolution provide whether the full amount of the assessment shall be paid in one payment or whether it may be paid in installments and shall prescribe the time and amount of such payments; and if more than one payment is provided for, the city council may by resolution provide for interest on unpaid installments and fix the rate thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.68.060. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332f.]

**RCW 35.68.070 Collection of assessments.** The assessment roll as affirmed or modified by the city council shall be filed with the city treasurer for collection, and the amount thereof including interest, if any, shall become a lien against the property described therein from the date of such filing. Whenever any payment on any assessment or installment is delinquent and unpaid for a period of thirty days or more the lien may be foreclosed in the same manner and with the same effect as is provided by chapters 35.43 to 35.54 RCW, inclusive; as now or hereafter amended. Whenever the deed is issued after the sale therein provided, the regularity, validity and correctness of the proceedings relating to such improvement and the assessment therefor shall be final and conclusive and no action shall thereafter be brought by or in behalf of any person to set aside said deed. [1965 c 7 s 35.68.070. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332g.]

**RCW 35.68.075 Curb ramps for persons with disabilities—Required—Standards and requirements.** (1) The standard for construction on any county road, or city or town street, for which curbs in combination with sidewalks, paths, or other pedestrian access ways are to be constructed, shall be not less than two ramps per lineal block on or near the crosswalks at intersections. Such ramps shall be at least thirty-six inches wide and so constructed as to allow reasonable access to the crosswalk for persons with physical disabilities, without uniquely endangering blind persons.

(2) Standards set for curb ramping under subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to any curb existing upon enactment of this section but shall apply to all new curb construction and to all replacement curbs constructed at any point in a block which gives reasonable access to a crosswalk.

(3) Upon September 21, 1977, every ramp thereafter constructed under subsection (1) of this section, which serves one end of a crosswalk, shall be matched by another ramp at the other end of the crosswalk. However, no ramp shall be required at the other end of the crosswalk if there is no curb nor sidewalk at the other end of the crosswalk. Nor shall any matching ramp constructed pursuant to this subsection require a subsequent matching ramp. [2020 c 274 s 12; 1989 c 173 s 1; 1977 ex.s. c 137 s 1; 1973 c 83 s 1.]

**RCW 35.68.076 Curb ramps for persons with disabilities—Model standards.** The department of enterprise services shall, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act, adopt several suggested model design, construction, or location standards to aid counties, cities, and towns in constructing curb ramps to allow reasonable access to the crosswalk for persons with physical disabilities without uniquely endangering blind persons. The department of enterprise services shall consult with persons with physical disabilities, blind persons, counties, cities, and the state building code council in adopting the suggested standards. [2015 c 225 s 30; 1989 c 175 s 84; 1977 ex.s. c 137 s 2.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**RCW 35.68.080 Construction of chapter.** This chapter is supplemental and additional to any and all other laws relating to construction, reconstruction, and repair of sidewalks, gutters, and curbs along driveways across sidewalks in cities and towns. [1965 c 7 s 35.68.080. Prior: 1949 c 177 s 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9332h.]

**Chapter 35.69 RCW**  
**SIDEWALKS—CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION IN FIRST AND SECOND-CLASS**  
**CITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.69.010 Definitions.
- 35.69.020 Resolution of necessity—Liability of abutting property—  
Reconstruction.
- 35.69.030 Notice to owners—Service—Contents—Assessment—  
Collection.
- 35.69.040 Abutting property defined.
- 35.69.050 Construction of chapter.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**RCW 35.69.010 Definitions.** The term "street" as used herein includes boulevard, avenue, street, alley, way, lane, square or place. The term "city" includes any city of the first or second class or any other city of equal population working under a special charter. The term "sidewalk" includes any and all pedestrian structures or forms of improvement for pedestrians included in the space between the street margin, as defined by a curb or the edge of the traveled road surface, and the line where the public right-of-way meets the abutting property. [1996 c 19 s 2; 1994 c 81 s 61; 1965 c 7 s 35.69.010. Prior: 1927 c 203 s 1; RRS s 9332-1.]

**RCW 35.69.020 Resolution of necessity—Liability of abutting property—Reconstruction.** (1) Whenever a portion, not longer than one block in length, of any street in any city is not improved by the construction of a sidewalk thereon, or the sidewalk thereon has become unfit or unsafe for purposes of public travel, and such street adjacent to both ends of said portion is so improved and in good repair, and the city council of such city by resolution finds that the improvement of such portion of such street by the construction or reconstruction of a sidewalk thereon is necessary for the public safety and convenience, the duty, burden, and expense of constructing or reconstructing such sidewalk shall devolve upon the property directly abutting upon such portion except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

(2) An abutting property shall not be charged with any costs of construction or reconstruction under this chapter, or under chapter 35.68 or 35.70 RCW, in excess of fifty percent of the valuation of such abutting property, exclusive of improvements thereon, according to the valuation last placed upon it for purposes of general taxation.

(3) An abutting property shall not be charged with any costs of reconstruction under this chapter, or under chapter 35.68 or 35.70 RCW, if the reconstruction is required to correct deterioration of or damage to the sidewalk that is the direct result of actions by the city or its agents or to correct deterioration of or damage to the sidewalk that is the direct result of the failure of the city to enforce its ordinances. [1996 c 19 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.69.020. Prior: 1927 c 203 s 2; RRS s 9332-2.]

**RCW 35.69.030 Notice to owners—Service—Contents—Assessment—Collection.** Whenever the city council of any such city has adopted such resolution it shall cause a notice to be served on the owner of the property directly abutting on such portion of such street, instructing him or her to construct or reconstruct a sidewalk on such portion in accordance with the plans and specifications which shall be attached to such notice. The notice shall be deemed sufficiently served if delivered in person to the owner or if left at the home of such owner with a person of suitable age and discretion then resident therein, or with an agent of such owner, authorized to collect rentals on such property, or, if the owner is a nonresident of the state of Washington, by mailing a copy to his or her last known address, or if he or she is unknown or if his or her address is unknown, then by posting a copy in a conspicuous place at such portion of the street where the improvement is to be made. The notice shall specify a reasonable time within which such construction or reconstruction shall be made, and shall state that in case the owner fails to make the same within such time, the city will proceed to make it through the officer or department thereof charged with the inspection of sidewalks and that such officer or department will report to the city council, at a subsequent date, to be definitely stated in the notice, an assessment roll showing the lot or parcel of land directly abutting on such portion of the street so improved, the cost of the improvement, and the name of the owner, if known, and that the city council at the time stated in the notice or at the time or times to which the same may be adjourned, will hear any and all protests against the proposed assessment. Upon the expiration of the time fixed within which the owner is required to construct or reconstruct such sidewalk, if the owner has failed to perform such work, the city may proceed to perform it, and the officer or department of the city performing the work shall, within the time fixed in the notice, report to the city council an assessment roll showing the lot or parcel of land directly abutting on that portion of the street so improved, the cost of the work, and the name of the owner, if known. The city council shall, at the time in such notice designated, or at an adjourned time or times, assess the cost of such improvement against said property and shall fix the time and manner for payment thereof, which said assessment shall become a lien upon said property and shall be collected in the manner as is provided by law for collection of local improvements assessments under this title. [2009 c 549 s 2118; 1965 c 7 s 35.69.030. Prior: 1927 c 203 s 3; RRS s 9332-3.]

**RCW 35.69.040 Abutting property defined.** For the purposes of this chapter all property having a frontage upon the sides or margins of any street shall be deemed to be abutting property, and such property shall be chargeable, as provided herein, for all costs of construction or reconstruction or any form of sidewalk improvement between the margin of said street and the roadway lying in front of and adjacent to said property. [1965 c 7 s 35.69.040. Prior: 1927 c 203 s 4; RRS s 9332-4.]

**RCW 35.69.050 Construction of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit or repeal any existing powers of cities with reference to the construction or reconstruction of sidewalks or

the improvement or maintenance of streets, but the power and authority herein granted is to be exercised concurrent with or in extension of powers and authority now existing. The legislative authority of any city before exercising the powers and authority herein granted shall, by proper ordinance, provide for the application and enforcement of the same within the limitations herein specified. [1965 c 7 s 35.69.050. Prior: 1927 c 203 s 5; RRS s 9332-5.]

**Chapter 35.70 RCW**  
**SIDEWALKS—CONSTRUCTION IN SECOND-CLASS CITIES AND TOWNS**

**Sections**

- 35.70.010 Definitions.
- 35.70.020 Owners' responsibility.
- 35.70.030 Convenience and necessity reported by superintendent.
- 35.70.040 Council's resolution and notice—Adoption.
- 35.70.050 Council's resolution and notice—Contents.
- 35.70.060 Notice of resolution and order—Service.
- 35.70.070 Superintendent to construct and prepare assessment roll.
- 35.70.080 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice.
- 35.70.090 Lien of assessments and foreclosure.
- 35.70.100 Provisions of chapter not exclusive.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**RCW 35.70.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter all property having a frontage on the side or margin of any street shall be deemed abutting property, and such property shall be chargeable, as provided in this chapter, with all costs of construction of any form of sidewalk improvement, between the margin of the street, as defined by a curb or the edge of the traveled road surface, and the line where the public right-of-way meets the abutting property, and the term sidewalk as used in this chapter shall be construed to mean and include any and all pedestrian structures or forms of improvement for pedestrians included in the space between the street margin, as defined by a curb or the edge of the traveled road surface, and the line where the public right-of-way meets the abutting property. [1996 c 19 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.70.010. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 7; RRS s 9161.]

**RCW 35.70.020 Owners' responsibility.** In all cities of the second class and towns the burden and expense of constructing sidewalks along the side of any street or other public place shall devolve upon and be borne by the property directly abutting thereon. The cost of reconstructing or repairing existing sidewalks may devolve upon the abutting property subject to the limitations in RCW 35.69.020 (2) and (3). [1996 c 19 s 5; 1994 c 81 s 62; 1965 c 7 s 35.70.020. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 1; RRS s 9155.]

**RCW 35.70.030 Convenience and necessity reported by superintendent.** If in the judgment of the officer or department having superintendence of streets and public places, public convenience or safety requires that a sidewalk be constructed along either side of any street, he or she shall report the fact to the city or town council immediately. [2009 c 549 s 2119; 1965 c 7 s 35.70.030. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 2, part; RRS s 9156, part.]

**RCW 35.70.040 Council's resolution and notice—Adoption.** If upon receiving a report from the proper officer, the city or town council deems the construction of the proposed sidewalk necessary or convenient for the public it shall by an appropriate resolution order

the sidewalk constructed and shall cause a written notice to be served upon the owner of each parcel of land abutting upon that portion and side of the street where the sidewalk is constructed requiring him or her to construct the sidewalk in accordance with the resolution. [2009 c 549 s 2120; 1965 c 7 s 35.70.040. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 2, part; RRS s 9156, part.]

**RCW 35.70.050 Council's resolution and notice—Contents.** The resolution and notice and order to construct a sidewalk shall:

- (1) Describe each parcel of land abutting upon that portion and side of the street where the sidewalk is ordered to be constructed,
- (2) Specify the kind of sidewalk required, its size and dimensions, the method and material to be used in construction,
- (3) Contain an estimate of the cost thereof, and
- (4) State that unless the sidewalk is constructed in compliance with the notice, and within a reasonable time therein specified, the city or town will construct the sidewalk and assess the cost and expense thereof against the abutting property described in the notice. [1965 c 7 s 35.70.050. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 3; RRS s 9157.]

**RCW 35.70.060 Notice of resolution and order—Service.** The notice shall be served:

- (1) By delivering a copy to the owner or reputed owner of each parcel of land affected, or to the authorized agent of the owners, or
- (2) By leaving a copy thereof at the usual place of abode of the owner in the city or town with a person of suitable age and discretion residing therein, or
- (3) If the owner is a nonresident of the city or town and his or her place of residence is known by mailing a copy to the owner addressed to his or her last known place of residence, or
- (4) If the place of residence of the owner is unknown or if the owner of any parcel of land affected is unknown, by publication in the official newspaper of the city or town once a week for two consecutive weeks. The notice shall specify a reasonable time within which the sidewalk shall be constructed which in the case of publication of the notice shall not be less than sixty days from the date of the first publication of such notice. [2009 c 549 s 2121; 1985 c 469 s 36; 1965 c 7 s 35.70.060. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 4; RRS s 9158.]

**RCW 35.70.070 Superintendent to construct and prepare assessment roll.** If the notice and order to construct a sidewalk is not complied with within the time therein specified, the officer or department having the superintendence of streets shall proceed to construct said sidewalk forthwith and shall report to the city or town council at its next regular meeting or as soon thereafter as is practicable an assessment roll showing each parcel of land abutting upon the sidewalk, the name of the owner thereof if known, and apportion the cost of said improvement to be assessed against each parcel of such land. [1965 c 7 s 35.70.070. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 5, part; RRS s 9159, part.]

**RCW 35.70.080 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice.** Thereupon the city or town council shall set a date for hearing any protests against the proposed assessment roll and shall cause a notice of the time and place of the hearing to be published once a week for two successive weeks in the official newspaper of the city or town, the date of the hearing to be not less than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice. At the hearing or at any adjournment thereof the council by ordinance shall assess the cost of constructing the sidewalk against the abutting property in accordance with the benefits thereto. [1985 c 469 s 39; 1965 c 7 s 35.70.080. Prior: (i) 1915 c 149 s 5, part; RRS s 9159, part. (ii) 1915 c 149 s 6, part; RRS s 9160, part.]

**RCW 35.70.090 Lien of assessments and foreclosure.** The assessments shall become a lien upon the respective parcels of land and shall be collected in the manner provided by law for the collection of local improvement assessments and shall bear interest at the rate of six percent per annum from the date of the approval of said assessment thereon. [1965 c 7 s 35.70.090. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 6, part; RRS s 9160, part.]

*Collection and foreclosure of local improvement assessments: Chapters 35.49, 35.50 RCW.*

**RCW 35.70.100 Provisions of chapter not exclusive.** This chapter shall not be construed as repealing or amending any provision relating to the improvement of streets or public places by special assessments commonly known as local improvement laws, but shall be considered as additional legislation and auxiliary thereto and the city or town council, of any city of the second class or town before exercising the authority herein granted may by ordinance provide for the application and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter within the limitations herein specified. [1994 c 81 s 63; 1965 c 7 s 35.70.100. Prior: 1915 c 149 s 8; RRS s 9162.]



**Chapter 35.71 RCW  
PEDESTRIAN MALLS**

**Sections**

- 35.71.010 Definitions.
- 35.71.020 Establishment declared public purpose—Authority to establish—General powers.
- 35.71.030 Resolution of intention—Traffic limitation—Property owner's right of ingress and egress.
- 35.71.040 Plan—Alternate vehicle routes—Off-street parking—Hearing, notice.
- 35.71.050 Real estate appraisers—Report.
- 35.71.060 Financing methods.
- 35.71.070 Waivers and quitclaim deeds—Rights in right-of-way.
- 35.71.080 Vacating, replatting right-of-way for mall purposes.
- 35.71.090 "Mall organization"—Powers in general—Directors—Officers.
- 35.71.100 Special assessment.
- 35.71.110 Claims for damages.
- 35.71.120 Contracts with mall organization for administration—Conflicting charter provisions.
- 35.71.130 Election to discontinue mall—Ordinance—Outstanding obligations—Restoration to former status.
- 35.71.910 Chapter controls inconsistent laws.

**RCW 35.71.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning herein given to each of them:

"City" means any city or town.

"Chief executive" means the mayor in a mayor-council or commission city and city manager in a council-manager city.

"Corporate authority" means the legislative body of any city.

"Project" means a pedestrian mall project.

"Right-of-way" means that area of land dedicated for public use or secured by the public for purposes of ingress and egress to abutting property and other public purposes.

"Mall" means an area of land, part of which may be surfaced, landscaped, and used entirely for pedestrian movements, except with respect to governmental functions, utilities, and loading and unloading of goods.

"Mall organization" means a group of property owners, lessors, or lessees in an area that has been organized to consider the establishment, maintenance, and operation of a mall in a given area and persons owning or having any legal or equitable interest in the real property affected by the establishment of the mall. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.010. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 1.]

**RCW 35.71.020 Establishment declared public purpose—Authority to establish—General powers.** The establishment of pedestrian malls is declared to be for a public purpose. Any corporate authority, by ordinance, may establish and regulate any street right-of-way as a mall, may prohibit, in whole or in part, vehicular traffic on a mall, and may provide for the acquisition of any interest in the right-of-way necessary to its establishment, and may provide for the

determination of legal damages, if any, to abutting property. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.020. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 2.]

**RCW 35.71.030 Resolution of intention—Traffic limitation—Property owner's right of ingress and egress.** When the corporate authority determines that the public interest, safety, and convenience is best served by the establishment of a mall and that vehicular traffic will not be unduly inconvenienced thereby, it may adopt a resolution declaring its intention to do so, and announcing the intended extent of traffic limitation. Any corporate authority is authorized to limit the utilization of any right-of-way, except for utilities and governmental functions, provided adequate alternative routes for vehicular movement, and the loading and unloading of goods are established or are available. The abutting property owner's right of ingress and egress shall be considered to have been satisfied whenever the corporate authority has planned and constructed, or there is available, an alternate route, alleyway, and service driveway. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.030. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 3.]

**RCW 35.71.040 Plan—Alternate vehicle routes—Off-street parking—Hearing, notice.** Before a mall is established, a plan shall be formulated consistent with the city's comprehensive plan, including at least the area of the right-of-way between two intersecting streets and showing alternate routes outside the mall area upon which any vehicles excluded from using the mall may be accommodated; it may include a provision for on and off-street parking. After the plans have been prepared, the corporate authority shall hold a public hearing thereon, giving notice of time and place at least two weeks in advance of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the city and as required by \*chapter 42.32 RCW. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.040. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The only section in chapter 42.32 RCW, RCW 42.32.030, was recodified as RCW 42.30.035 pursuant to 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 s 30.

**RCW 35.71.050 Real estate appraisers—Report.** The corporate authority is authorized to engage duly qualified real estate appraisers, for the purpose of determining the value, or legal damages, if any, to any person, owning or having any legal or equitable interest in any real property who contends that he or she would suffer damage if a projected mall were established; in connection therewith the city shall take into account any increment in value that may result from the establishment of the mall. The appraisers shall submit their findings in writing to the chief executive of the city. [2009 c 549 s 2122; 1965 c 7 s 35.71.050. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 5.]

**RCW 35.71.060 Financing methods.** The corporate authority may finance the establishment of a mall, including, but not limited to, right-of-way improvements, traffic control devices, and off-street parking facilities in the vicinity of the mall, by one or more of the following methods or by a combination of any two or more of them:

(1) By creating local improvement districts under the laws applicable thereto in Title 35 RCW.

(2) By issuing revenue bonds pursuant to chapter 35.41 RCW, \*RCW 35.24.305, chapter 35.92 RCW, RCW 35.81.100, and by such other statutes that may authorize such bonds.

(3) By issuing general obligation bonds pursuant to chapter 39.52 RCW, RCW 35.81.115, and by such other statutes and applicable provisions of the state Constitution that may authorize such bonds.

(4) By use of gifts and donations.

(5) General fund and other available moneys: PROVIDED, That if any general fund moneys are expended for a mall, provision may be made for repayment thereof to the general fund from money received from the financing of the mall.

The corporate authority may include within the cost of any mall project the expense of moving utilities, or any facility located within a right-of-way. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.060. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 6.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 35.24.305 was recodified as RCW 35.23.454 pursuant to 1994 c 81 s 90.

**RCW 35.71.070 Waivers and quitclaim deeds—Rights in right-of-way.** The corporate authority may formulate, solicit, finance and acquire, purchase, or negotiate the acquisition of waivers and the execution of quitclaim deeds by persons owning or having any legal or equitable interest in the real property affected by the establishment of a mall, conveying the necessary rights to the city to prohibit through vehicular traffic and otherwise limit vehicular access to, and from, such right-of-way: PROVIDED, That the execution of such waivers and quitclaim deeds shall not operate to extinguish the rights of the abutting owner, lessor, or lessee in the right-of-way, not included in such waiver or quitclaim deed. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.070. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 7.]

**RCW 35.71.080 Vacating, replatting right-of-way for mall purposes.** The corporate authority, as an alternate to the preceding methods, may find that the right-of-way no longer is needed as a right-of-way. When persons owning or having any legal or equitable interest in the real property affected by a proposed mall, present a petition to the corporate authority for vacating the right-of-way pursuant to chapter 35.79 RCW, or the corporate authority initiates by resolution such a vacation proceeding, a right-of-way may be vacated and replatted for mall purposes, and closed to vehicular traffic except as provided in RCW 35.71.030, consistent with the subdivision standards allowed by Title 58 RCW, and chapter 35.63 RCW. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.080. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 8.]

**RCW 35.71.090 "Mall organization"—Powers in general—Directors—Officers.** The corporate authority may cause an organization of persons to be known as a "Mall organization" interested in creating a mall in a given area to be formed to provide for consultative assistance to the city with respect to the establishment and administration of a mall. This organization may elect a board of directors of not less than three nor more than twelve members. The

board shall elect a president, a vice president, and a secretary from its membership. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.090. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 9.]

**RCW 35.71.100 Special assessment.** After the establishment of the mall, the corporate authority may levy a special assessment on the real property within the area specially benefited by the improvement. Such special levy, if any, shall be for operation and maintenance of the mall and appurtenances thereto, which may not exceed one percent of the aggregate actual valuation of the real property (including twenty-five percent of the actual valuation of the improvements thereon) according to the valuation last placed upon it for purposes of general taxation: PROVIDED, That if a mall organization board of directors exists as authorized by RCW 35.71.090, the corporate authority may entertain a recommendation from this organization with respect to such a levy by the corporate authority. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.100. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 10.]

**RCW 35.71.110 Claims for damages.** Following the public hearing on the ordinance to establish a mall any person owning or having any legal or equitable interest in property which might be affected by reason of the establishment of the proposed mall or the board of directors of a mall organization shall, within twenty days of such hearing, file with the city clerk a statement describing the real property as to which the claim is made, the nature of the claimant's interest therein, the nature of the alleged damage thereto and the amount of damages claimed. After the receipt thereof, the corporate authority may negotiate with the affected parties concerning them or deny them. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.110. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 11.]

**RCW 35.71.120 Contracts with mall organization for administration—Conflicting charter provisions.** If the corporate authority desires to have the mall administered by a mall organization rather than by one of its departments, the corporate authority may execute a contract with such an organization for the administration of the mall upon mutually satisfactory terms and conditions: PROVIDED, That if any provision of a city charter conflicts with this section, such provision of the city charter shall prevail. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.120. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 12.]

**RCW 35.71.130 Election to discontinue mall—Ordinance—Outstanding obligations—Restoration to former status.** The board of directors of a mall organization may call for an election, after the mall has been in operation for two years, at which the voting shall be by secret ballot, on the question: "Shall the mall be continued in operation?" If sixty percent of the membership of the organization vote to discontinue the mall, the results of the election shall be submitted to the corporate authority. The corporate authority may initiate proceedings by ordinance for the discontinuation of the mall, allocate the proportionate amount of the outstanding obligations of the mall to the abutting property of the mall or property specially benefited if a local improvement district is established, subject to the provisions of any applicable statutes and bond ordinances,

resolutions, or agreements, and thereafter, at a time set by the corporate authority, the mall may be restored to its former right-of-way status. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.130. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 13.]

**RCW 35.71.910 Chapter controls inconsistent laws.** Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with a provision of any other law, the provisions of this chapter shall be controlling. [1965 c 7 s 35.71.910. Prior: 1961 c 111 s 15.]

**Chapter 35.72 RCW**  
**CONTRACTS FOR STREET, ROAD, AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS**

**Sections**

- 35.72.010 Contracts authorized for street projects.
- 35.72.020 Reimbursement by other property owners—Contract requirements.
- 35.72.030 Reimbursement by other property owners—Reimbursement share.
- 35.72.040 Assessment reimbursement contracts.
- 35.72.050 Alternative financing methods—Participation in or creation of assessment reimbursement area by county, city, town, or department of transportation—Eligibility for reimbursement.

**RCW 35.72.010 Contracts authorized for street projects.** The legislative authority of any city, town, or county may contract with owners of real estate for the construction or improvement of street projects which the owners elect to install as a result of ordinances that require the projects as a prerequisite to further property development. [1983 c 126 s 1.]

**RCW 35.72.020 Reimbursement by other property owners—Contract requirements.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, the contract may provide for the partial reimbursement to the owner or the owner's assigns for a period not to exceed fifteen years of a portion of the costs of the project by other property owners who:

(a) Are determined to be within the assessment reimbursement area pursuant to RCW 35.72.040;

(b) Are determined to have a reimbursement share based upon a benefit to the property owner pursuant to RCW 35.72.030;

(c) Did not contribute to the original cost of the street project; and

(d) Subsequently develop their property within the period of time that the contract is effective and at the time of development were not required to install similar street projects because they were already provided for by the contract.

Street projects subject to reimbursement may include design, grading, paving, installation of curbs, gutters, storm drainage, sidewalks, street lighting, traffic controls, and other similar improvements, as required by the street standards of the city, town, or county.

(2) (a) The contract may provide for an extension of the fifteen-year reimbursement period for a time not to exceed the duration of any moratorium, phasing ordinance, concurrency designation, or other governmental action that prevents making applications for, or the approval of, any new development within the benefit area for a period of six months or more.

(b) Upon the extension of the reimbursement period pursuant to (a) of this subsection, the contract must specify the duration of the contract extension and must be filed and recorded with the county auditor. Property owners who are subject to the reimbursement obligations under subsection (1) of this section shall be notified by

the appropriate county, city, or town of the extension filed under this subsection.

(3) Each contract shall include a provision requiring that every two years from the date the contract is executed a property owner entitled to reimbursement under this section provide the appropriate county, city, or town with information regarding the current contract name, address, and telephone number of the person, company, or partnership that originally entered into the contract. If the property owner fails to comply with the notification requirements of this subsection within sixty days of the specified time, then the contracting county, city, or town may collect any reimbursement funds owed to the property owner under the contract. Such funds must be deposited in the capital fund of the county, city, or town. [2006 c 88 s 1; 1983 c 126 s 2.]

**RCW 35.72.030 Reimbursement by other property owners—Reimbursement share.** The reimbursement shall be a pro rata share of construction and reimbursement of contract administration costs of the street project. A city, town, or county shall determine the reimbursement share by using a method of cost apportionment which is based on the benefit to the property owner from such project. [1983 c 126 s 3.]

**RCW 35.72.040 Assessment reimbursement contracts.** The procedures for assessment reimbursement contracts shall be governed by the following:

(1) An assessment reimbursement area shall be formulated by the city, town, or county based upon a determination by the city, town, or county of which parcels adjacent to the improvements would require similar street improvements upon development.

(2) The preliminary determination of area boundaries and assessments, along with a description of the property owners' rights and options, shall be forwarded by certified mail to the property owners of record within the proposed assessment area. If any property owner requests a hearing in writing within twenty days of the mailing of the preliminary determination, a hearing shall be held before the legislative body, notice of which shall be given to all affected property owners. The legislative body's ruling is determinative and final.

(3) The contract must be recorded in the appropriate county auditor's office within thirty days of the final execution of the agreement.

(4) If the contract is so filed, it shall be binding on owners of record within the assessment area who are not party to the contract. [1988 c 179 s 16; 1983 c 126 s 4.]

**Severability—Prospective application—Section captions—1988 c 179:** See RCW 39.92.900 and 39.92.901.

**RCW 35.72.050 Alternative financing methods—Participation in or creation of assessment reimbursement area by county, city, town, or department of transportation—Eligibility for reimbursement.** (1) As an alternative to financing projects under this chapter solely by

owners of real estate, a county, city, or town may join in the financing of improvement projects and may be reimbursed in the same manner as the owners of real estate who participate in the projects, if the county, city, or town has specified the conditions of its participation in an ordinance. As another alternative, a county, city, or town may create an assessment reimbursement area on its own initiative, without the participation of a private property owner, finance the costs of the road or street improvements, and become the sole beneficiary of the reimbursements that are contributed. A county, city, or town may be reimbursed only for the costs of improvements that benefit that portion of the public who will use the developments within the assessment reimbursement area established pursuant to RCW 35.72.040(1). No county, city, or town costs for improvements that benefit the general public may be reimbursed.

(2) The department of transportation may, for state highways, participate with the owners of real estate or may be the sole participant in the financing of improvement projects, in the same manner and subject to the same restrictions as provided for counties, cities, and towns, in subsection (1) of this section. The department shall enter into agreements whereby the appropriate county, city, or town shall act as an agent of the department in administering this chapter. [1997 c 158 s 1; 1987 c 261 s 1; 1986 c 252 s 1.]



**Chapter 35.73 RCW**  
**STREET GRADES—SANITARY FILLS**

**Sections**

- 35.73.010 Authority—First and second-class cities.
- 35.73.020 Estimates—Intention—Property included—Resolution.
- 35.73.030 Hearing—Time of—Publication of resolution.
- 35.73.040 Ordinance—Assessments.
- 35.73.050 Lien of assessments.
- 35.73.060 Improvement district bonds—Issuance.
- 35.73.070 Improvement district bonds—Payment—Remedies.
- 35.73.080 Provisions not exclusive.

**RCW 35.73.010 Authority—First and second-class cities.** If a city of the first or second class establishes the grade of any street or alley at a higher elevation than any private property abutting thereon, thereby rendering the drainage of such private property or any part thereof impracticable without the raising of the surface of such private property, or if the surface of any private property in any such city is so low as to make sanitary drainage thereof impracticable and it is determined by resolution of the city council of such city that a fill of such private property is necessary as a sanitary measure, the city may provide therefor, and by general or special ordinance or both make provision for the necessary surveys, estimates, bids, contract, bond and supervision of the work and for making and approving the assessment roll of the local improvement district and for the collection of the assessments made thereby, and for the doing of everything which in their discretion may be necessary or be incidental thereto: PROVIDED, That before the approval of the assessment roll, notice shall be given and an opportunity offered for the owners of the property affected by the assessment roll to be heard before such city council in the same manner as in case of assessments for drainage or sewerage in the city. [1965 c 7 s 35.73.010. Prior: (i) 1907 c 243 s 1; RRS s 9426. (ii) 1907 c 243 s 4; RRS s 9429.]

**RCW 35.73.020 Estimates—Intention—Property included—Resolution.** Before establishing a grade for property or providing for the fill of property, the city must adopt a resolution declaring its intention to do so.

The resolution shall:

- (1) Describe the property proposed to be improved by the fill,
- (2) State the estimated cost of making the improvement,
- (3) State that the cost thereof is to be assessed against the property improved thereby, and
- (4) Fix a time not less than thirty days after the first publication of the resolution within which protests against the proposed improvement may be filed with the city clerk.

The resolution may include as many separate parcels of property as may seem desirable whether or not they are contiguous so long as they lie in the same general neighborhood and may be included conveniently in one local improvement district. [1965 c 7 s 35.73.020. Prior: 1907 c 243 s 2, part; RRS s 9427, part.]

**RCW 35.73.030 Hearing—Time of—Publication of resolution.** Upon the passage of the resolution the city clerk shall cause it to be published in the official newspaper of the city in at least two successive issues before the time fixed in the resolution for filing protests. Proof of publication by affidavit shall be filed as part of the record of the proceedings. [1965 c 7 s 35.73.030. Prior: 1907 c 243 s 2, part; RRS s 9427, part.]

**RCW 35.73.040 Ordinance—Assessments.** If no protest is filed, or if protests are filed but the city council after full hearing determines that it is necessary to fill any portion of the private property it shall proceed to enact an ordinance for such improvement. By the provisions of the ordinance, a local improvement district shall be established to be called "local improvement district No. . . . .," which shall include all the property found by the said council to require the fill as a sanitary measure. The ordinance shall provide that such improvement shall be made and shall fix and establish the grades to which the said property and the different portions thereof shall be brought by such improvement, and that the cost and expense thereof shall be taxed and assessed upon all the property in such local improvement district, which cost shall be assessed in proportion to the number of cubic yards of earth and bulkheading required for the different portions of said property included in said improvement district and in proportion to the benefits derived by such improvement: PROVIDED, That the city council may expend from the general fund for such purposes such sums as in its judgment may seem fair and equitable in consideration of the benefits accruing to the general public by reason of such improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.73.040. Prior: 1907 c 243 s 3, part; RRS s 9428, part.]

**RCW 35.73.050 Lien of assessments.** Whenever any expense or cost of work has been assessed the amount of such expense and cost shall become a lien upon said lands against which the same are so assessed and shall take precedence of all other liens, except general tax liens and special assessment liens theretofore assessed by the said city thereon and which may be foreclosed in accordance with law in the name of such city as plaintiff. And in any such proceeding if the court trying the same shall be satisfied that the work has been done or material furnished for the fill of such property, a recovery shall be permitted or charge enforced to the extent of the proper proportion of the value of the work or material which would be chargeable on such lot or land notwithstanding any informality, irregularity or defects in any of the proceedings of such municipal corporation or its officers. [1965 c 7 s 35.73.050. Prior: 1907 c 243 s 3, part; RRS s 9428, part.]

*Collection and foreclosure of local improvement district assessments:  
Chapters 35.49, 35.50 RCW.*

**RCW 35.73.060 Improvement district bonds—Issuance.** (1) The city may, in its discretion, by general or special ordinance, or both, instead of requiring immediate payment for the said work to be made by the owners of property included in the assessment roll, authorize the

issuance of interest bearing bonds or warrants of the local improvement district, payable on or before a date not to exceed twelve years from and after their date. The bonds may be issued subject to call, the amount of the said assessment to be payable in installments or otherwise, and the bonds to be of such terms as may be provided in the ordinances and to bear interest at such rate or rates as may be prescribed in the ordinances. Such bonds or warrants may be of any form, including bearer bonds or bearer warrants, or registered bonds or registered warrants as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds or warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 62; 1981 c 156 s 9; 1979 ex.s. c 30 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.73.060. Prior: 1915 c 87 s 1, part; 1907 c 243 s 5, part; RRS s 9430, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.73.070 Improvement district bonds—Payment—Remedies.** The bonds or warrants shall be payable only from the fund created by the special assessments upon the property in the local improvement district, and the owner of any bond or warrant shall look only to this fund for the payment of the principal and interest thereof and shall have no claim or lien therefor against the city by which the same was issued except from that fund. [1983 c 167 s 63; 1965 c 7 s 35.73.070. Prior: 1915 c 87 s 1, part; 1907 c 243 s 5, part; RRS s 9430, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.73.080 Provisions not exclusive.** The provisions and remedies provided by this chapter for filling lowlands in connection with establishing street grades or for sanitary reasons are cumulative. [1965 c 7 s 35.73.080. Prior: 1907 c 243 s 6; RRS s 9431.]

**Chapter 35.74 RCW**  
**STREETS—DRAWBRIDGES**

**Sections**

- 35.74.010 Authority to construct or grant franchise to construct.
- 35.74.020 Initiation of proceedings—Notice to county commissioners.
- 35.74.030 Determination of width of draw—Appeal.
- 35.74.040 Required specifications.
- 35.74.050 Authority to operate toll bridges—Toll rate review and approval by tolling authority.
- 35.74.060 Prerequisites of grant of franchise—Approval of bridge—Tolls.
- 35.74.070 License fees—Renewal of license.

*Counties may assist as to certain bridges on city streets: RCW 36.75.200.*

**RCW 35.74.010 Authority to construct or grant franchise to construct.** Every city and town may erect and maintain drawbridges across navigable streams that flow through or penetrate the boundaries thereof, when the public necessity requires it, or it may grant franchises to persons or corporations to erect them and charge toll thereon. [1965 c 7 s 35.74.010. Prior: 1890 p 54 s 1; RRS s 9323.]

**RCW 35.74.020 Initiation of proceedings—Notice to county commissioners.** If the city or town council desires to erect a drawbridge across any navigable stream on any street, or to grant the privilege so to do to any corporation or individual, it shall notify the board of county commissioners to that effect stating the precise point where such bridge is proposed to be located. [1965 c 7 s 35.74.020. Prior: 1890 p 54 s 2, part; RRS s 9324, part.]

**RCW 35.74.030 Determination of width of draw—Appeal.** The board of county commissioners within ten days from the receipt of the notice, if in session, and if not in session, within five days after the first day of the next regular or special session, shall designate the width of the draw to be made in such bridge, and the length of span necessary to permit the free flow of water: PROVIDED, That if any persons deem themselves aggrieved by the determination of the matter by the board, they may appeal to the superior court which may hear and determine the matter upon such further notice and on such testimony as it shall direct to be produced. [1965 c 7 s 35.74.030. Prior: 1890 p 54 s 2, part; RRS s 9324, part.]

**RCW 35.74.040 Required specifications.** All bridges constructed under the provisions of this chapter must be so constructed as not to obstruct navigation, and must have a draw or swing of sufficient space or span to permit the safe, convenient, and expeditious passage at all times of any steamer or vessel or raft which may navigate the stream or waters bridged. [1965 c 7 s 35.74.040. Prior: 1890 p 55 s 5; RRS s 9327.]

**RCW 35.74.050 Authority to operate toll bridges—Toll rate review and approval by tolling authority.** A city or town may build and maintain toll bridges and charge and collect tolls thereon, and to that end may provide a system and elect or appoint persons to operate the same, or the said bridges may be made free, as it may elect.

Consistent with RCW 47.56.850, any toll proposed under this section, including any change in an existing toll rate, must first be reviewed and approved by the tolling authority designated in RCW 47.56.850 if the toll, or change in toll rate, would have a significant impact, as determined by the tolling authority, on the operation of any state facility. [2008 c 122 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.74.050. Prior: 1890 p 55 s 6; RRS s 9328.]

**RCW 35.74.060 Prerequisites of grant of franchise—Approval of bridge—Tolls.** Before any franchise to build any bridge across any such navigable stream is granted by any city or town council it shall fix a license tax, not to exceed ten percent of the tolls collected annually. Upon the completion of the bridge the city or town council shall cause it to be inspected and if it is found to comply in all respects with the specifications previously made, and to be safe and convenient for the public, the council shall declare it open as a toll bridge, and shall immediately fix the rates of toll thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.74.060. Prior: 1890 p 55 s 3; RRS s 9325.]

**RCW 35.74.070 License fees—Renewal of license.** The owner or keeper of any toll bridges in any city or town shall, before the renewal of any license, report to the city or town council under oath, the actual cost of construction and equipment of the toll bridge, the repairs and cost of maintaining it during the preceding year, the amount of tax collected, and the estimated cash value of the bridge, exclusive of the franchise. All funds arising from the license tax shall be paid into the general fund of the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.74.070. Prior: 1890 p 55 s 4; RRS s 9326.]

**Chapter 35.75 RCW**  
**STREETS—BICYCLES—PATHS**

**Sections**

- 35.75.010 Authority to regulate and license bicycles—Penalties.
- 35.75.020 Use of bicycle paths for other purposes prohibited.
- 35.75.030 License fees authorized.
- 35.75.040 Rules regulating use of bicycle paths.
- 35.75.050 Bicycle road fund—Sources—Use.
- 35.75.060 Use of street and road funds for bicycle paths, lanes, routes and improvements authorized—Standards.

*Bicycle awareness program: RCW 43.43.390.*

*Bicycle transportation management program: RCW 47.04.190.*

*Pavement marking standards: RCW 47.36.280.*

*Rules of the road, bicycles: RCW 46.61.750 through 46.61.780.*

**RCW 35.75.010 Authority to regulate and license bicycles—Penalties.** Every city and town may by ordinance regulate and license the riding of bicycles and other similar vehicles upon or along the streets, alleys, highways, or other public grounds within its limits and may construct and maintain bicycle paths or roadways within or outside of and beyond its limits leading to or from the city or town. The city or town may provide by ordinance for reasonable fines and penalties for violation of the ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.75.010. Prior: (i) 1899 c 31 s 1; RRS s 9204. (ii) 1899 c 31 s 2; RRS s 9205.]

**RCW 35.75.020 Use of bicycle paths for other purposes prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for any person to lead, drive, ride, or propel any team, wagon, animal, or vehicle other than a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, or similar vehicle upon and along any bicycle path constructed within or without the corporate limits of any city or town excepting at suitable crossings to be provided in the construction of such paths. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [2002 c 247 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.75.020. Prior: 1899 c 31 s 3; RRS s 9206.]

**Legislative review—2002 c 247:** See note following RCW 46.04.1695.

**RCW 35.75.030 License fees authorized.** Every city and town by ordinance may establish and collect reasonable license fees from all persons riding a bicycle or other similar vehicle within its respective corporate limits, and may enforce the payment thereof by reasonable fines and penalties. [1965 c 7 s 35.75.030. Prior: 1899 c 31 s 4; RRS s 9207.]

**RCW 35.75.040 Rules regulating use of bicycle paths.** The license fee to be paid and the rules regulating the riding of bicycles

or other similar vehicles within any city or town shall be fixed by ordinance, and the rules regulating the use of such bicycle paths or roadways constructed or maintained within its limits and the fines and penalties for the violation of such rules shall be fixed by ordinance. [1965 c 7 s 35.75.040. Prior: 1899 c 31 s 5; RRS s 9208.]

**RCW 35.75.050 Bicycle road fund—Sources—Use.** The city or town council shall by ordinance provide that the whole amount or any amount not less than seventy-five percent of all license fees, penalties or other moneys collected under the authority of this chapter shall be paid into and placed to the credit of a special fund to be known as the "bicycle road fund." The moneys in the bicycle road fund shall not be transferred to any other fund and shall be paid out for the sole purpose of building and maintaining bicycle paths and roadways authorized to be constructed and maintained by this chapter or for special police officers, bicycle tags, stationery and other expenses growing out of the regulating and licensing of the riding of bicycles and other vehicles and the construction, maintenance and regulation of the use of bicycle paths and roadways. [2007 c 218 s 69; 1965 c 7 s 35.75.050. Prior: 1899 c 31 s 6; RRS s 9209.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**RCW 35.75.060 Use of street and road funds for bicycle paths, lanes, routes and improvements authorized—Standards.** Any city or town may use any funds available for street or road construction, maintenance, or improvement for building, improving, and maintaining bicycle paths, lanes, roadways, and routes, and for improvements to make existing streets and roads more suitable and safe for bicycle traffic: PROVIDED, That any such paths, lanes, roadways, routes, or streets for which any such street or road funds are expended shall be suitable for bicycle transportation purposes and not solely for recreation purposes. Bicycle facilities constructed or modified after December 31, 2012, shall meet or exceed the standards adopted by the design standards committee under RCW 35.78.030. [2012 c 67 s 2; 1982 c 55 s 1; 1974 ex.s. c 141 s 10.]

**Intent—2012 c 67:** "It is the intent of the legislature that the Washington state department of transportation shall provide for the needs of drivers, public transportation vehicles and patrons, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities in all planning, programming, design, construction, reconstruction, retrofit, operations, and maintenance activities and products.

It is also the intent of the legislature that the department shall view all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in Washington and recognize bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation system.

The increase in Washington's older adult population, which is up to forty percent of total population in some counties, increases the need for locally based transportation options and a statewide transportation system less reliant on the automobile.

Washington is committed to providing community-based options for individuals with disabilities who require access to a broader range of transportation options.

Washington believes the full integration of all modes in the design of streets and roadways will increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network, reduce traffic congestion, improve mobility options, and limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Washington believes regular walking and bicycling improves physical health, increases mental well-being, and helps reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, some cancers, and other chronic diseases. Increased physical activity is also critical to combating the obesity crisis in Washington." [2012 c 67 s 1.]



**Chapter 35.76 RCW**  
**STREETS—BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING**

**Sections**

- 35.76.010 Declaration of purpose—Budget and accounting by functional categories.
- 35.76.020 Cost accounting and reporting—Cities over eight thousand.
- 35.76.030 Cost accounting and reporting—Cities of eight thousand or less.
- 35.76.040 Manual of instructions.
- 35.76.050 Cost-audit examination and report.
- 35.76.060 Budgets.

**RCW 35.76.010 Declaration of purpose—Budget and accounting by functional categories.** Records of city street expenditures are generally inadequate to meet the needs of cities for planning and administration of their street programs and the needs of the legislature in providing for city street financing. It is the intent of the legislature that each city and town shall budget and thereafter maintain records and accounts for all street expenditures by functional categories in a manner consistent with its size, administrative capabilities, and the amounts of money expended by it for street purposes. [1965 c 7 s 35.76.010. Prior: 1963 c 115 s 1.]

**RCW 35.76.020 Cost accounting and reporting—Cities over eight thousand.** The state auditor shall formulate, prescribe, and install a system of cost accounting and reporting for each city having a population of more than eight thousand, according to the last official census, which will correctly show all street expenditures by functional categories. The system shall also provide for reporting all revenues available for street purposes from whatever source including local improvement district assessments and state and federal aid. [1995 c 301 s 48; 1965 c 7 s 35.76.020. Prior: 1963 c 115 s 2.]

*Cities over eight thousand, equipment rental fund in street department: RCW 35.21.088.*

**RCW 35.76.030 Cost accounting and reporting—Cities of eight thousand or less.** Consistent with the intent of this chapter as stated in RCW 35.76.010, the state auditor, from and after July 1, 1965, is authorized and directed to prescribe accounting and reporting procedures for street expenditures for cities and towns having a population of eight thousand or less, according to the last official census. [1995 c 301 s 49; 1965 c 7 s 35.76.030. Prior: 1963 c 115 s 3.]

**RCW 35.76.040 Manual of instructions.** The state auditor, after consultation with the association of Washington cities and the planning division of the state department of transportation shall prepare and distribute to the cities and towns a manual of instructions governing accounting and reporting procedures for all

street expenditures. [1984 c 7 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.76.040. Prior: 1963 c 115 s 4.]

**RCW 35.76.050 Cost-audit examination and report.** The state auditor shall annually make a cost-audit examination of street records for each city and town and make a written report thereon to the legislative body of each city and town. The expense of the examination shall be paid out of that portion of the motor vehicle fund allocated to the cities and towns and withheld for use by the state department of transportation under the terms of RCW 46.68.110(1). [1995 c 301 s 50; 1984 c 7 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.76.050. Prior: 1963 c 115 s 5.]

**RCW 35.76.060 Budgets.** Expenditures for city and town streets shall be budgeted by each city and town according to the same functional categories prescribed by the state auditor for purposes of accounting and reporting as provided in RCW 35.76.020 and 35.76.030.

In the preparation of city and town budgets, including the preparation and filing of budget estimates, adoption of preliminary budgets and adoption of final budgets, all expenditures for street purposes shall be designated by such functional categories only. [1965 c 7 s 35.76.060. Prior: 1963 c 115 s 6.]

**Chapter 35.77 RCW**  
**STREETS—PLANNING, ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE**

**Sections**

- 35.77.010 Perpetual advanced six-year plans for coordinated transportation program expenditures—Nonmotorized transportation—Railroad right-of-way.
- 35.77.015 Provisions for bicycle paths, lanes, routes, roadways and improvements to be included in annual revision or extension of comprehensive street programs—Exception.
- 35.77.020 Agreements with county for planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance.
- 35.77.030 Agreements with county for planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance—County may use road fund—Payments by city—Contracts, bids.
- 35.77.040 Agreements with county for planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance—Act is additional and concurrent method.

*Bicycle awareness program: RCW 43.43.390.*

*Bicycle transportation management program: RCW 47.04.190.*

*Local adopt-a-highway programs: RCW 47.40.105.*

*Pavement marking standards: RCW 47.36.280.*

*Planning commissions: Chapter 35.63 RCW.*

*State highways in urban areas, allocation of funds, planning, bond issue, etc.: Chapter 47.26 RCW.*

*Urban arterials, planning, construction by cities and counties, transportation improvement board, bond issue, etc.: Chapter 47.26 RCW.*

**RCW 35.77.010 Perpetual advanced six-year plans for coordinated transportation program expenditures—Nonmotorized transportation—Railroad right-of-way.** (1) The legislative body of each city and town, pursuant to one or more public hearings thereon, shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive transportation program for the ensuing six calendar years. If the city or town has adopted a comprehensive plan pursuant to chapter 35.63 or 35A.63 RCW, the inherent authority of a first-class city derived from its charter, or chapter 36.70A RCW, the program shall be consistent with this comprehensive plan. The program shall include any new or enhanced bicycle or pedestrian facilities identified pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070(6) or other applicable changes that promote nonmotorized transit.

The program shall be filed with the secretary of transportation not more than thirty days after its adoption. Annually thereafter the legislative body of each city and town shall review the work accomplished under the program and determine current city transportation needs. Based on these findings each such legislative body shall prepare and after public hearings thereon adopt a revised

and extended comprehensive transportation program before July 1st of each year, and each one-year extension and revision shall be filed with the secretary of transportation not more than thirty days after its adoption. The purpose of this section is to assure that each city and town shall perpetually have available advanced plans looking to the future for not less than six years as a guide in carrying out a coordinated transportation program. The program may at any time be revised by a majority of the legislative body of a city or town, but only after a public hearing.

The six-year plan for each city or town shall specifically set forth those projects and programs of regional significance for inclusion in the transportation improvement program within that region.

(2) Each six-year transportation program forwarded to the secretary in compliance with subsection (1) of this section shall contain information as to how a city or town will expend its moneys, including funds made available pursuant to chapter 47.30 RCW, for nonmotorized transportation purposes.

(3) Each six-year transportation program forwarded to the secretary in compliance with subsection (1) of this section shall contain information as to how a city or town shall act to preserve railroad right-of-way in the event the railroad ceases to operate in the city's or town's jurisdiction. [2005 c 360 s 4. Prior: 1994 c 179 s 1; 1994 c 158 s 7; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 59; 1988 c 167 s 6; 1984 c 7 s 23; 1977 ex.s. c 317 s 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 215 s 1; 1967 ex.s. c 83 s 27; 1965 c 7 s 35.77.010; prior: 1961 c 195 s 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 360:** See note following RCW 36.70A.070.

**Captions not law—Severability—Effective date—1994 c 158:** See RCW 47.80.902 through 47.80.904.

**Severability—Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17:** See RCW 36.70A.900 and 36.70A.901.

**Savings—Severability—1988 c 167:** See notes following RCW 47.26.121.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 317:** See note following RCW 82.38.030.

**Effective dates—1967 ex.s. c 83:** See RCW 47.26.910.

*Highways, roads, streets in urban areas, urban arterials, development:*  
*Chapter 47.26 RCW.*

*Long-range arterial construction planning, counties and cities to prepare data:* RCW 47.26.170.

*Perpetual advanced six-year plans for coordinated transportation program:* RCW 36.81.121.

*Transportation improvement board:* Chapter 47.26 RCW.

**RCW 35.77.015 Provisions for bicycle paths, lanes, routes, roadways and improvements to be included in annual revision or extension of comprehensive street programs—Exception.** The annual revision and extension of comprehensive street programs pursuant to RCW 35.77.010 shall include consideration of and, wherever reasonably practicable, provisions for bicycle routes: PROVIDED, That no provision need be made for any such route where the cost of establishing it would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use. [1974 ex.s. c 141 s 11.]

**RCW 35.77.020 Agreements with county for planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance.** Any city or town may enter into an agreement with the county in which it is located authorizing the county to perform all or any part of the construction, repair, and maintenance of streets in such city or town at such cost as shall be mutually agreed upon. The agreement shall be approved by ordinance of the governing body of the city or town and by resolution of the board of county commissioners.

Any such agreement may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

(1) A provision that the county shall perform all or a specified part of the construction, repair, or maintenance of the city or town streets and bridges to the same standards provided by the county in unincorporated areas, or to increased standards as shall be specified which may include construction, repair, or maintenance of drainage facilities including storm sewers, sidewalks and curbing, street lighting, and traffic control devices.

(2) A provision that the county may provide engineering and administrative services necessary for the planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance of the streets of the city or town, including engineering and clerical services necessary for the establishment of local improvement districts. In providing such services the county engineer may exercise all the powers and perform all the duties vested by law or by ordinance in the city or town engineer or other officer or department charged with street administration.

(3) A provision that the city or town shall enact ordinances for the administration, establishment, construction, repair, maintenance, regulation, and protection of its streets as may be necessary to authorize the county to lawfully carry out the terms of the agreement. [1965 c 7 s 35.77.020. Prior: 1961 c 245 s 1.]

**RCW 35.77.030 Agreements with county for planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance—County may use road fund—Payments by city—Contracts, bids.** Pursuant to an agreement authorized by RCW 35.77.020, the board of county commissioners may expend funds from the county road fund for the construction, repair, and maintenance of the streets of such city or town and for engineering and administrative services. Payments by a city or town under such an agreement shall be made to the county treasurer and by him or her deposited in the county road fund. Such construction, repair, maintenance, and engineering service shall be ordered by resolution and proceedings conducted in respect thereto in the same manner as provided for the construction, repair, and maintenance of

county roads by counties, and for the preparation of maps, plans and specifications, advertising and award of contracts therefor: PROVIDED, That except in case of emergency all construction work performed by a county on city streets pursuant to RCW 35.77.020 through 35.77.040, which exceeds ten thousand dollars, shall be done by contract, unless after advertisement and solicitation of competitive bids it appears that bids are unobtainable or that the lowest bid exceeds the amount for which such construction can be done by means other than contract. No street construction project shall be divided into lesser component parts for the purpose of avoiding the requirements for competitive bidding. [2009 c 549 s 2123; 1965 c 7 s 35.77.030. Prior: 1961 c 245 s 2.]

**RCW 35.77.040 Agreements with county for planning, establishment, construction, and maintenance—Act is additional and concurrent method.** RCW 35.77.020 through 35.77.040 shall not repeal, amend, or modify any law providing for joint or cooperative agreements between cities and counties with respect to city streets, but shall be held to be an additional and concurrent method providing for such purpose. [1965 c 7 s 35.77.040. Prior: 1961 c 245 s 3.]

**Chapter 35.78 RCW**  
**STREETS—CLASSIFICATION AND DESIGN STANDARDS**

**Sections**

- 35.78.010 Classification of streets.
- 35.78.020 State design standards—Committee—Membership.
- 35.78.030 Committee to adopt uniform design standards.
- 35.78.040 Design standards must be followed by municipalities—  
Approval of deviations.
- 35.78.050 Use of street and road funds for pedestrian rights-of-way  
—Standards.

*City and town streets as part of state highways: Chapter 47.24 RCW.*

*Design standards committee for county roads: Chapter 43.32 RCW, RCW  
36.86.070, 36.86.080.*

**RCW 35.78.010 Classification of streets.** The governing body of each municipal corporation shall classify and designate city streets as follows:

Major arterials, which are defined as transportation arteries which connect the focal points of traffic interest within a city; arteries which provide communications with other communities and the outlying areas; or arteries which have relatively high traffic volume compared with other streets within the city;

Secondary arterials, which are defined as routes which serve lesser points of traffic interest within a city; provide communication with outlying districts in the same degree or serve to collect and distribute traffic from the major arterials to the local streets;

Access streets, which are defined as land service streets and are generally limited to providing access to abutting property. They are tributary to the major and secondary thoroughfares and generally discourage through traffic. [1965 c 7 s 35.78.010. Prior: 1949 c 164 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9300-1.]

**RCW 35.78.020 State design standards—Committee—Membership.** There is created a state design standards committee of seven members, six of whom shall be appointed by the executive committee of the Association of Washington Cities to hold office at its pleasure and the seventh to be the state aid engineer. The members to be appointed by the executive committee of the Association of Washington Cities shall be restricted to the membership of the association or to those holding office and/or performing the function of chief engineer in any of the several municipalities in the state. [1984 c 7 s 24; 1965 c 7 s 35.78.020. Prior: 1949 c 164 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9300-2.]

**RCW 35.78.030 Committee to adopt uniform design standards.** (1) The design standards committee shall from time to time adopt uniform design standards for major arterial and secondary arterial streets.  
(2) By July 1, 2012, and from time to time thereafter, the design standards committee shall adopt standards for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. [2012 c 67 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.78.030. Prior: 1949 c 164 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9300-3.]

**Intent—2012 c 67:** See note following RCW 35.75.060.

**RCW 35.78.040 Design standards must be followed by municipalities—Approval of deviations.** The governing body of the several municipalities shall apply the uniform design standards adopted under RCW 35.78.030 to all new construction on major arterial and secondary arterial streets and to reconstruction of old such streets as far as practicable. No deviation from the design standards as to such streets may be made without approval of the state aid engineer. [1984 c 7 s 25; 1965 c 7 s 35.78.040. Prior: 1949 c 164 s 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9300-4.]

**RCW 35.78.050 Use of street and road funds for pedestrian rights-of-way—Standards.** Any city or town may use any funds available for street or road construction, maintenance, or improvement for building, improving, and maintaining a pedestrian right-of-way and for improvements to make existing streets and roads more suitable and safe for pedestrian travel. Any such paths, lanes, roadways, routes, or streets for which any such street or road funds are expended must be suitable for pedestrian travel purposes and not solely for recreation purposes. A pedestrian right-of-way constructed or modified after December 31, 2012, must meet or exceed the standards adopted by the design standards committee under RCW 35.78.030. [2012 c 67 s 3.]

**Intent—2012 c 67:** See note following RCW 35.75.060.



**Chapter 35.79 RCW**  
**STREETS—VACATION**

**Sections**

- 35.79.010 Petition by owners—Fixing time for hearing.
- 35.79.020 Notice of hearing—Objections prior to hearing.
- 35.79.030 Hearing—Ordinance of vacation.
- 35.79.035 Limitations on vacations of streets abutting bodies of water—Procedure.
- 35.79.040 Title to vacated street or alley.
- 35.79.050 Vested rights not affected.

**RCW 35.79.010 Petition by owners—Fixing time for hearing.** The owners of an interest in any real estate abutting upon any street or alley who may desire to vacate the street or alley, or any part thereof, may petition the legislative authority to make vacation, giving a description of the property to be vacated, or the legislative authority may itself initiate by resolution such vacation procedure. The petition or resolution shall be filed with the city or town clerk, and, if the petition is signed by the owners of more than two-thirds of the property abutting upon the part of such street or alley sought to be vacated, legislative authority by resolution shall fix a time when the petition will be heard and determined by such authority or a committee thereof, which time shall not be more than sixty days nor less than twenty days after the date of the passage of such resolution. [1965 c 7 s 35.79.010. Prior: 1957 c 156 s 2; 1901 c 84 s 1, part; RRS s 9297, part.]

**RCW 35.79.020 Notice of hearing—Objections prior to hearing.** Upon the passage of the resolution the city or town clerk shall give twenty days' notice of the pendency of the petition by a written notice posted in three of the most public places in the city or town and a like notice in a conspicuous place on the street or alley sought to be vacated. The said notice shall contain a statement that a petition has been filed to vacate the street or alley described in the notice, together with a statement of the time and place fixed for the hearing of the petition. In all cases where the proceeding is initiated by resolution of the city or town council or similar legislative authority without a petition having been signed by the owners of more than two-thirds of the property abutting upon the part of the street or alley sought to be vacated, in addition to the notice hereinabove required, there shall be given by mail at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the hearing, a similar notice to the owners or reputed owners of all lots, tracts or parcels of land or other property abutting upon any street or alley or any part thereof sought to be vacated, as shown on the rolls of the county treasurer, directed to the address thereon shown: PROVIDED, That if fifty percent of the abutting property owners file written objection to the proposed vacation with the clerk, prior to the time of hearing, the city shall be prohibited from proceeding with the resolution. [1965 c 7 s 35.79.020. Prior: 1957 c 156 s 3; 1901 c 84 s 1, part; RRS s 9297, part.]

**RCW 35.79.030 Hearing—Ordinance of vacation.** The hearing on such petition may be held before the legislative authority, before a committee thereof, or before a hearing examiner, upon the date fixed by resolution or at the time the hearing may be adjourned to. If the hearing is before a committee the same shall, following the hearing, report its recommendation on the petition to the legislative authority which may adopt or reject the recommendation. If the hearing is held before a committee it shall not be necessary to hold a hearing on the petition before the legislative authority. If the hearing is before a hearing examiner, the hearing examiner shall, following the hearing, report its recommendation on the petition to the legislative authority, which may adopt or reject the recommendation: PROVIDED, That the hearing examiner must include in its report to the legislative authority an explanation of the facts and reasoning underlying a recommendation to deny a petition. If a hearing is held before a hearing examiner, it shall not be necessary to hold a hearing on the petition before the legislative authority. If the legislative authority determines to grant the petition or any part thereof, such city or town shall be authorized and have authority by ordinance to vacate such street, or alley, or any part thereof, and the ordinance may provide that it shall not become effective until the owners of property abutting upon the street or alley, or part thereof so vacated, shall compensate such city or town in an amount which does not exceed one-half the appraised value of the area so vacated. If the street or alley has been part of a dedicated public right-of-way for twenty-five years or more, or if the subject property or portions thereof were acquired at public expense, the city or town may require the owners of the property abutting the street or alley to compensate the city or town in an amount that does not exceed the full appraised value of the area vacated. The ordinance may provide that the city retain an easement or the right to exercise and grant easements in respect to the vacated land for the construction, repair, and maintenance of public utilities and services. A certified copy of such ordinance shall be recorded by the clerk of the legislative authority and in the office of the auditor of the county in which the vacated land is located. One-half of the revenue received by the city or town as compensation for the area vacated must be dedicated to the acquisition, improvement, development, and related maintenance of public open space or transportation capital projects within the city or town. [2011 c 130 s 1; 2002 c 55 s 1; 2001 c 202 s 1; 1987 c 228 s 1; 1985 c 254 s 1; 1969 c 28 s 4. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 129 s 1; 1967 c 123 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.79.030; prior: 1957 c 156 s 4; 1949 c 14 s 1; 1901 c 84 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 s 9298.]

**RCW 35.79.035 Limitations on vacations of streets abutting bodies of water—Procedure.** (1) A city or town shall not vacate a street or alley if any portion of the street or alley abuts a body of fresh or salt water unless:

(a) The vacation is sought to enable the city or town to acquire the property for port purposes, beach or water access purposes, boat moorage or launching sites, park, public view, recreation, or educational purposes, or other public uses;

(b) The city or town, by resolution of its legislative authority, declares that the street or alley is not presently being used as a street or alley and that the street or alley is not suitable for any

of the following purposes: Port, beach or water access, boat moorage, launching sites, park, public view, recreation, or education; or

(c) The vacation is sought to enable a city or town to implement a plan, adopted by resolution or ordinance, that provides comparable or improved public access to the same shoreline area to which the streets or alleys sought to be vacated abut, had the properties included in the plan not been vacated.

(2) Before adopting a resolution vacating a street or alley under subsection (1)(b) of this section, the city or town shall:

(a) Compile an inventory of all rights-of-way within the city or town that abut the same body of water that is abutted by the street or alley sought to be vacated;

(b) Conduct a study to determine if the street or alley to be vacated is suitable for use by the city or town for any of the following purposes: Port, boat moorage, launching sites, beach or water access, park, public view, recreation, or education;

(c) Hold a public hearing on the proposed vacation in the manner required by this chapter, where in addition to the normal requirements for publishing notice, notice of the public hearing is posted conspicuously on the street or alley sought to be vacated, which posted notice indicates that the area is public access, it is proposed to be vacated, and that anyone objecting to the proposed vacation should attend the public hearing or send a letter to a particular official indicating his or her objection; and

(d) Make a finding that the street or alley sought to be vacated is not suitable for any of the purposes listed under (b) of this subsection, and that the vacation is in the public interest.

(3) No vacation shall be effective until the fair market value has been paid for the street or alley that is vacated. Moneys received from the vacation may be used by the city or town only for acquiring additional beach or water access, acquiring additional public view sites to a body of water, or acquiring additional moorage or launching sites. [1987 c 228 s 2.]

**RCW 35.79.040 Title to vacated street or alley.** If any street or alley in any city or town is vacated by the city or town council, the property within the limits so vacated shall belong to the abutting property owners, one-half to each. [1965 c 7 s 35.79.040. Prior: 1901 c 84 s 3; RRS s 9299.]

**RCW 35.79.050 Vested rights not affected.** No vested rights shall be affected by the provisions of this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.79.050. Prior: 1901 c 84 s 4; RRS s 9300.]

**Chapter 35.80 RCW**  
**UNFIT DWELLINGS, BUILDINGS, AND STRUCTURES**

**Sections**

- 35.80.010 Declaration of purpose.
- 35.80.020 Definitions.
- 35.80.030 Permissible ordinances—Appeal.
- 35.80.040 Discrimination prohibited.

**RCW 35.80.010 Declaration of purpose.** It is hereby found that there exist, in the various municipalities and counties of the state, dwellings which are unfit for human habitation, and buildings, structures, and premises or portions thereof which are unfit for other uses due to dilapidation, disrepair, structural defects, defects increasing the hazards of fire, accidents, or other calamities, inadequate ventilation and uncleanliness, inadequate light or sanitary facilities, inadequate drainage, overcrowding, or due to other conditions which are inimical to the health and welfare of the residents of such municipalities and counties.

It is further found and declared that the powers conferred by this chapter are for public uses and purposes for which public money may be expended, and that the necessity of the public interest for the enactment of this law is hereby declared to be a matter of local legislative determination. [1989 c 133 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 127 s 1; 1967 c 111 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.80.010. Prior: 1959 c 82 s 1.]

**RCW 35.80.020 Definitions.** The following terms, however used or referred to in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context:

- (1) "Board" shall mean the improvement board as provided for in RCW 35.80.030(1)(a);
- (2) "Local governing body" shall mean the council, board, commission, or other legislative body charged with governing the municipality or county;
- (3) "Municipality" shall mean any city, town or county in the state;
- (4) "Public officer" shall mean any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the municipality or county relating to health, fire, building regulation, or other activities concerning dwellings, buildings, structures, or premises in the municipality or county. [1989 c 133 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 127 s 2; 1967 c 111 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.80.020. Prior: 1959 c 82 s 2.]

**RCW 35.80.030 Permissible ordinances—Appeal.** (1) Whenever the local governing body of a municipality finds that one or more conditions of the character described in RCW 35.80.010 exist within its territorial limits, that governing body may adopt ordinances relating to such dwellings, buildings, structures, or premises. Such ordinances may provide for the following:

- (a) That an "improvement board" or officer be designated or appointed to exercise the powers assigned to such board or officer by the ordinance as specified in this section. The board or officer may be an existing municipal board or officer in the municipality, or may

be a separate board or officer appointed solely for the purpose of exercising the powers assigned by the ordinance.

If a board is created, the ordinance shall specify the terms, method of appointment, and type of membership of the board, which may be limited, if the local governing body chooses, to public officers under this section.

(b) That if a board is created, a public officer, other than a member of the improvement board, may be designated to work with the board and carry out the duties and exercise the powers assigned to the public officer by the ordinance.

(c) That if, after a preliminary investigation of any dwelling, building, structure, or premises, the board or officer finds that it is unfit for human habitation or other use, he or she shall cause to be served either personally or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, upon all persons having any interest therein, as shown upon the records of the auditor's office of the county in which such property is located, and shall post in a conspicuous place on such property, a complaint stating in what respects such dwelling, building, structure, or premises is unfit for human habitation or other use. If the whereabouts of any of such persons is unknown and the same cannot be ascertained by the board or officer in the exercise of reasonable diligence, and the board or officer makes an affidavit to that effect, then the serving of such complaint or order upon such persons may be made either by personal service or by mailing a copy of the complaint and order by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to each such person at the address of the building involved in the proceedings, and mailing a copy of the complaint and order by first-class mail to any address of each such person in the records of the county assessor or the county auditor for the county where the property is located. Such complaint shall contain a notice that a hearing will be held before the board or officer, at a place therein fixed, not less than ten days nor more than thirty days after the serving of the complaint; and that all parties in interest shall be given the right to file an answer to the complaint, to appear in person, or otherwise, and to give testimony at the time and place in the complaint. The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not be controlling in hearings before the board or officer. A copy of such complaint shall also be filed with the auditor of the county in which the dwelling, building, structure, or premises is located, and such filing of the complaint or order shall have the same force and effect as other lis pendens notices provided by law.

(d) That the board or officer may determine that a dwelling, building, structure, or premises is unfit for human habitation or other use if it finds that conditions exist in such dwelling, building, structure, or premises which are dangerous or injurious to the health or safety of the occupants of such dwelling, building, structure, or premises, the occupants of neighboring dwellings, or other residents of such municipality. Such conditions may include the following, without limitations: Defects therein increasing the hazards of fire or accident; inadequate ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities, dilapidation, disrepair, structural defects, uncleanliness, overcrowding, or inadequate drainage. The ordinance shall state reasonable and minimum standards covering such conditions, including those contained in ordinances adopted in accordance with subsection (7)(a) of this section, to guide the board or the public officer and the agents and employees of either, in determining the

fitness of a dwelling for human habitation, or building, structure, or premises for other use.

(e) That the determination of whether a dwelling, building, structure, or premises should be repaired or demolished, shall be based on specific stated standards on (i) the degree of structural deterioration of the dwelling, building, structure, or premises, or (ii) the relationship that the estimated cost of repair bears to the value of the dwelling, building, structure, or premises, with the method of determining this value to be specified in the ordinance.

(f) That if, after the required hearing, the board or officer determines that the dwelling is unfit for human habitation, or building or structure or premises is unfit for other use, it shall state in writing its findings of fact in support of such determination, and shall issue and cause to be served upon the owner or party in interest thereof, as is provided in (c) of this subsection, and shall post in a conspicuous place on the property, an order that (i) requires the owner or party in interest, within the time specified in the order, to repair, alter, or improve such dwelling, building, structure, or premises to render it fit for human habitation, or for other use, or to vacate and close the dwelling, building, structure, or premises, if such course of action is deemed proper on the basis of the standards set forth as required in (e) of this subsection; or (ii) requires the owner or party in interest, within the time specified in the order, to remove or demolish such dwelling, building, structure, or premises, if this course of action is deemed proper on the basis of those standards. If no appeal is filed, a copy of such order shall be filed with the auditor of the county in which the dwelling, building, structure, or premises is located.

(g) That the owner or any party in interest, within thirty days from the date of service upon the owner and posting of an order issued by the board under (c) of this subsection, may file an appeal with the appeals commission.

The local governing body of the municipality shall designate or establish a municipal agency to serve as the appeals commission. The local governing body shall also establish rules of procedure adequate to assure a prompt and thorough review of matters submitted to the appeals commission, and such rules of procedure shall include the following, without being limited thereto: (i) All matters submitted to the appeals commission must be resolved by the commission within sixty days from the date of filing therewith and (ii) a transcript of the findings of fact of the appeals commission shall be made available to the owner or other party in interest upon demand.

The findings and orders of the appeals commission shall be reported in the same manner and shall bear the same legal consequences as if issued by the board, and shall be subject to review only in the manner and to the extent provided in subsection (2) of this section.

If the owner or party in interest, following exhaustion of his or her rights to appeal, fails to comply with the final order to repair, alter, improve, vacate, close, remove, or demolish the dwelling, building, structure, or premises, the board or officer may direct or cause such dwelling, building, structure, or premises to be repaired, altered, improved, vacated, and closed, removed, or demolished.

(h) That the amount of the cost of such repairs, alterations or improvements; or vacating and closing; or removal or demolition by the board or officer, shall be assessed against the real property upon which such cost was incurred unless such amount is previously paid.

For purposes of this subsection, the cost of vacating and closing shall include (i) the amount of relocation assistance payments that a property owner has not repaid to a municipality or other local government entity that has advanced relocation assistance payments to tenants under RCW 59.18.085 and (ii) all penalties and interest that accrue as a result of the failure of the property owner to timely repay the amount of these relocation assistance payments under RCW 59.18.085. Upon certification to him or her by the treasurer of the municipality in cases arising out of the city or town or by the county improvement board or officer, in cases arising out of the county, of the assessment amount being due and owing, the county treasurer shall enter the amount of such assessment upon the tax rolls against the property for the current year and the same shall become a part of the general taxes for that year to be collected at the same time and with interest at such rates and in such manner as provided for in RCW 84.56.020 for delinquent taxes, and when collected to be deposited to the credit of the general fund of the municipality. If the dwelling, building, structure, or premises is removed or demolished by the board or officer, the board or officer shall, if possible, sell the materials of such dwelling, building, structure, or premises in accordance with procedures set forth in the ordinance, and shall credit the proceeds of such sale against the cost of the removal or demolition and if there be any balance remaining, it shall be paid to the parties entitled thereto, as determined by the board or officer, after deducting the costs incident thereto.

The assessment shall constitute a lien against the property which shall be of equal rank with state, county and municipal taxes.

(2) Any person affected by an order issued by the appeals commission pursuant to subsection (1)(g) of this section may, within thirty days after the posting and service of the order, petition to the superior court for an injunction restraining the public officer or members of the board from carrying out the provisions of the order. In all such proceedings the court is authorized to affirm, reverse, or modify the order and such trial shall be heard de novo.

(3) An ordinance adopted by the local governing body of the municipality may authorize the board or officer to exercise such powers as may be necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this section. These powers shall include the following in addition to others granted in this section: (a) (i) To determine which dwellings within the municipality are unfit for human habitation; (ii) to determine which buildings, structures, or premises are unfit for other use; (b) to administer oaths and affirmations, examine witnesses, and receive evidence; and (c) to investigate the dwelling and other property conditions in the municipality or county and to enter upon premises for the purpose of making examinations when the board or officer has reasonable ground for believing they are unfit for human habitation, or for other use: PROVIDED, That such entries shall be made in such manner as to cause the least possible inconvenience to the persons in possession, and to obtain an order for this purpose after submitting evidence in support of an application which is adequate to justify such an order from a court of competent jurisdiction in the event entry is denied or resisted.

(4) The local governing body of any municipality adopting an ordinance pursuant to this chapter may appropriate the necessary funds to administer such ordinance.

(5) This section does not abrogate or impair the powers of the courts or of any department of any municipality to enforce any provisions of its charter or its ordinances or regulations, nor to prevent or punish violations thereof; and the powers conferred by this section shall be in addition and supplemental to the powers conferred by any other law.

(6) This section does not impair or limit in any way the power of the municipality to define and declare nuisances and to cause their removal or abatement, by summary proceedings or otherwise.

(7) Any municipality may by ordinance adopted by its governing body (a) prescribe minimum standards for the use and occupancy of dwellings throughout the municipality or county, (b) prescribe minimum standards for the use or occupancy of any building, structure, or premises used for any other purpose, (c) prevent the use or occupancy of any dwelling, building, structure, or premises, that is injurious to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare, and (d) prescribe punishment for the violation of any provision of such ordinance.

[2005 c 364 s 3; 1989 c 133 s 3; 1984 c 213 s 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 144 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 127 s 3; 1967 c 111 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.80.030.

Prior: 1959 c 82 s 3.]

**Purpose—Construction—2005 c 364:** See notes following RCW 59.18.085.

**RCW 35.80.040 Discrimination prohibited.** For all the purposes of this chapter and the ordinances adopted as provided herein, no person shall, because of race, creed, color, or national origin, be subjected to any discrimination. [1965 c 7 s 35.80.040. Prior: 1959 c 82 s 4.]

*Discrimination—Human rights commission: Chapter 49.60 RCW.*



**Chapter 35.80A RCW**  
**CONDEMNATION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTY**

**Sections**

- 35.80A.010 Condemnation of blighted property.
- 35.80A.020 Transfer of blighted property acquired by condemnation.
- 35.80A.030 Disposition of blighted property—Procedures.
- 35.80A.040 Authority to enter blighted buildings or property—  
Acceptance of financial assistance.

**RCW 35.80A.010 Condemnation of blighted property.** Every county, city, and town may acquire by condemnation, in accordance with the notice requirements and other procedures for condemnation provided in Title 8 RCW, any property, dwelling, building, or structure which constitutes a blight on the surrounding neighborhood. A "blight on the surrounding neighborhood" is any property, dwelling, building, or structure that meets any two of the following factors: (1) If a dwelling, building, or structure exists on the property, the dwelling, building, or structure has not been lawfully occupied for a period of one year or more; (2) the property, dwelling, building, or structure constitutes a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare as determined by the executive authority of the county, city, or town, or the designee of the executive authority; or (3) the property, dwelling, building, or structure is or has been associated with illegal drug activity during the previous twelve months. Prior to such condemnation, the local governing body shall adopt a resolution declaring that the acquisition of the real property described therein is necessary to eliminate neighborhood blight. Condemnation of property, dwellings, buildings, and structures for the purposes described in this chapter is declared to be for a public use. [1994 c 175 s 1; 1989 c 271 s 239.]

**RCW 35.80A.020 Transfer of blighted property acquired by condemnation.** Counties, cities, and towns may sell, lease, or otherwise transfer real property acquired pursuant to this chapter for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, or other uses or for public use, subject to such covenants, conditions, and restrictions, including covenants running with the land, as the county, city, or town deems to be necessary or desirable to rehabilitate and preserve the dwelling, building, or structure in a habitable condition. The purchasers or lessees and their successors and assigns shall be obligated to comply with such other requirements as the county, city, or town may determine to be in the public interest, including the obligation to begin, within a reasonable time, any improvements on such property required to make the dwelling, building, or structure habitable. Such real property or interest shall be sold, leased, or otherwise transferred, at not less than its fair market value. In determining the fair market value of real property for uses in accordance with this section, a municipality shall take into account and give consideration to, the restrictions upon and the covenants, conditions, and obligations assumed by the purchaser or lessee. [1989 c 271 s 240.]

**RCW 35.80A.030 Disposition of blighted property—Procedures.** A county, city, or town may dispose of real property acquired pursuant to this section to private persons only under such reasonable, competitive procedures as it shall prescribe. The county, city, or town may accept such proposals as it deems to be in the public interest and in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter. Thereafter, the county, city, or town may execute and deliver contracts, deeds, leases, and other instruments of transfer. [1989 c 271 s 241.]

**RCW 35.80A.040 Authority to enter blighted buildings or property—Acceptance of financial assistance.** Every county, city, or town may, in addition to any other authority granted by this chapter: (1) Enter upon any building or property found to constitute a blight on the surrounding neighborhood in order to make surveys and appraisals, and to obtain an order for this purpose from a court of competent jurisdiction in the event entry is denied or resisted; and (2) borrow money, apply for, and accept, advances, loans, grants, contributions, and any other form of financial assistance from the federal government, the state, a county, or other public body, or from any sources, public or private, for the purposes of this chapter, and enter into and carry out contracts in connection herewith. [1989 c 271 s 242.]

**Chapter 35.81 RCW  
COMMUNITY RENEWAL LAW**

**Sections**

- 35.81.005 Declaration of purpose and necessity.
- 35.81.015 Definitions.
- 35.81.030 Encouragement of private enterprise.
- 35.81.040 Formulation of workable program.
- 35.81.050 Findings by local governing body required—Exercise of community renewal agency powers.
- 35.81.060 Comprehensive plan—Preparation—Hearing—Approval—Modification—Effect.
- 35.81.070 Powers of municipality.
- 35.81.080 Eminent domain.
- 35.81.090 Acquisition, disposal of real property in community renewal area.
- 35.81.095 Selection of person to undertake redevelopment or rehabilitation of real property.
- 35.81.100 Bonds—Issuance—Form, terms, payment, etc.—Fund for excess property tax, excise tax.
- 35.81.110 Bonds as legal investment, security.
- 35.81.115 General obligation bonds authorized.
- 35.81.120 Property of municipality exempt from process and taxes.
- 35.81.130 Powers of public bodies.
- 35.81.140 Conveyance to purchaser, etc., presumed to be in compliance with chapter.
- 35.81.150 Exercise of community renewal project powers.
- 35.81.160 Exercise of community renewal project powers—Assignment of powers—Community renewal agency.
- 35.81.170 Discrimination prohibited.
- 35.81.180 Restrictions against public officials or employees acquiring or owning an interest in project, contract, etc.
- 35.81.190 Local improvement districts—Establishment—Special assessments—Bonds.
- 35.81.200 Local improvement districts—Content of notice.
- 35.81.910 Short title.

**RCW 35.81.005 Declaration of purpose and necessity.** It is hereby found and declared that blighted areas which constitute a serious and growing menace, injurious to the public health, safety, morals and welfare of the residents of the state exist in municipalities of the state; that the existence of such areas contributes substantially and increasingly to the spread of disease and crime and depreciation of property values, constitutes an economic and social liability, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of municipalities, retards the provision of housing accommodations, hinders job creation and economic growth, aggravates traffic problems and substantially impairs or arrests the elimination of traffic hazards and the improvement of traffic facilities; and that the prevention and elimination of such areas is a matter of state policy and state concern in order that the state and its municipalities shall not continue to be endangered by areas which are focal centers of disease, promote juvenile delinquency, are conducive

to fires, are difficult to police and to provide police protection for, and, while contributing little to the tax income of the state and its municipalities, consume an excessive proportion of its revenues because of the extra services required for police, fire, accident, hospitalization and other forms of public protection, services, and facilities.

It is further found and declared that certain of such areas, or portions thereof, may require acquisition, clearance, and disposition subject to use restrictions, as provided in this chapter, since the prevailing condition of decay may make impracticable the reclamation of the area by rehabilitation; that other areas or portions thereof may, through the means provided in this chapter, be susceptible of rehabilitation in such a manner that the conditions and evils hereinbefore enumerated may be eliminated, remedied or prevented; and that to the extent feasible salvable blighted areas should be rehabilitated through voluntary action and the regulatory process.

It is further found and declared that there is an urgent need to enhance the ability of municipalities to act effectively and expeditiously to revive blighted areas and to prevent further blight due to shocks to the economy of the state and their actual and threatened effects on unemployment, poverty, and the availability of private capital for businesses and projects in the area.

It is further found and declared that the powers conferred by this chapter are for public uses and purposes for which public money may be expended and the power of eminent domain exercised; and that the necessity in the public interest for the provisions herein enacted is hereby declared as a matter of legislative determination. [2002 c 218 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.020. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 2. Formerly RCW 35.81.020.]

**Severability—2002 c 218:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2002 c 218 s 28.]

**Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** "(1) This act does not impair any authority granted, any actions undertaken, or any liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended in this act or under any rule, order, plan, or project adopted under those sections, nor does it impair any proceedings instituted under those sections.

(2) Any power granted in this act with respect to a community renewal plan, and any process authorized for the exercise of the power, may be used by any municipality in implementing any urban renewal plan or project adopted under chapter 35.81 RCW, to the same extent as if the plan were adopted as a community renewal plan.

(3) This act shall be liberally construed." [2002 c 218 s 29.]

**RCW 35.81.015 Definitions.** The following terms wherever used or referred to in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context:

(1) "Agency" or "community renewal agency" means a public agency created under RCW 35.81.160 or otherwise authorized to serve as a community renewal agency under this chapter.

(2) "Blighted area" means an area which, by reason of the substantial physical dilapidation, deterioration, defective

construction, material, and arrangement and/or age or obsolescence of buildings or improvements, whether residential or nonresidential, inadequate provision for ventilation, light, proper sanitary facilities, or open spaces as determined by competent appraisers on the basis of an examination of the building standards of the municipality; inappropriate uses of land or buildings; existence of overcrowding of buildings or structures; defective or inadequate street layout; faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility or usefulness; excessive land coverage; insanitary or unsafe conditions; deterioration of site; existence of hazardous soils, substances, or materials; diversity of ownership; tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land; defective or unusual conditions of title; improper subdivision or obsolete platting; existence of persistent and high levels of unemployment or poverty within the area; or the existence of conditions that endanger life or property by fire or other causes, or any combination of such factors, is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency or crime; substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the municipality or its environs, or retards the provision of housing accommodations; constitutes an economic or social liability; and/or is detrimental, or constitutes a menace, to the public health, safety, welfare, or morals in its present condition and use.

(3) "Bonds" means any bonds, notes, or debentures (including refunding obligations) herein authorized to be issued.

(4) "Clerk" means the clerk or other official of the municipality who is the custodian of the official records of such municipality.

(5) "Community renewal area" means a blighted area which the local governing body designates as appropriate for a community renewal project or projects.

(6) "Community renewal plan" means a plan, as it exists from time to time, for a community renewal project or projects, which plan (a) shall be consistent with the comprehensive plan or parts thereof for the municipality as a whole; (b) shall be sufficiently complete to indicate such land acquisition, demolition, and removal of structures, redevelopment, improvements, and rehabilitation as may be proposed to be carried out in the community renewal area; zoning and planning changes, if any, which may include, among other things, changes related to land uses, densities, and building requirements; and the plan's relationship to definite local objectives respecting appropriate land uses, improved traffic, public transportation, public utilities, recreational and community facilities, and other public improvements; (c) shall address the need for replacement housing, within the municipality, where existing housing is lost as a result of the community renewal project undertaken by the municipality under this chapter; and (d) may include a plan to address any persistent high levels of unemployment or poverty in the community renewal area.

(7) "Community renewal project" includes one or more undertakings or activities of a municipality in a community renewal area: (a) For the elimination and the prevention of the development or spread of blight; (b) for encouraging economic growth through job creation or retention; (c) for redevelopment or rehabilitation in a community renewal area; or (d) any combination or part thereof in accordance with a community renewal plan.

(8) "Federal government" includes the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States of America.

(9) "Local governing body" means the council or other legislative body charged with governing the municipality.

(10) "Mayor" means the chief executive of a city or town, or the elected executive, if any, of any county operating under a charter, or the county legislative authority of any other county.

(11) "Municipality" means any incorporated city or town, or any county, in the state.

(12) "Obligee" includes any bondholder, agent, or trustees for any bondholders, any lessor demising to the municipality property used in connection with a community renewal project, or any assignee or assignees of such lessor's interest or any part thereof, and the federal government when it is a party to any contract with the municipality.

(13) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or school district; and shall include any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other person acting in a similar representative capacity.

(14) "Persons of low income" means an individual with an annual income, at the time of hiring or at the time assistance is provided under this chapter, that does not exceed the higher of either: (a) Eighty percent of the statewide median family income, adjusted for family size; or (b) eighty percent of the median family income for the county or standard metropolitan statistical area, adjusted for family size, where the community renewal area is located.

(15) "Public body" means the state or any municipality, board, commission, district, or any other subdivision or public body of the state or of a municipality.

(16) "Public officer" means any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the municipality relating to health, fire, building regulations, or to other activities concerning dwellings in the municipality.

(17) "Real property" includes all lands, including improvements and fixtures thereon, and property of any nature appurtenant thereto, or used in connection therewith, and every estate, interest, right and use, legal or equitable, therein, including terms for years and liens by way of judgment, mortgage or otherwise.

(18) "Redevelopment" includes (a) acquisition of a blighted area or portion thereof; (b) demolition and removal of buildings and improvements; (c) installation, construction or reconstruction of streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds, and other improvements necessary for carrying out in the area the community renewal provisions of this chapter in accordance with the community renewal plan; (d) making the land available for development or redevelopment by private enterprise or public bodies (including sale, initial leasing, or retention by the municipality itself) at its fair value for uses in accordance with the community renewal plan; and (e) making loans or grants to a person or public body for the purpose of creating or retaining jobs, a substantial portion of which, as determined by the municipality, shall be for persons of low income.

(19) "Rehabilitation" includes the restoration and renewal of a blighted area or portion thereof, in accordance with a community renewal plan, by (a) carrying out plans for a program of voluntary or compulsory repair and rehabilitation of buildings or other improvements; (b) acquisition of real property and demolition or removal of buildings and improvements thereon where necessary to eliminate unhealthful, insanitary or unsafe conditions, lessen density, reduce traffic hazards, eliminate obsolete or other uses

detrimental to the public welfare, or otherwise to remove or prevent the spread of blight or deterioration, or to provide land for needed public facilities; (c) installation, construction or reconstruction of streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds, and other improvements necessary for carrying out in the area the community renewal provisions of this chapter; and (d) the disposition of any property acquired in such community renewal area for uses in accordance with such community renewal plan. [2002 c 218 s 1; 1991 c 363 s 41; 1975 c 3 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 177 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.010. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 1. Formerly RCW 35.81.010.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**RCW 35.81.030 Encouragement of private enterprise.** A municipality, to the greatest extent it determines to be feasible in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, shall afford maximum opportunity, consistent with the needs of the municipality as a whole, to the rehabilitation or redevelopment of the community renewal area by private enterprise. A municipality shall give consideration to this objective in exercising its powers under this chapter, including the formulation of a workable program, the approval of community renewal plans (consistent with the comprehensive plan or parts thereof for the municipality), the exercise of its zoning powers, the enforcement of other laws, codes and regulations relating to the use of land and the use and occupancy of buildings and improvements, the disposition of any property acquired, and the provision of necessary public improvements. [2002 c 218 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.030. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 3.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.040 Formulation of workable program.** A municipality for the purposes of this chapter may formulate a workable program for using appropriate private and public resources to eliminate, and prevent the development or spread of, blighted areas, to encourage needed community rehabilitation, to provide for the redevelopment of such areas, or to undertake the activities, or other feasible municipal activities as may be suitably employed to achieve the objectives of the workable program. The workable program may include, without limitation, provision for: The prevention of the spread of blight into areas of the municipality which are free from blight through diligent enforcement of housing, zoning, and occupancy controls and standards; the rehabilitation of blighted areas or portions thereof by replanning, removing congestion, providing parks, playgrounds and other public improvements, by encouraging voluntary rehabilitation and by compelling the repair and rehabilitation of deteriorated or deteriorating structures; the replacement of housing that is lost as a result of community renewal activities within a community renewal area; the clearance and redevelopment of blighted

areas or portions thereof; and the reduction of unemployment and poverty within the community renewal area by providing financial or technical assistance to a person or public body that is used to create or retain jobs, a substantial portion of which, as determined by the municipality, shall be for persons of low income. [2002 c 218 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.040. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 4.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.050 Findings by local governing body required—Exercise of community renewal agency powers.** (1) No municipality shall exercise any of the powers hereafter conferred upon municipalities by this chapter until after its local governing body shall have adopted an ordinance or resolution finding that: (a) One or more blighted areas exist in such municipality; and (b) the rehabilitation, redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of such area or areas is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, morals, or welfare of the residents of such municipality.

(2) After adoption of the ordinance or resolution making the findings described in subsection (1) of this section, the local governing body of the municipality may elect to have the powers of a community renewal agency under this chapter exercised in one of the following ways:

(a) By appointing a board or commission composed of not less than five members, which board or commission shall include municipal officials and elected officials, selected by the mayor, with approval of the local governing body of the municipality; or

(b) By the local governing body of the municipality directly; or

(c) By the board of a public corporation, commission, or authority under chapter 35.21 RCW, or a public facilities district created under chapter 35.57 or 36.100 RCW, or a public port district created under chapter 53.04 RCW, or a housing authority created under chapter 35.82 RCW, that is authorized to conduct activities as a community renewal agency under this chapter. [2002 c 218 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.050. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 5.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.060 Comprehensive plan—Preparation—Hearing—Approval—Modification—Effect.** (1) A municipality shall not approve a community renewal project for a community renewal area unless the local governing body has, by ordinance or resolution, determined such an area to be a blighted area and designated the area as appropriate for a community renewal project. The local governing body shall not approve a community renewal plan until a comprehensive plan or parts of the plan for an area which would include a community renewal area for the municipality have been prepared as provided in chapter 36.70A RCW. For municipalities not subject to the planning requirements of chapter 36.70A RCW, any proposed comprehensive plan must be consistent with a local comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 35.63 or 36.70 RCW, or any other applicable law. A municipality shall not acquire real property for a community renewal project unless the local



governing body has approved the community renewal project plan in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.

(2) The municipality may itself prepare or cause to be prepared a community renewal plan, or any person or agency, public or private, may submit such a plan to the municipality. Prior to its approval of a community renewal project, the local governing body shall review and determine the conformity of the community renewal plan with the comprehensive plan or parts thereof for the development of the municipality as a whole. If the community renewal plan is not consistent with the existing comprehensive plan, the local governing body may amend its comprehensive plan or community renewal plan.

(3) Prior to adoption, the local governing body shall hold a public hearing on a community renewal plan after providing public notice. The notice shall be given by publication once each week for two consecutive weeks not less than ten nor more than thirty days prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper having a general circulation in the community renewal area of the municipality and by mailing a notice of the hearing not less than ten days prior to the date of the hearing to the persons whose names appear on the county treasurer's tax roll as the owner or reputed owner of the property, at the address shown on the tax roll. The notice shall describe the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing, shall generally identify the community renewal area affected, and shall outline the general scope of the community renewal plan under consideration.

(4) Following the hearing, the local governing body may approve a community renewal project if it finds that (a) a feasible plan exists for making available adequate housing for the residents who may be displaced by the project; (b) the community renewal plan conforms to the comprehensive plan for the municipality; (c) the community renewal plan will afford maximum opportunity, consistent with the needs of the municipality, for the rehabilitation or redevelopment of the community renewal area by private enterprise; (d) a sound and adequate financial program exists for the financing of the project; and (e) the community renewal project area is a blighted area as defined in RCW 35.81.015(2).

(5) A community renewal project plan may be modified at any time by the local governing body. However, if modified after the lease or sale by the municipality of real property in the community renewal project area, the modification shall be subject to the rights at law or in equity as a lessee or purchaser, or the successor or successors in interest may be entitled to assert.

(6) Unless otherwise expressly stated in an ordinance or resolution of the governing body of the municipality, a community renewal plan shall not be considered a subarea plan or part of a comprehensive plan for purposes of chapter 36.70A RCW. However, a municipality that has adopted a comprehensive plan under chapter 36.70A RCW may adopt all or part of a community renewal plan at any time as a new or amended subarea plan, whether or not any subarea plan has previously been adopted for all or part of the community renewal area. Any community renewal plan so adopted, unless otherwise determined by the growth management hearings board with jurisdiction under a timely appeal in RCW 36.70A.280, shall be conclusively presumed to comply with the requirements in this chapter for consistency with the comprehensive plan. [2002 c 218 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.060. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 6.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.070 Powers of municipality.** Every municipality shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter, including the following powers in addition to others granted under this chapter:

(1) To undertake and carry out community renewal projects within the municipality, to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers under this chapter, and to disseminate blight clearance and community renewal information.

(2) To provide or to arrange or contract for the furnishing or repair by any person or agency, public or private, of services, privileges, works, streets, roads, public utilities or other facilities for, or in connection with, a community renewal project; to install, construct, and reconstruct streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds, and other public improvements; and to agree to any conditions that it may deem reasonable and appropriate attached to federal financial assistance and imposed pursuant to federal law relating to the determination of prevailing salaries or wages or compliance with labor standards, in the undertaking or carrying out of a community renewal project, and to include in any contract let in connection with such a project, provisions to fulfill such of said conditions as it may deem reasonable and appropriate.

(3) To provide financial or technical assistance, using available public or private funds, to a person or public body for the purpose of creating or retaining jobs, a substantial portion of which, as determined by the municipality, shall be for persons of low income.

(4) To make payments, loans, or grants to, provide assistance to, and contract with existing or new owners and tenants of property in the community renewal areas as compensation for any adverse impacts, such as relocation or interruption of business, that may be caused by the implementation of a community renewal project, and/or consideration for commitments to develop, expand, or retain land uses that contribute to the success of the project or plan, including without limitation businesses that will create or retain jobs, a substantial portion of which, as determined by the municipality, shall be for persons of low income.

(5) To contract with a person or public body to provide financial assistance, authorized under this section, to property owners and tenants impacted by the implementation of the community renewal plan and to provide incentives to property owners and tenants to encourage them to locate in the community renewal area after adoption of the community renewal plan.

(6) Within the municipality, to enter upon any building or property in any community renewal area, in order to make surveys and appraisals, provided that such entries shall be made in such a manner as to cause the least possible inconvenience to the persons in possession, and to obtain an order for this purpose from a court of competent jurisdiction in the event entry is denied or resisted; to acquire by purchase, lease, option, gift, grant, bequest, devise, eminent domain, or otherwise, any real property and such personal property as may be necessary for the administration of the provisions herein contained, together with any improvements thereon; to hold,

improve, clear, or prepare for redevelopment any such property; to dispose of any real property; to insure or provide for the insurance of any real or personal property or operations of the municipality against any risks or hazards, including the power to pay premiums on any such insurance: PROVIDED, That no statutory provision with respect to the acquisition, clearance, or disposition of property by public bodies shall restrict a municipality in the exercise of such functions with respect to a community renewal project.

(7) To invest any community renewal project funds held in reserves or sinking funds or any such funds which are not required for immediate disbursement, in property or securities in which mutual savings banks may legally invest funds subject to their control; to redeem such bonds as have been issued pursuant to RCW 35.81.100 at the redemption price established therein or to purchase such bonds at less than redemption price, all such bonds so redeemed or purchased to be canceled.

(8) To borrow money and to apply for, and accept, advances, loans, grants, contributions and any other form of financial assistance from the federal government, the state, county, or other public body, or from any sources, public or private, for the purposes of this chapter, and to enter into and carry out contracts in connection therewith. A municipality may include in any application or contract for financial assistance with the federal government for a community renewal project such conditions imposed pursuant to federal laws as the municipality may deem reasonable and appropriate and which are not inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(9) Within the municipality, to make or have made all plans necessary to the carrying out of the purposes of this chapter and to contract with any person, public or private, in making and carrying out such plans and to adopt or approve, modify, and amend such plans. Such plans may include, without limitation: (a) A comprehensive plan or parts thereof for the locality as a whole, (b) community renewal plans, (c) plans for carrying out a program of voluntary or compulsory repair and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements, (d) plans for the enforcement of state and local laws, codes, and regulations relating to the use of land and the use and occupancy of buildings and improvements and to the compulsory repair, rehabilitation, demolition, or removal of buildings and improvements, (e) appraisals, title searches, surveys, studies, and other preliminary plans and work necessary to prepare for the undertaking of community renewal projects, and (f) plans to provide financial or technical assistance to a person or public body for the purpose of creating or retaining jobs, a substantial portion of which, as determined by the municipality, shall be for persons of low income. The municipality is authorized to develop, test, and report methods and techniques, and carry out demonstrations and other activities, for the prevention and the elimination of blight, for job creation or retention activities, and to apply for, accept, and utilize grants of, funds from the federal government for such purposes.

(10) To prepare plans for the relocation of families displaced from a community renewal area, and to coordinate public and private agencies in such relocation, including requesting such assistance for this purpose as is available from other private and governmental agencies, both for the municipality and other parties.

(11) To appropriate such funds and make such expenditures as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, and in accordance with state law: (a) Levy taxes and assessments for such

purposes; (b) acquire land either by negotiation or eminent domain, or both; (c) close, vacate, plan, or replan streets, roads, sidewalks, ways, or other places; (d) plan or replan, zone or rezone any part of the municipality; (e) adopt annual budgets for the operation of a community renewal agency, department, or offices vested with community renewal project powers under RCW 35.81.150; and (f) enter into agreements with such agencies or departments (which agreements may extend over any period) respecting action to be taken by such municipality pursuant to any of the powers granted by this chapter.

(12) Within the municipality, to organize, coordinate, and direct the administration of the provisions of this chapter as they apply to such municipality in order that the objective of remedying blighted areas and preventing the causes thereof within such municipality may be most effectively promoted and achieved, and to establish such new office or offices of the municipality or to reorganize existing offices in order to carry out such purpose most effectively.

(13) To contract with a person or public body to assist in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

(14) To exercise all or any part or combination of powers herein granted. [2002 c 218 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.070. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 7.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.080 Eminent domain.** A municipality shall have the right to acquire by condemnation, in accordance with the procedure provided for condemnation by such municipality for other purposes, any interest in real property, which it may deem necessary for a community renewal project under this chapter after the adoption by the local governing body of a resolution declaring that the acquisition of the real property described therein is necessary for such purpose. Condemnation for community renewal of blighted areas is declared to be a public use, and property already devoted to any other public use or acquired by the owner or a predecessor in interest by eminent domain may be condemned for the purposes of this chapter.

The award of compensation for real property taken for such a project shall not be increased by reason of any increase in the value of the real property caused by the assembly, clearance, or reconstruction, or proposed assembly, clearance, or reconstruction in the project area. No allowance shall be made for the improvements begun on real property after notice to the owner of such property of the institution of proceedings to condemn such property. Evidence shall be admissible bearing upon the insanitary, unsafe, or substandard condition of the premises, or the unlawful use thereof. [2002 c 218 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.080. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 8.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.81.090 Acquisition, disposal of real property in community renewal area.** (1) A municipality, with approval of its

legislative authority, may acquire real property, or any interest therein, for the purposes of a community renewal project (a) prior to the selection of one or more persons interested in undertaking to redevelop or rehabilitate the real property, or (b) after the selection of one or more persons interested in undertaking to redevelop or rehabilitate such real property. In either case the municipality may select a redeveloper through a competitive bidding process consistent with this section or through a process consistent with RCW 35.81.095.

(2) A municipality, with approval of its legislative authority, may sell, lease, or otherwise transfer real property or any interest therein acquired by it for a community renewal project, in a community renewal area for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, or other uses or for public use, and may enter into contracts with respect thereto, or may retain such a property or interest only for parks and recreation, education, public utilities, public transportation, public safety, health, highways, streets, and alleys, administrative buildings, or civic centers, in accordance with the community renewal project plan, subject to such covenants, conditions, and restrictions, including covenants running with the land, as it may deem to be necessary or desirable to assist in preventing the development or spread of blighted areas or otherwise to carry out the purposes of this chapter. However, such a sale, lease, other transfer, or retention, and any agreement relating thereto, may be made only after the approval of the community renewal plan by the local governing body. The purchasers or lessees and their successors and assigns shall be obligated to devote the real property only to the uses specified in the community renewal plan, and may be obligated to comply with any other requirements as the municipality may determine to be in the public interest, including the obligation to begin and complete, within a reasonable time, any improvements on the real property required by the community renewal plan or promised by the transferee. The real property or interest shall be sold, leased, or otherwise transferred for the consideration the municipality determines adequate. In determining the adequacy of consideration, a municipality may take into account the uses permitted under the community renewal plan; the restrictions upon, and the covenants, conditions, and obligations assumed by, the transferee; and the public benefits to be realized, including furthering of the objectives of the plan for the prevention of the recurrence of blighted areas.

(3) The municipality in any instrument of conveyance to a private purchaser or lessee may provide that the purchaser or lessee shall be without power to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer the real property, or to permit changes in ownership or control of a purchaser or lessee that is not a natural person, in each case without the prior written consent of the municipality until the purchaser or lessee has completed the construction of all improvements that it has obligated itself to construct thereon. The municipality may also retain the right, upon any earlier transfer or change in ownership or control without consent; or any failure or change in ownership or control without consent; or any failure to complete the improvements within the time agreed to terminate the transferee's interest in the property; or to retain or collect on any deposit or instrument provided as security, or both. The enforcement of these restrictions and remedies is declared to be consistent with the public policy of this state. Real property acquired by a municipality that, in accordance with the provisions of the community renewal plan, is to be

transferred, shall be transferred as rapidly as feasible, in the public interest, consistent with the carrying out of the provisions of the community renewal plan. The inclusion in any contract or conveyance to a purchaser or lessee of any covenants, restrictions, or conditions (including the incorporation by reference therein of the provisions of a community renewal plan or any part thereof) shall not prevent the recording of such a contract or conveyance in the land records of the auditor or the county in which the city or town is located, in a manner that affords actual or constructive notice thereof.

(4) (a) (i) A municipality may dispose of real property in a community renewal area, acquired by the municipality under this chapter, to any private persons only under those reasonable competitive bidding procedures as it shall prescribe, or by competitive bidding as provided in this subsection, through direct negotiation where authorized under (c) of this subsection, or by a process authorized in RCW 35.81.095.

(ii) A competitive bidding process may occur (A) prior to the purchase of the real property by the municipality, or (B) after the purchase of the real property by the municipality.

(b) (i) A municipality may, by public notice by publication once each week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper having a general circulation in the community, prior to the execution of any contract or deed to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer real property and prior to the delivery of any instrument of conveyance with respect thereto under the provisions of this section, invite bids from, and make available all pertinent information to, private redevelopers or any persons interested in undertaking to redevelop or rehabilitate a community renewal area, or any part thereof. This notice shall identify the area, or portion thereof, and shall state that further information as is available may be obtained at the office as shall be designated in the notice.

(ii) The municipality shall consider all responsive redevelopment or rehabilitation bids and the financial and legal ability of the persons making the bids to carry them out. The municipality may accept the bids as it deems to be in the public interest and in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter. Thereafter, the municipality may execute, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, and deliver contracts, deeds, leases, and other instruments of transfer.

(c) If the legislative authority of the municipality determines that the sale of real property to a specific person is necessary to the success of a neighborhood revitalization or community renewal project for which the municipality is providing assistance to a nonprofit organization from federal community development block grant funds under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 5305(a)(15), or successor provision, under a plan or grant application approved by the United States department of housing and urban development, or successor agency, then the municipality may sell or lease that property to that person through direct negotiation, for consideration determined by the municipality to be adequate consistent with subsection (2) of this section. This direct negotiation may occur, and the municipality may enter into an agreement for sale or lease, either before or after the acquisition of the property by the municipality. Unless the municipality has provided notice to the public of the intent to sell or lease the property by direct negotiation, as part of a citizen participation process adopted under federal regulations for the plan or grant application under

which the federal community development block grant funds have been awarded, the municipality shall publish notice of the sale at least fifteen days prior to the conveyance of the property.

(5) A municipality may operate and maintain real property acquired in a community renewal area for a period of three years pending the disposition of the property for redevelopment, without regard to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, for such uses and purposes as may be deemed desirable even though not in conformity with the community renewal plan. However, the municipality may, after a public hearing, extend the time for a period not to exceed three years.

(6) Any covenants, restrictions, promises, undertakings, releases, or waivers in favor of a municipality contained in any deed or other instrument accepted by any transferee of property from the municipality or community renewal agency under this chapter, or contained in any document executed by any owner of property in a community renewal area, shall run with the land to the extent provided in the deed, instrument, or other document, so as to bind, and be enforceable by the municipality against, the person accepting or making the deed, instrument, or other document and that person's heirs, successors in interest, or assigns having actual or constructive notice thereof. [2002 c 218 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.090. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 9.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.095 Selection of person to undertake redevelopment or rehabilitation of real property.** (1) The process authorized under this section may occur (a) prior to the purchase of the real property by the municipality, or (b) after the purchase of the real property by the municipality.

(2) A municipality may, by public notice once each week for three consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper in the municipality, or prior to the execution of any contract or deed to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer real property and prior to the delivery of any instrument of conveyance with respect thereto under the provisions of this section, invite statements of interest and qualifications and, at the municipality's option, proposals from any persons interested in undertaking to redevelop or rehabilitate the real property.

(3) The notice required under this section shall identify the area, or portion thereof, the process the municipality will use to evaluate qualifications and, if applicable, proposals submitted by redevelopers or any persons, and other information relevant to the community renewal project. The notice shall also state that further information, as is available, may be obtained at the offices designated in the notice.

(4) (a) Based on its evaluation of qualifications and, if applicable, proposals, the municipality may select a proposer with whom to negotiate or may select two or more finalists to submit proposals, or to submit more detailed or revised proposals. The municipality may, in its sole discretion, reject all responses or proposals, amend any solicitation to allow modification or supplementation of qualifications or proposals, or waive

irregularities in the content or timing of any qualifications or proposals.

(b) The municipality may initiate negotiations with the person selected on the basis of qualifications or proposals. If the municipality does not enter into a contract with that person, it may (i) enter into negotiations with the person that submitted the next highest ranked qualifications or proposal, (ii) solicit additional proposals using a process permitted by RCW 35.81.090, or (iii) otherwise dispose of or retain the real property consistent with the provisions of this chapter. A municipality shall not be required to select or enter into a contract with any proposer or to compensate any proposer for the cost of preparing a proposal or negotiating with the municipality.

(c) A municipality, with approval of its legislative authority, may select and enter into a contract with more than one proposer to carry out different aspects or parts of a community renewal plan. [2002 c 218 s 10.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.100 Bonds—Issuance—Form, terms, payment, etc.—Fund for excess property tax, excise tax.** (1) A municipality shall have the power to issue bonds from time to time in its discretion to finance the undertaking of any community renewal project under this chapter, including, without limiting the generality of this power, the payment of principal and interest upon any advances for surveys and plans for community renewal projects, and shall also have power to issue refunding bonds for the payment or retirement of such bonds previously issued by it. Such bonds shall not pledge the general credit of the municipality and shall be made payable, as to both principal and interest, solely from the income, proceeds, revenues, and funds of the municipality derived from, or held in connection with, its undertaking and carrying out of community renewal projects under this chapter. However, the payment of such bonds, both as to principal and interest, may be further secured by a pledge of any loan, grant, or contribution from the municipality, the federal government, or from other sources, in aid of any community renewal projects of the municipality under this chapter.

(2) Bonds issued under this section shall not constitute an indebtedness within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory debt limitation or restriction, and shall not be subject to the provisions of any other law or charter relating to the authorization, issuance, or sale of bonds. Bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose, and together with interest thereon and income therefrom, shall be exempted from all taxes.

(3) Bonds issued under this section shall be authorized by resolution or ordinance of the local governing body and may be issued in one or more series and shall bear such date or dates, be payable upon demand or mature at such time or times, bear interest at such rate or rates, be in such denomination or denominations, be in such form either coupon or registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030, carry such conversion or registration privileges, have such rank or priority, be executed in such manner, be payable in such medium of



payment, at such place or places, and be subject to such terms of redemption (with or without premium), be secured in such manner, and have such other characteristics, as may be provided by such resolution or trust indenture or mortgage issued pursuant thereto.

(4) Such bonds may be sold at not less than ninety-eight percent of par at public or private sale, or may be exchanged for other bonds on the basis of par: PROVIDED, That such bonds may be sold to the federal government at private sale at not less than par and, in the event less than all of the authorized principal amount of such bonds is sold to the federal government, the balance may be sold at public or private sale at not less than ninety-eight percent of par at an interest cost to the municipality of not to exceed the interest cost to the municipality of the portion of the bonds sold to the federal government.

(5) (a) The municipality may annually pay into a fund to be established for the benefit of such bonds any and all excess of the taxes received by it from the same property over and above the average of the annual taxes authorized without vote for a five-year period immediately preceding the acquisition of the property by the municipality for renewal purposes, such payment to continue until such time as all bonds payable from the fund are paid in full. Any other taxing unit that receives property tax revenues from property in the community renewal area is authorized to allocate excess taxes, computed in the same manner, to the municipality or municipalities in which it is situated.

(b) In addition to the excess property tax revenues from property in the community renewal area, authorized in this subsection, the municipality may annually pay into the fund, established in this subsection, any and all excess of the excise tax received by it from business activity in the community renewal area over and above the average of the annual excise tax collected for a five-year period immediately preceding the establishment of a community renewal area. The payment may continue until all the bonds payable from the fund are paid in full. Any other taxing unit that receives excise tax from business activity in the community renewal area is authorized to allocate excess excise tax, computed in the same manner, to the municipality or municipalities in which it is situated. As used in this subsection, "excise tax" means a local retail sales and use tax authorized in chapter 82.14 RCW. The legislature declares that it is a proper purpose of a municipality to allocate an excise tax for purposes of a community renewal project under this chapter.

(6) In case any of the public officials of the municipality whose signatures appear on any bonds or any coupons issued under this chapter shall cease to be such officials before the delivery of such bonds, such signatures shall, nevertheless, be valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if such officials had remained in office until such delivery. Any provision of any law to the contrary notwithstanding, any bonds, issued pursuant to this chapter shall be fully negotiable.

(7) In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforceability of any bond issued under this chapter or the security therefor, any such bond reciting in substance that it has been issued by the municipality in connection with a community renewal project, as herein defined, shall be conclusively deemed to have been issued for such purpose and such project shall be conclusively deemed to have been planned, located, and carried out in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(8) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (7) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2002 c 218 s 11; 1983 c 167 s 64; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 44; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.100. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 10.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 35.81.110 Bonds as legal investment, security.** All banks, trust companies, bankers, savings banks and institutions, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, investment companies, and other persons carrying on a banking or investment business, all insurance companies, insurance associations, and other persons carrying on an insurance business and all executors, administrators, curators, trustees, and other fiduciaries, may legally invest any sinking funds, moneys, or other funds belonging to them or within their control in any bonds or other obligations issued by a municipality under this chapter. Such bonds and other obligations shall be authorized security for all public deposits. It is the purpose of this section to authorize any persons, political subdivisions, and officers, public or private, to use any funds owned or controlled by them for the purchase of any such bonds or other obligations. Nothing contained in this section with regard to legal investments shall be construed as relieving any person of any duty of exercising reasonable care in selecting securities. [2002 c 218 s 12; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.110. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 11.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.115 General obligation bonds authorized.** For the purposes of this chapter a municipality may (in addition to any authority to issue bonds pursuant to RCW 35.81.100) issue and sell its general obligation bonds. Any bonds issued by a municipality pursuant to this section shall be issued in the manner and within the limitations prescribed by the laws of this state for the issuance and authorization of bonds by such municipality for public purposes generally. [1965 c 7 s 35.81.115. Prior: 1959 c 79 s 1.]

**RCW 35.81.120 Property of municipality exempt from process and taxes.** (1) All property of a municipality, including funds, owned or held by it for the purposes of this chapter, shall be exempt from levy and sale by virtue of an execution, and no execution or other judicial process shall issue against the same nor shall judgment against a municipality be a charge or lien upon such property: PROVIDED, That

the provisions of this section shall not apply to, or limit the right of, obligees to pursue any remedies for the enforcement of any pledge or lien given pursuant to this chapter by a municipality on its rents, fees, grants, or revenues from community renewal projects.

(2) The property of a municipality, acquired or held for the purposes of this chapter, is declared to be public property used for essential public and governmental purposes and such property shall be exempt from all taxes of the municipality, the county, the state, or any political subdivision thereof: PROVIDED, That such tax exemption shall terminate when the municipality sells, leases, or otherwise disposes of such property in a community renewal area to a purchaser or lessee that is not a public body or other organization normally entitled to tax exemption with respect to such property. [2002 c 218 s 15; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.120. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 12.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.130 Powers of public bodies.** For the purpose of aiding in the planning, undertaking, or carrying out of a community renewal project located within the area in which it is authorized to act, any public body authorized by law or by this chapter, may, upon such terms, with or without consideration, as it may determine: (1) Dedicate, sell, convey, or lease any of its interest in any property, or grant easements, licenses, or other rights or privileges therein to a municipality or other public body; (2) incur the entire expense of any public improvements made by a public body, in exercising the powers granted in this section; (3) do any and all things necessary to aid or cooperate in the planning or carrying out of a community renewal plan; (4) lend, grant, or contribute funds, including without limitation any funds derived from bonds issued or other borrowings authorized in this chapter, to a municipality or other public body and, subject only to any applicable constitutional limits, to any other person; (5) enter into agreements (which may extend over any period, notwithstanding any provision or rule of law to the contrary) with a municipality or other public body respecting action to be taken pursuant to any of the powers granted by this chapter, including the furnishing of funds or other assistance in connection with a community renewal project; (6) cause public building and public facilities, including parks, playgrounds, recreational, community, educational, water, sewer, or drainage facilities, or any other works that it is otherwise empowered to undertake to be furnished; furnish, dedicate, close, vacate, pave, install, grade, regrade, plan, or replan streets, roads, sidewalks, ways, or other places; (7) abate environmental problems; (8) plan or replan, zone or rezone any part of the community renewal area; and (9) provide such administrative and other services as may be deemed requisite to the efficient exercise of the powers herein granted. [2002 c 218 s 16; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.130. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 13.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

*Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act—Authority to contract with federal government: RCW 35.21.660.*

**RCW 35.81.140 Conveyance to purchaser, etc., presumed to be in compliance with chapter.** Any instrument executed by a municipality and purporting to convey any right, title, or interest in any property under this chapter shall be conclusively presumed to have been executed in compliance with the provisions of this chapter insofar as title or other interest of any bona fide purchasers, lessees, or transferees of such property is concerned. [1965 c 7 s 35.81.140. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 14.]

**RCW 35.81.150 Exercise of community renewal project powers.** (1) A municipality may itself exercise its community renewal project powers or may, if the local governing body by ordinance or resolution determines such action to be in the public interest, elect to have such powers exercised by the community renewal agency or a department or other officers of the municipality or by any other public body.

(2) In the event the local governing body determines to have the powers exercised by the community renewal agency, such body may authorize the community renewal agency or department or other officers of the municipality to exercise any of the following community renewal project powers:

(a) To formulate and coordinate a workable program as specified in RCW 35.81.040.

(b) To prepare community renewal plans.

(c) To prepare recommended modifications to a community renewal project plan.

(d) To undertake and carry out community renewal projects as required by the local governing body.

(e) To acquire, own, lease, encumber, and sell real or personal property. The agency may not acquire real or personal property using the eminent domain process, unless authorized independently of this chapter.

(f) To create local improvement districts under RCW 35.81.190 and 35.81.200.

(g) To issue bonds from time to time in its discretion to finance the undertaking of any community renewal project under this chapter. The bonds issued under this section must meet the requirements of RCW 35.81.100.

(h) To make and execute contracts as specified in RCW 35.81.070, with the exception of contracts for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

(i) To disseminate blight clearance and community renewal information.

(j) To exercise the powers prescribed by RCW 35.81.070(2), except the power to agree to conditions for federal financial assistance and imposed pursuant to federal law relating to salaries and wages, shall be reserved to the local governing body.

(k) To enter any building or property, in any community renewal area, in order to make surveys and appraisals in the manner specified in RCW 35.81.070(6).

(l) To improve, clear, or prepare for redevelopment any real or personal property in a community renewal area.

(m) To insure real or personal property as provided in RCW 35.81.070(6).

(n) To effectuate the plans provided for in RCW 35.81.070(9).

(o) To prepare plans for the relocation of families displaced from a community renewal area and to coordinate public and private agencies in such relocation.

(p) To prepare plans for carrying out a program of voluntary or compulsory repair and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements.

(q) To conduct appraisals, title searches, surveys, studies, and other preliminary plans and work necessary to prepare for the undertaking of community renewal projects.

(r) To negotiate for the acquisition of land.

(s) To study the closing, vacating, planning, or replanning of streets, roads, sidewalks, ways, or other places and to make recommendations with respect thereto.

(t) To provide financial and technical assistance to a person or public body, for the purpose of creating or retaining jobs, a substantial portion of which, as determined by the municipality, shall be for persons of low income.

(u) To make payments, grants, and other assistance to, or contract with, existing or new owners and tenants of property in the community renewal area, under RCW 35.81.070.

(v) To organize, coordinate, and direct the administration of the provisions of this chapter.

(w) To perform such duties as the local governing body may direct so as to make the necessary arrangements for the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties and responsibilities entrusted to the local governing body.

Any powers granted in this chapter that are not included in this subsection (2) as powers of the community renewal agency or a department or other officers of a municipality in lieu thereof may only be exercised by the local governing body or other officers, boards, and commissions as provided by law. [2002 c 218 s 17; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.150. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 15.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.160 Exercise of community renewal project powers—Assignment of powers—Community renewal agency.** (1) When a municipality has made the finding prescribed in RCW 35.81.050 and has elected to have the community renewal project powers, as specified in RCW 35.81.150, exercised, such community renewal project powers may be assigned to a department or other officers of the municipality or to any existing public body corporate, or the legislative body of a municipality may create a community renewal agency in such municipality to be known as a public body corporate to which such powers may be assigned.

(2) If the community renewal agency is authorized to transact business and exercise powers under this chapter, the mayor, by and with the advice and consent of the local governing body, shall appoint a board of commissioners of the community renewal agency which shall consist of five commissioners. The initial membership shall consist of one commissioner appointed for one year, one for two years, one for three years, and two for four years; and each appointment thereafter shall be for four years, except that in the case of death, incapacity, removal, or resignation of a commissioner, the replacement may be appointed to serve the remainder of the commissioner's term.

(3) A commissioner shall receive no compensation for services but shall be entitled to the necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the discharge of his or her duties. Each commissioner shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and has qualified. A certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any commissioner shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality and such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of such commissioner.

The powers and responsibilities of a community renewal agency shall be exercised by the commissioners thereof. A majority of the commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and exercising the powers and responsibilities of the agency and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the agency upon a vote of a majority of the commissioners present, unless in any case the bylaws shall require a larger number. Any persons may be appointed as commissioners if they reside within the municipality.

The community renewal agency or department or officers exercising community renewal project powers shall be staffed with the necessary technical experts and such other agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as it may require. An agency authorized to transact business and exercise powers under this chapter shall file, with the local governing body, on or before March 31st of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding calendar year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expense as of the end of such calendar year. At the time of filing the report, the agency shall publish in a legal newspaper in the community a notice to the effect that such report has been filed with the municipality and that the report is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the clerk of the municipality and in the office of the agency.

(4) For inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office, a commissioner may be removed by the legislative body of the municipality. [2002 c 218 s 18; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.160. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 16.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.170 Discrimination prohibited.** For all of the purposes of this chapter, no person shall, because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin, be subjected to any discrimination. [2002 c 218 s 19; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.170. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 17.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

*Discrimination—Human rights commission: Chapter 49.60 RCW.*

**RCW 35.81.180 Restrictions against public officials or employees acquiring or owning an interest in project, contract, etc.** No official or department or division head of a municipality or community renewal agency or department or officers with responsibility for making or supervising any decisions in the exercise of community renewal project powers and responsibilities under RCW 35.81.150 shall

voluntarily acquire any interest, direct or indirect, in any community renewal project, or in any property included or planned to be included in any community renewal project of such municipality, or in any contract or proposed contract in connection with such community renewal project. Whether or not such an acquisition is voluntary, the person acquiring it shall immediately disclose the interest acquired in writing to the local governing body and such disclosure shall be entered upon the minutes of the governing body. If any such official or department or division head owns or controls, or owned or controlled within two years prior to the date of the first public hearing on the community renewal project, any interest, direct or indirect, in any property that he or she knows is included in a community renewal project, he or she shall immediately disclose this fact in writing to the local governing body, and such disclosure shall be entered upon the minutes of the governing body, and any such official or department or division head shall not participate in any action on that particular project by the municipality or community renewal agency. Any willful violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute misconduct in office. [2002 c 218 s 20; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.180. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 18.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.190 Local improvement districts—Establishment—Special assessments—Bonds.** (1) A community renewal agency may establish local improvement districts within the community renewal area, and levy special assessments, in annual installments extending over a period not exceeding twenty years on all property specially benefited by the local improvement, on the basis of special benefits, to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of the local improvement, and issue local improvement bonds to be paid from local improvement assessments. The formation of the local improvement districts, the determination, levy, and collection of such assessments, and the issuance of such bonds shall be as provided for the formation of local improvement districts, the determination, levy, and collection of local improvement assessments, and the issuance of local improvement bonds by cities and towns, insofar as consistent with this chapter. These bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the bonds authorized under subsection (1) of this section may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2002 c 218 s 13.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.200 Local improvement districts—Content of notice.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district created under RCW 35.81.190 shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased benefit the improvement adds to the property. [2002 c 218 s 14.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**RCW 35.81.910 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "community renewal law." [2002 c 218 s 21; 1965 c 7 s 35.81.910. Prior: 1957 c 42 s 20.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.



**Chapter 35.82 RCW**  
**HOUSING AUTHORITIES LAW**

**Sections**

- 35.82.010 Finding and declaration of necessity.
- 35.82.020 Definitions.
- 35.82.030 Creation of housing authorities.
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*Eminent domain: Title 8 RCW.*

*Loans and grants for low-income housing: RCW 35.21.685 and 36.32.415.*

**RCW 35.82.010 Finding and declaration of necessity.** It is hereby declared: (1) That there exist in the state insanitary or unsafe dwelling accommodations and that persons of low income are forced to reside in such insanitary or unsafe accommodations; that within the state there is a shortage of safe or sanitary dwelling accommodations available at rents which persons of low income can afford and that such persons are forced to occupy overcrowded and congested dwelling accommodations; that the aforesaid conditions cause an increase in and spread of disease and crime and constitute a menace to the health, safety, morals and welfare of the residents of the state and impair economic values; that these conditions necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of public funds for crime prevention and punishment, public health and safety, fire and accident protection, and other public services and facilities; (2) that these areas in the state cannot be cleared, nor can the shortage of safe and sanitary dwellings for persons of low income be relieved, through the operation of private enterprise, and that the construction of housing projects for persons of low income (as herein defined) would therefore not be competitive with private enterprise; (3) that the clearance, replanning and reconstruction of the areas in which insanitary or unsafe housing conditions exist and the providing of safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for persons of low income are public uses and purposes for which public money may be spent and private property acquired and are governmental functions of state concern; (4) that it is in the public interest that work on projects for such purposes be commenced as soon as possible in order to relieve unemployment which now (1939) constitutes an emergency; and the necessity in the public interest for the provisions hereinafter enacted, is hereby declared as a matter of legislative determination. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.010. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 2; RRS s 6889-2. Formerly RCW 74.24.010.]

**RCW 35.82.020 Definitions.** The following terms, wherever used or referred to in this chapter, shall have the following respective meanings, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

(1) "Authority" or "housing authority" shall mean any of the public corporations created by RCW 35.82.030.

(2) "City" shall mean any city, town, or code city. "County" shall mean any county in the state. "The city" shall mean the particular city for which a particular housing authority is created. "The county" shall mean the particular county for which a particular housing authority is created.

(3) "Governing body" shall mean, in the case of a city, the city council or the commission and in the case of a county, the county legislative authority.

(4) "Mayor" shall mean the mayor of the city or the officer thereof charged with the duties customarily imposed on the mayor or executive head of the city.

(5) "Clerk" shall mean the clerk of the city or the clerk of the county legislative authority, as the case may be, or the officer charged with the duties customarily imposed on such clerk.

(6) "Area of operation": (a) In the case of a housing authority of a city, shall include such city and the area within five miles from the territorial boundaries thereof: PROVIDED, That the area of

operation of a housing authority of any city shall not include any area which lies within the territorial boundaries of some other city, as herein defined; (b) in the case of a housing authority of a county, shall include all of the county except that portion which lies within the territorial boundaries of any city as herein defined.

(7) "Federal government" shall include the United States of America, the United States housing authority or any other agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States of America.

(8) "Slum" shall mean any area where dwellings predominate which, by reason of dilapidation, overcrowding, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or any combination of these factors, are detrimental to safety, health and morals.

(9) "Housing project" shall mean any work or undertaking: (a) To demolish, clear or remove buildings from any slum area; such work or undertaking may embrace the adaptation of such area to public purposes, including parks or other recreational or community purposes; or (b) to provide decent, safe and sanitary urban or rural dwellings, apartments, mobile home parks, or other living accommodations for persons of low income; such work or undertaking may include the rehabilitation of dwellings owned by persons of low income, and also may include buildings, land, equipment, facilities and other real or personal property for necessary, convenient or desirable appurtenances, streets, sewers, water service, parks, site preparation, gardening, administrative, community, health, recreational, welfare or other purposes; or (c) without limitation by implication, to provide decent, safe, and sanitary urban and rural dwellings, apartments, mobile home parks, or other living accommodations for senior citizens; such work or undertaking may include buildings, land, equipment, facilities, and other real or personal property for necessary, convenient, or desirable appurtenances, streets, sewers, water service, parks, site preparation, gardening, administrative, community, health, recreational, welfare, or other purposes; or (d) to accomplish a combination of the foregoing. The term "housing project" also may be applied to the planning of the buildings and improvements, the acquisition of property, the demolition of existing structures, the construction, reconstruction, alteration and repair of the improvements and all other work in connection therewith.

(10) "Persons of low income" shall mean persons or families who lack the amount of income which is necessary (as determined by the authority undertaking the housing project) to enable them, without financial assistance, to live in decent, safe and sanitary dwellings, without overcrowding.

(11) "Bonds" shall mean any bonds, notes, interim certificates, debentures, or other obligations issued by the authority pursuant to this chapter.

(12) "Real property" shall include all lands, including improvements and fixtures thereon, and property of any nature appurtenant thereto, or used in connection therewith, and every estate, interest and right, legal or equitable, therein, including terms for years and liens by way of judgment, mortgage or otherwise and the indebtedness secured by such liens.

(13) "Obligee of the authority" or "obligee" shall include any bondholder, trustee or trustees for any bondholders, or lessor demising to the authority property used in connection with a housing project, or any assignee or assignees of such lessor's interest or any

part thereof, and the federal government when it is a party to any contract with the authority.

(14) "Mortgage loan" shall mean an interest bearing obligation secured by a mortgage.

(15) "Mortgage" shall mean a mortgage deed, deed of trust or other instrument securing a mortgage loan and constituting a lien on real property held in fee simple, or on a leasehold under a lease having a remaining term at the time the mortgage is acquired of not less than the term for repayment of the mortgage loan secured by the mortgage, improved or to be improved by a housing project.

(16) "Senior citizen" means a person age sixty-two or older who is determined by the authority to be poor or infirm but who is otherwise in some manner able to provide the authority with revenue which (together with all other available moneys, revenues, income, and receipts of the authority, from whatever sources derived) will be sufficient: (a) To pay, as the same become due, the principal and interest on bonds of the authority; (b) to meet the cost of, and to provide for, maintaining and operating projects (including the cost of insurance) and administrative expenses of the authority; and (c) to create (by not less than the six years immediately succeeding the issuance of any bonds) a reserve sufficient to meet the principal and interest payments which will be due on the bonds in any one year thereafter and to maintain such reserve.

(17) "Commercial space" shall mean space which, because of its proximity to public streets, sidewalks, or other thoroughfares, is well-suited for commercial or office use. Commercial space includes but is not limited to office as well as retail space. [1989 c 363 s 1; 1983 c 225 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 187 s 1; 1977 ex.s. c 274 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.020. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 3; RRS s 6889-3. Formerly RCW 74.24.020.]

**Severability—1983 c 225:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 225 s 4.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 187:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1979 ex.s. c 187 s 4.]

**RCW 35.82.030 Creation of housing authorities.** In each city (as herein defined) and in each county of the state there is hereby created a public body corporate and politic to be known as the "Housing Authority" of the city or county: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such authority shall not transact any business or exercise its powers hereunder until or unless the governing body of the city or the county, as the case may be, by proper resolution shall declare at any time hereafter that there is need for an authority to function in such city or county. The determination as to whether or not there is such need for an authority to function (1) may be made by the governing body on its own motion or (2) shall be made by the governing body upon the filing of a petition signed by twenty-five residents of the city or county, as the case may be, asserting that there is need for an

authority to function in such city or county and requesting that the governing body so declare.

The governing body shall adopt a resolution declaring that there is need for a housing authority in the city or county, as the case may be, if it shall find (1) that insanitary or unsafe inhabited dwelling accommodations exist in such city or county; (2) that there is a shortage of safe or sanitary dwelling accommodations in such city or county available to persons of low income at rentals they can afford; or (3) that there is a shortage of safe or sanitary dwellings, apartments, mobile home parks, or other living accommodations available for senior citizens. In determining whether dwelling accommodations are unsafe or insanitary said governing body may take into consideration the degree of overcrowding, the percentage of land coverage, the light, air, space and access available to the inhabitants of such dwelling accommodations, the size and arrangement of the rooms, the sanitary facilities, and the extent to which conditions exist in such buildings which endanger life or property by fire or other causes.

In any suit, action or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of or relating to any contract of the authority, the authority shall be conclusively deemed to have become established and authorized to transact business and exercise its powers hereunder upon proof of the adoption of a resolution by the governing body declaring the need for the authority. Such resolution or resolutions shall be deemed sufficient if it declares that there is such need for an authority and finds in substantially the foregoing terms (no further detail being necessary) that either or both of the above enumerated conditions exist in the city or county, as the case may be. A copy of such resolution duly certified by the clerk shall be admissible in evidence in any suit, action or proceeding. [1979 ex.s. c 187 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.030. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 4; RRS s 6889-4. Formerly RCW 74.24.030.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 187:** See note following RCW 35.82.020.

**RCW 35.82.040 Appointment, qualifications, and tenure of commissioners.** Except as provided in RCW 35.82.045, when the governing body of a city adopts a resolution declaring that there is a need for a housing authority, it shall promptly notify the mayor of such adoption. Upon receiving such notice, the mayor shall appoint five persons as commissioners of the authority created for the city. When the governing body of a county adopts a resolution declaring that there is a need for a housing authority, it shall appoint five persons as commissioners of the authority created for the county. The commissioners who are first appointed shall be designated to serve for terms of one, two, three, four and five years, respectively, from the date of their appointment, but thereafter commissioners shall be appointed for a term of office of five years except that all vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term. No commissioner of an authority may be an officer or employee of the city or county for which the authority is created, unless the commissioner is an employee of a separately elected county official other than the county governing body in a county with a population of less than one hundred seventy-five thousand as of the 1990 federal census, and the total government employment in that county exceeds forty percent of total

employment. A commissioner shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and has qualified, unless sooner removed according to this chapter. A certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any commissioner shall be filed with the clerk and such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of such commissioner. A commissioner shall receive no compensation for his or her services for the authority, in any capacity, but he or she shall be entitled to the necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the discharge of his or her duties.

The powers of each authority shall be vested in the commissioners thereof in office from time to time. Except as provided in RCW 35.82.045, three commissioners shall constitute a quorum of the authority for the purpose of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the authority upon a vote of a majority of the commissioners present, unless in any case the bylaws of the authority shall require a larger number. The mayor (or in the case of an authority for a county, the governing body of the county) shall designate which of the commissioners appointed shall be the first chair of the commission and he or she shall serve in the capacity of chair until the expiration of his or her term of office as commissioner. When the office of the chair of the authority becomes vacant, the authority shall select a chair from among its commissioners. An authority shall select from among its commissioners a vice chair, and it may employ a secretary (who shall be executive director), technical experts and such other officers, agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as it may require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties and compensation. For such legal services as it may require, an authority may call upon the chief law officer of the city or the county or may employ its own counsel and legal staff. An authority may delegate to one or more of its agents or employees such powers or duties as it may deem proper.

If federal law requires that the membership of the board of commissioners of a local authority contains one member who is directly assisted by the authority, the board may by resolution temporarily or permanently increase its size to six members. The board may determine the length of the term of the position filled by a directly assisted member. A person appointed to such a position may serve in that position only as long as he or she is directly assisted by the authority. [1999 c 77 s 1; 1998 c 140 s 1; 1995 c 293 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.040. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 5; RRS s 6889-5. Formerly RCW 74.24.040.]

**RCW 35.82.045 Cities with a population of four hundred thousand or more—Appointment of additional commissioners—Appointment, compensation of commissioners—Organization of authority.** (1) After June 11, 1998, the governing body of a city with a population of four hundred thousand or more, that has created a housing authority under RCW 35.82.040, shall adopt a resolution to expand the number of commissioners on the housing authority from five to seven. Upon receiving the notice, the mayor, with approval of the city council, shall appoint additional persons as commissioners of the authority created for the city.

(2) In appointing commissioners, the mayor shall consider persons that represent the community, provided that two commissioners shall

consist of tenants that reside in a housing project that is owned by the housing authority.

(3) After June 11, 1998, all commissioners shall be appointed to serve four-year terms, except that all vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. A commissioner of an authority may not be an officer or employee of the city for which the authority is created. A commissioner shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and has qualified, unless sooner removed according to this chapter.

(4) A commissioner may be reappointed only after review and approval by the city council.

(5) A certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any commissioner shall be filed with the clerk and the certificate is conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of the commissioner.

(6) A commissioner shall receive no compensation for his or her services for the authority, in any capacity, but he or she is entitled to the necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the discharge of his or her duties.

(7) The powers of each authority vest in the commissioners of the authority in office from time to time. Four commissioners shall constitute a quorum of the authority for the purpose of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the authority upon a vote of a majority of the commissioners present, unless in any case the bylaws of the authority shall require a larger number.

(8) The mayor, with consent of the city council, shall designate which of the commissioners appointed shall be the first chair of the commission and he or she shall serve in the capacity of chair until the expiration of his or her term of office as commissioner. When the office of the chair of the authority becomes vacant, the authority shall select a chair from among its commissioners. An authority shall select from among its commissioners a vice chair, and the authority may employ a secretary, who shall be executive director, technical experts and such other officers, agents, and employees, permanent and temporary, as the authority requires, and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation.

(9) For such legal services as it may require, an authority may call upon the chief law officer of the city or may employ its own counsel and legal staff. An authority may delegate to one or more of its agents or employees such powers or duties as it may deem proper. [1998 c 140 s 2.]

**RCW 35.82.050 Conflicts of interest for commissioners, employees, and appointees.** (1) No commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority shall own or hold an interest in any contract or property or engage in any business, transaction, or professional or personal activity, that would:

(a) Be, or appear to be, in conflict with the commissioner's, employee's, or appointee's official duties to any decision-making body for the housing authority duties relating to the housing authority served by or subject to the authority of such commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority;

(b) Secure, or appear to secure, unwarranted privileges or advantages for such commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority, or others; or

(c) Prejudice, or appear to prejudice, such commissioner's, employee's, or appointee's to any decision-making body for the housing authority independence of judgment in exercise of his or her official duties relating to the housing authority served by or subject to the authority of the commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority.

(2) No commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority shall act in an official capacity in any manner in which such commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body of the housing authority has a direct or indirect financial or personal involvement.

(3) No commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority shall use his or her public office or employment to secure financial gain to such commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority.

(4) If any commissioner or employee of an authority or any appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority owns or controls an interest direct or indirect in any property included or planned to be included in any housing project, he or she immediately shall disclose the same in writing to the authority and such disclosure shall be entered upon the minutes of the authority. Failure to disclose such interest shall constitute misconduct in office. Upon such disclosure such commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority shall not participate in any action by the authority affecting such property.

(5) No provision of this section shall preclude a tenant of the public housing authority from serving as a commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body of the housing authority. No provision of this section shall preclude a tenant of the public housing authority who is serving as a commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making body of the housing authority from voting on any issue or decision, or participating in any action by the authority, unless a conflict of interest, as set forth in subsections (1) through (4) of this section, exists as to that particular tenant and the particular property or interest at issue before, or subject to action by the housing authority. [2009 c 549 s 2124; 1998 c 140 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.050. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 6; RRS s 6889-6. Formerly RCW 74.24.050.]

**RCW 35.82.060 Removal of commissioners.** For inefficiency or neglect of duty or misconduct in office, a commissioner of an authority may be removed by the mayor (or in the case of an authority for a county, by the governing body of said county), but a commissioner shall be removed only after he or she shall have been given a copy of the charges at least ten days prior to the hearing thereon and had an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. In the event of the removal of any commissioner, a record of the proceedings, together with the charges and findings thereon, shall be filed in the office of the clerk. [2009 c 549 s 2125; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.060. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 7; RRS s 6889-7. Formerly RCW 74.24.060.]



**RCW 35.82.070 Powers of authority.** An authority shall constitute a public body corporate and politic, exercising public and essential governmental functions, and having all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter, including the following powers in addition to others herein granted:

(1) To sue and be sued; to have a seal and to alter the same at pleasure; to have perpetual succession; to make and execute contracts and other instruments, including but not limited to partnership agreements and joint venture agreements, necessary or convenient to the exercise of the powers of the authority; to participate in the organization or the operation of a nonprofit corporation which has as one of its purposes to provide or assist in the provision of housing for persons of low income; and to make and from time to time amend and repeal bylaws, rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this chapter, to carry into effect the powers and purposes of the authority.

(2) Within its area of operation: To prepare, carry out, acquire, lease and operate housing projects; to provide for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, alteration or repair of any housing project or any part thereof; to agree to rent or sell dwellings forming part of the projects to or for persons of low income. Where an agreement or option is made to sell a dwelling to a person of low income, the authority may convey the dwelling to the person upon fulfillment of the agreement irrespective of whether the person is at the time of the conveyance a person of low income. Leases, options, agreements, or conveyances may include such covenants as the authority deems appropriate to assure the achievement of the objectives of this chapter.

(3) To acquire, lease, rent, sell, or otherwise dispose of any commercial space located in buildings or structures containing a housing project or projects.

(4) To arrange or contract for the furnishing by any person or agency, public or private, of services, privileges, works, or facilities for, or in connection with, a housing project or the occupants thereof; and (notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this chapter or in any other provision of law) to include in any contract let in connection with a project, stipulations requiring that the contractor and any subcontractors comply with requirements as to minimum wages and maximum hours of labor, and comply with any conditions which the federal government may have attached to its financial aid of the project.

(5) To lease or rent any dwellings, houses, accommodations, lands, buildings, structures or facilities embraced in any housing project and (subject to the limitations contained in this chapter) to establish and revise the rents or charges therefor; to own or manage buildings containing a housing project or projects as well as commercial space or other dwelling units that do not constitute a housing project as that term is defined in this chapter. However, notwithstanding the provisions under subsection (1) of this section, dwelling units made available or sold to persons of low income, together with functionally related and subordinate facilities, shall occupy at least 50 percent of the interior space in the total development owned by the authority or at least 50 percent of the total number of units in the development owned by the authority, whichever produces the greater number of units for persons of low income, and for mobile home parks, the mobile home lots made available to persons

of low income shall be at least 50 percent of the total number of mobile home lots in the park owned by the authority; to own, hold, and improve real or personal property; to purchase, lease, obtain options upon, acquire by gift, grant, bequest, devise, or otherwise including financial assistance and other aid from the state or any public body, person or corporation, any real or personal property or any interest therein; to acquire by the exercise of the power of eminent domain any real property; to sell, lease, exchange, transfer, assign, pledge, or dispose of any real or personal property or any interest therein; to sell, lease, exchange, transfer, or dispose of any real or personal property or interest therein at less than fair market value to a governmental entity for any purpose when such action assists the housing authority in carrying out its powers and purposes under this chapter, to a low-income person or family for the purpose of providing housing for that person or family, or to a nonprofit corporation provided the nonprofit corporation agrees to sell the property to a low-income person or family or to use the property for the provision of housing for persons of low income for at least 20 years; to insure or provide for the insurance of any real or personal property or operations of the authority against any risks or hazards; to procure or agree to the procurement of insurance or guarantees from the federal government of the payment of any bonds or parts thereof issued by an authority, including the power to pay premiums on any such insurance.

(6) To contract with a property management services company for purposes of operating a housing project. Rental and other project revenues collected by a property management services company from the housing project's tenants and used to pay administrative operating and ordinary maintenance costs incurred by the company under the terms of the contract with the authority shall be treated as private funds, and any resulting services as executed at the cost of the property management services company and the housing project's tenants, until the net operating revenues are distributed to the authority for its exclusive use and control. For the purposes of this subsection, "ordinary maintenance" only includes: Routine repairs related to unit turnover work; grounds and parking lot upkeep; and repairs and cleaning work needed to keep a property in a clean, safe, sanitary, and rentable condition that are customarily undertaken or administered by residential property management services companies. "Ordinary maintenance" does not include repairs that would be considered replacement capital repairs or scheduled regular maintenance work on plumbing, electrical, or HVAC/R systems or their components.

(7) To invest any funds held in reserves or sinking funds, or any funds not required for immediate disbursement, in property or securities in which savings banks may legally invest funds subject to their control; to purchase its bonds at a price not more than the principal amount thereof and accrued interest, all bonds so purchased to be canceled.

(8) Within its area of operation: To investigate into living, dwelling and housing conditions and into the means and methods of improving such conditions; to determine where slum areas exist or where there is a shortage of decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for persons of low income; to make studies and recommendations relating to the problem of clearing, replanning and reconstructing of slum areas, and the problem of providing dwelling accommodations for persons of low income, and to cooperate with the city, the county, the state or any political subdivision thereof in

action taken in connection with such problems; and to engage in research, studies and experimentation on the subject of housing.

(9) Acting through one or more commissioners or other person or persons designated by the authority: To conduct examinations and investigations and to hear testimony and take proof under oath at public or private hearings on any matter material for its information; to administer oaths, issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses or the production of books and papers and to issue commissions for the examination of witnesses who are outside of the state or unable to attend before the authority, or excused from attendance; to make available to appropriate agencies (including those charged with the duty of abating or requiring the correction of nuisances or like conditions, or of demolishing unsafe or insanitary structures within its area of operation) its findings and recommendations with regard to any building or property where conditions exist which are dangerous to the public health, morals, safety or welfare.

(10) To initiate eviction proceedings against any tenant as provided by law. Activity occurring in any housing authority unit that constitutes a violation of chapter 69.41, 69.50, or 69.52 RCW shall constitute a nuisance for the purpose of RCW 59.12.030(5).

(11) To exercise all or any part or combination of powers herein granted.

No provisions of law with respect to the acquisition, operation or disposition of property by other public bodies shall be applicable to an authority unless the legislature shall specifically so state.

(12) To agree (notwithstanding the limitation contained in RCW 35.82.210) to make such payments in lieu of taxes as the authority finds consistent with the achievement of the purposes of this chapter.

(13) Upon the request of a county or city, to exercise any powers of a community renewal agency under chapter 35.81 RCW or a public corporation, commission, or authority under chapter 35.21 RCW.

(14) To exercise the powers granted in this chapter within the boundaries of any city, town, or county not included in the area in which such housing authority is originally authorized to function: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, The governing or legislative body of such city, town, or county, as the case may be, adopts a resolution declaring that there is a need for the authority to function in such territory.

(15) To administer contracts for assistance payments to persons of low income in accordance with section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended by Title II, section 201 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, P.L. 93-383.

(16) To sell at public or private sale, with or without public bidding, for fair market value, any mortgage or other obligation held by the authority.

(17) To the extent permitted under its contract with the holders of bonds, notes, and other obligations of the authority, to consent to any modification with respect to rate of interest, time, and payment of any installment of principal or interest security, or any other term of any contract, mortgage, mortgage loan, mortgage loan commitment, contract, or agreement of any kind to which the authority is a party.

(18) To make, purchase, participate in, invest in, take assignments of, or otherwise acquire loans to persons of low income to enable them to acquire, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, improve, lease, or refinance their dwellings, and to take such security therefor as is deemed necessary and prudent by the authority.

(19) To make, purchase, participate in, invest in, take assignments of, or otherwise acquire loans for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, leasing, or refinancing of land, buildings, or developments for housing for persons of low income. For purposes of this subsection, development shall include either land or buildings or both.

(a) Any development financed under this subsection shall be subject to an agreement that for at least 20 years the dwelling units made available to persons of low income together with functionally related and subordinate facilities shall occupy at least 50 percent of the interior space in the total development or at least 50 percent of the total number of units in the development, whichever produces the greater number of units for persons of low income. For mobile home parks, the mobile home lots made available to persons of low income shall be at least 50 percent of the total number of mobile home lots in the park. During the term of the agreement, the owner shall use its best efforts in good faith to maintain the dwelling units or mobile home lots required to be made available to persons of low income at rents affordable to persons of low income. The 20-year requirement under this subsection (19) (a) shall not apply when an authority finances the development by nonprofit corporations or governmental units of dwellings or mobile home lots intended for sale to persons of low and moderate income, and shall not apply to construction or other short-term financing provided to nonprofit corporations or governmental units when the financing has a repayment term of one year or less.

(b) In addition, if the development is owned by a for-profit entity, the dwelling units or mobile home lots required to be made available to persons of low income shall be rented to persons whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the area median income, adjusted for household size, and shall have unit or lot rents that do not exceed 15 percent of area median income, adjusted for household size, unless rent subsidies are provided to make them affordable to persons of low income.

For purposes of this subsection (19) (b), if the development is owned directly or through a partnership by a governmental entity or a nonprofit organization, which nonprofit organization is itself not controlled by a for-profit entity or affiliated with any for-profit entity that a nonprofit organization itself does not control, it shall not be treated as being owned by a for-profit entity when the governmental entity or nonprofit organization exercises legal control of the ownership entity and in addition, (i) the dwelling units or mobile home lots required to be made available to persons of low income are rented to persons whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the area median income, adjusted for household size, and (ii) the development is subject to an agreement that transfers ownership to the governmental entity or nonprofit organization or extends an irrevocable right of first refusal to purchase the development under a formula for setting the acquisition price that is specified in the agreement.

(c) Commercial space in any building financed under this subsection that exceeds four stories in height shall not constitute more than 20 percent of the interior area of the building. Before financing any development under this subsection the authority shall make a written finding that financing is important for project feasibility or necessary to enable the authority to carry out its powers and purposes under this chapter.

(20) To contract with a public authority or corporation, created by a county, city, or town under RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755, to act as the developer for new housing projects or improvement of existing housing projects. [2023 c 133 s 1; 2022 c 273 s 2; 2002 c 218 s 22; 1993 c 478 s 17; 1991 c 167 s 1; 1989 c 363 s 2; 1985 c 386 s 1; 1983 c 225 s 2; 1977 ex.s. c 274 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.070. Prior: 1945 c 43 s 1; 1939 c 23 s 8; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 6889-8. Formerly RCW 74.24.070.]

**Findings—2022 c 273:** "The legislature recognizes the important role housing authorities play in providing much needed affordable housing to more than 35,000 households through their inventory of rental housing, including through workforce housing programs where housing authorities keep rents as low as possible and operate on very thin margins.

The legislature finds that for nearly 30 years without issue, objection, or complaint, housing authorities have been contracting with property management services companies for site operations at unsubsidized workforce housing properties. The legislature further finds that it is critical to continue efforts to preserve and expand naturally occurring workforce housing units statewide. Therefore, the legislature recognizes that, at unsubsidized housing authority properties, tenant rents and deposits paid to property management companies and used to pay for regular maintenance and operations are private funds and such maintenance work is not a public work." [2022 c 273 s 1.]

**Severability—Savings—Construction—2002 c 218:** See notes following RCW 35.81.005.

**Severability—1983 c 225:** See note following RCW 35.82.020.

**RCW 35.82.076 Small works roster.** A housing authority may establish and use a small works roster for awarding contracts under RCW 39.04.151 through 39.04.154. [2023 c 395 s 23; 2000 c 138 s 205.]

**Effective date—2023 c 395 ss 1-30, 32-34, 36, and 37:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**Findings—Intent—2023 c 395:** See note following RCW 39.04.010.

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.010.

**RCW 35.82.080 Operation not for profit.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that each housing authority shall manage and operate its housing projects in an efficient manner so as to enable it to fix the rentals for low-income dwelling accommodations at the lowest possible rates consistent with its providing decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations, and that no housing authority shall construct or operate any such project for profit, or as a source of revenue to the city or the county. To this end, an authority shall fix the rentals for rental units for persons of low income in projects owned or leased by the authority at no higher rates

than it shall find to be necessary in order to produce revenues which (together with all other available moneys, revenues, income and receipts of the authority from whatever sources derived) will be sufficient (1) to pay, as the same become due, the principal and interest on the bonds or other obligations of the authority issued or incurred to finance the projects; (2) to meet the cost of, and to provide for, maintaining and operating the projects (including the cost of any insurance) and the administrative expenses of the authority; and (3) to create (during not less than the six years immediately succeeding its issuance of any such bonds) a reserve sufficient to meet the largest principal and interest payments which will be due on such bonds in any one year thereafter and to maintain such reserve. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit an authority's power to rent commercial space located in buildings containing housing projects or non low-income units owned, acquired, financed, or constructed under \*RCW 35.82.070(5), (16), or (17) at profitable rates and to use any profit realized from such rentals in carrying into effect the powers and purposes provided to housing authorities under this chapter. [1989 c 363 s 3; 1983 c 225 s 3; 1977 ex.s. c 274 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.080. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 9; RRS s 6889-9. Formerly RCW 74.24.080.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 35.82.070 was amended by 1991 c 167 s 1, changing subsections (16) and (17) to subsections (17) and (18); and subsequently amended by 1993 c 478 s 17 changing subsections (17) and (18) to subsections (18) and (19). RCW 35.82.070 was subsequently amended by 2022 c 273 s 2, changing subsections (18) and (19) to subsections (19) and (20).

**Severability—1983 c 225:** See note following RCW 35.82.020.

**RCW 35.82.090 Rentals and tenant selection.** In the operation and management of rental units which are rented to persons of low income in any housing project an authority shall at all times observe the following duties with respect to rentals and tenant selection: (1) It may rent or lease the dwelling accommodations therein to persons of low income and at rentals within the financial reach of such persons of low income; (2) it may rent or lease to a low-income tenant dwelling accommodations consisting of the number of rooms (but no greater number) which it deems necessary to provide safe and sanitary accommodations to the proposed occupants thereof, without overcrowding; and (3) it shall not accept any person as a low income tenant in any housing project designated for persons of low income if the person or persons who would occupy the dwelling accommodations have an annual net income in excess of five times the annual rental of the quarters to be furnished such person or persons, except that in the case of families with three or more minor dependents, such ratio shall not exceed six to one; in computing the rental for this purpose of selecting tenants, there shall be included in the rental the average annual cost (as determined by the authority) to occupants of heat, water, electricity, gas, cooking range and other necessary services or facilities, whether or not the charge for such services and facilities is in fact included in the rental. This income limitation does not apply to housing projects designated for senior citizens.

Nothing contained in this section or RCW 35.82.080 shall be construed as limiting the power of an authority to vest in an obligee the right, in the event of a default by the authority, to take possession of a housing project or cause the appointment of a receiver thereof, free from all the restrictions imposed by this section or RCW 35.82.080. [1989 c 363 s 4; 1979 ex.s. c 187 s 3; 1977 ex.s. c 274 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.090. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 10; RRS s 6889-10. Formerly RCW 74.24.090.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 187:** See note following RCW 35.82.020.

**RCW 35.82.100 Cooperation between authorities.** Any two or more authorities may join or cooperate with one another in the exercise of any or all of the powers conferred hereby for the purpose of financing, planning, undertaking, constructing or operating a housing project or projects located within the area of operation of any one or more of said authorities. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.100. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 11; RRS s 6889-11. Formerly RCW 74.24.100.]

**RCW 35.82.110 Eminent domain.** An authority shall have the right to acquire by the exercise of the power of eminent domain any real property which it may deem necessary for its purposes under this chapter after the adoption by it of a resolution declaring that the acquisition of the real property described therein is necessary for such purposes. An authority may exercise the power of eminent domain in the same manner and under the same procedure as now is or may be hereafter provided by law in the case of other corporations authorized by the laws of the state to exercise the right of eminent domain; or it may exercise the power of eminent domain in the manner now or which may be hereafter provided by any other applicable statutory provisions for the exercise of the power of eminent domain. Property already devoted to a public use may be acquired in like manner: PROVIDED, That no real property belonging to the city, the county, the state or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired without its consent. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.110. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 12; RRS s 6889-12. Formerly RCW 74.24.110.]

*Eminent domain: Title 8 RCW.*

**RCW 35.82.120 Planning, zoning and building laws.** All housing projects of an authority shall be subject to the planning, zoning, sanitary and building laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to the locality in which the housing project is situated. In the planning and location of any housing project, an authority shall take into consideration the relationship of the project to any larger plan or long-range program for the development of the area in which the housing authority functions. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.120. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 13; RRS s 6889-13. Formerly RCW 74.24.120.]

*Ordinances—Adoption of codes by reference: RCW 35.21.180.*

*Planning commissions: Chapter 35.63 RCW.*

**RCW 35.82.130 Bonds.** An authority shall have power to issue bonds from time to time in its discretion, for any of its corporate purposes. An authority shall also have power to issue refunding bonds for the purpose of paying or retiring bonds previously issued by it. An authority may issue such types of bonds as it may determine, including (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) bonds on which the principal and interest are payable: (1) Exclusively from the income and revenues of the housing project financed with the proceeds of such bonds; (2) exclusively from the income and revenues of certain designated housing projects whether or not they are financed in whole or in part with the proceeds of such bonds; or (3) from all or part of its revenues or assets generally. Any such bonds may be additionally secured by a pledge of any grant or contributions from the federal government or other source, or a pledge of any income or revenues of the authority, or a mortgage of any housing project, projects or other property of the authority. Any pledge made by the authority shall be valid and binding from the time when the pledge is made; the revenues, moneys, or property so pledged and thereafter received by the authority shall immediately be subject to the lien of the pledge without any physical delivery thereof or further act, and the lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the authority, irrespective of whether the parties have notice thereof.

Neither the commissioners of an authority nor any person executing the bonds shall be liable personally on the bonds by reason of the issuance thereof. The bonds and other obligations of an authority (and such bonds and obligations shall so state on their face) shall not be a debt of the city, the county, the state or any political subdivision thereof and neither the city or the county, nor the state or any political subdivision thereof shall be liable thereon, nor in any event shall such bonds or obligations be payable out of any funds or properties other than those of the authority. The bonds shall not constitute an indebtedness within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory debt limitation or restriction. Bonds of an authority are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose and to be public instrumentalities and, together with interest thereon and income therefrom, shall be exempt from taxes. Nothing in this section shall prevent an authority from issuing bonds the interest on which is included in gross income of the owners thereof for income tax purposes. [1995 c 293 s 2; 1991 c 167 s 2; 1977 ex.s. c 274 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.130. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 14; RRS s 6889-14. Formerly RCW 74.24.130.]

**RCW 35.82.140 Form and sale of bonds.** (1) Bonds of an authority shall be authorized by its resolution and may be issued in one or more series and shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, bear interest at such rate or rates, be in such denomination or denominations, be in such form, either coupon or registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030, carry such conversion or registration privileges, have such rank or priority, be executed in such manner, be payable in such medium of payment, at such place or places, and be subject to such terms of redemption (with or without premium) as such resolution, its trust indenture or mortgage may provide.

The bonds may be sold at public or private sale.

In case any of the commissioners or officers of the authority whose signatures appear on any bond or any coupons shall cease to be



such commissioners or officers before the delivery of such bonds, such signatures shall, nevertheless, be valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if they had remained in office until such delivery. Any provision of any law to the contrary notwithstanding, any bonds issued pursuant to this chapter shall be fully negotiable.

In any suit, action or proceedings involving the validity or enforceability of any bond of an authority or the security therefor, any such bond reciting in substance that it has been issued by the authority to aid in financing a housing project to provide dwelling accommodations for persons of low income shall be conclusively deemed to have been issued for a housing project of such character and said project shall be conclusively deemed to have been planned, located and constructed in accordance with the purposes and provisions of this chapter.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 65; 1977 ex.s. c 274 s 6; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 45; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 22; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.140. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 15; RRS s 6889-15. Formerly RCW 74.24.140.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 35.82.150 Provisions of bonds, trust indentures, and mortgages.** In connection with the issuance of bonds or the incurring of obligations under leases and in order to secure the payment of such bonds or obligations, an authority, in addition to its other powers, shall have power:

(1) To pledge all or any part of its gross or net rents, fees, revenues, or assets, including mortgage loans and obligations securing the same, to which its right then exists or may thereafter come into existence.

(2) To mortgage all or any part of its real or personal property, then owned or thereafter acquired.

(3) To covenant against pledging all or any part of its rents, fees and revenues, or against mortgaging all or any part of its real or personal property, to which its right or title then exists or may thereafter come into existence or against permitting or suffering any lien on such revenues or property; to covenant with respect to limitations on its right to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any housing project or any part thereof; and to covenant as to what other, or additional debts or obligations may be incurred by it.

(4) To covenant as to the bonds to be issued and as to the issuance of such bonds in escrow or otherwise, and as to the use and disposition of the proceeds thereof; to provide for the replacement of lost, destroyed or mutilated bonds; to covenant against extending the time for the payment of its bonds or interest thereon; and to redeem the bonds, and to covenant for their redemption and to provide the terms and conditions thereof.

(5) To covenant (subject to the limitations contained in this chapter) as to the rents and fees to be charged in the operation of a housing project or projects, the amount to be raised each year or other period of time by rents, fees and other revenues, and as to the use and disposition to be made thereof; to create or to authorize the creation of special funds for moneys held for construction or operating costs, debt service, reserves, or other purposes, and to covenant as to the use and disposition of the moneys held in such funds.

(6) To prescribe the procedure, if any, by which the terms of any contract with bondholders may be amended or abrogated, the amount of bonds the holders of which must consent thereto and the manner in which such consent may be given.

(7) To covenant as to use of any or all of its real or personal property; and to covenant as to the maintenance of its real and personal property, the replacement thereof, the insurance to be carried thereon and the use and disposition of insurance moneys.

(8) To covenant as to the rights, liabilities, powers and duties arising upon the breach by it of any covenant, condition, or obligation; and to covenant and prescribe as to events of default and terms and conditions upon which any or all of its bonds or obligations shall become or may be declared due before maturity, and as to the terms and conditions upon which such declaration and its consequences may be waived.

(9) To vest in a trustee or trustees or the holders of bonds or any proportion of them the right to enforce the payment of the bonds or any covenants securing or relating to the bonds; to vest in a trustee or trustees the right, in the event of a default by said authority, to take possession and use, operate and manage any housing project or part thereof, and to collect the rents and revenues arising therefrom and to dispose of such moneys in accordance with the agreement of the authority with said trustee; to provide for the powers and duties of a trustee or trustees and to limit the liabilities thereof; and to provide the terms and conditions upon which the trustee or trustees or the holders of bonds or any proportion of them may enforce any covenant or rights securing or relating to the bonds.

(10) To covenant as to the use and disposition of the gross income from mortgages owned by the authority and payment of principal of the mortgages.

(11) To exercise all or any part or combination of the powers herein granted; to make covenants other than and in addition to the covenants herein expressly authorized, of like or different character; to make such covenants and to do any and all such acts and things as may be necessary or convenient or desirable in order to secure its bonds, or, in the absolute discretion of said authority, as will tend to make the bonds more marketable notwithstanding that such covenants, acts or things may not be enumerated herein. [1977 ex.s. c 274 s 7; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.150. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 16; RRS s 6889-16. Formerly RCW 74.24.150.]

**RCW 35.82.160 Certification by attorney general.** Any authority may submit to the attorney general of the state any bonds to be issued hereunder after all proceedings for the issuance of such bonds have been taken. Upon the submission of such proceedings to the attorney general, it shall be the duty of the attorney general to examine into

and pass upon the validity of such bonds and the regularity of all proceedings in connection therewith. If such proceedings conform to the provisions of this chapter and are otherwise regular in form and if such bonds when delivered and paid for will constitute binding and legal obligations of the authority enforceable according to the terms thereof, the attorney general shall certify in substance upon the back of each of said bonds that it is issued in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.160. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 17; RRS s 6889-17. Formerly RCW 74.24.160.]

**RCW 35.82.170 Remedies of an obligee of authority.** An obligee of an authority shall have the right in addition to all other rights which may be conferred on such obligee, subject only to any contractual restrictions binding upon such obligee:

(1) By mandamus, suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity to compel said authority and the commissioners, officers, agents or employees thereof to perform each and every term, provision and covenant contained in any contract of said authority with or for the benefit of such obligee, and to require the carrying out of any or all such covenants and agreements of said authority and the fulfillment of all duties imposed upon said authority by this chapter.

(2) By suit, action or proceeding in equity, to enjoin any acts or things which may be unlawful, or the violation of any of the rights of such obligee of said authority. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.170. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 18; RRS s 6889-18. Formerly RCW 74.24.170.]

**RCW 35.82.180 Additional remedies conferable by authority.** An authority shall have power by its resolution, trust indenture, mortgage, lease or other contract to confer upon any obligee holding or representing a specified amount in bonds, or holding a lease, the right (in addition to all rights that may otherwise be conferred), upon the happening of an event of default as defined in such resolution or instrument, by suit, action or proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction:

(1) To cause possession of any housing project or any part thereof to be surrendered to any such obligee.

(2) To obtain the appointment of a receiver of any housing project of said authority or any part thereof and of the rents and profits therefrom. If such receiver be appointed, he or she may enter and take possession of such housing project or any part thereof and operate and maintain same, and collect and receive all fees, rents, revenues, or other charges thereafter arising therefrom, and shall keep such moneys in a separate account or accounts and apply the same in accordance with the obligations of said authority as the court shall direct.

(3) To require said authority and the commissioners thereof to account as if it and they were the trustees of an express trust. [2009 c 549 s 2126; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.180. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 19; RRS s 6889-19. Formerly RCW 74.24.180.]

**RCW 35.82.190 Exemption of property from execution sale.** All real property of an authority shall be exempt from levy and sale by virtue of an execution, and no execution or other judicial process

shall issue against the same nor shall any judgment against an authority be a charge or lien upon its real property: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to or limit the right of obligees to foreclose or otherwise enforce any mortgage of an authority or the right of obligees to pursue any remedies for the enforcement of any pledge or lien given by an authority on its rents, fees or revenues. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.190. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 20; RRS s 6889-20. Formerly RCW 74.24.190.]

**RCW 35.82.200 Aid from federal government—Provisions applicable to authorities.** (1) In addition to the powers conferred upon an authority by other provisions of this chapter, an authority is empowered to borrow money or accept contributions, grants or other financial assistance from the federal government for or in aid of any housing project within its area of operation, to take over or lease or manage any housing project or undertaking constructed or owned by the federal government, and to these ends, to comply with such conditions and enter into such mortgages, trust indentures, leases or agreements as may be necessary, convenient or desirable. It is the purpose and intent of this chapter to authorize every authority to do any and all things necessary or desirable to secure the financial aid or cooperation of the federal government in the undertaking, construction, maintenance or operation of any housing project by such authority.

(2) All housing authorities shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 39.10 RCW except where alternative requirements or procedures of federal law or federal regulation are authorized.

(3) The requirements of chapter 39.12 RCW regarding prevailing wages shall apply to housing authority public works except where specifically preempted by federal law or federal regulation. [2010 1st sp.s. c 21 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.200. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 21; RRS s 6889-21. Formerly RCW 74.24.200.]

**Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 39.10.200.

**RCW 35.82.210 Tax exemption and payments in lieu of taxes—Definitions.** (1) The property of an authority is declared to be public property used for essential public and governmental purposes and such property and an authority shall be exempt from all taxes and special assessments of the city, the county, the state or any political subdivision thereof: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in lieu of such taxes an authority may agree to make payments to the city or the county or any such political subdivision for improvements, services and facilities furnished by such city, county or political subdivision for the benefit of a housing project, but in no event shall such payments exceed the amount last levied as the annual tax of such city, county or political subdivision upon the property included in said project prior to the time of its acquisition by the authority.

(2) For the sole purpose of the exemption from tax under this section:

(a) "Authority," in addition to the meaning in RCW 35.82.020, also means tribal housing authorities and intertribal housing authorities.

(b) "Intertribal housing authority" means a housing authority created by a consortium of tribal governments to operate and administer housing programs for persons of low income or senior citizens for and on behalf of such tribes.

(c) "Tribal government" means the governing body of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(d) "Tribal housing authority" means the tribal government or an agency or branch of the tribal government that operates and administers housing programs for persons of low income or senior citizens. [2000 c 187 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.210. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 22; RRS s 6889-22. Formerly RCW 74.24.210.]

**Finding—2000 c 187:** "Affordable and accessible housing is of great concern and importance to the legislature and the people of this state. The legislature recognizes the important role housing authorities serve in creating and maintaining housing for low-income persons and senior citizens. The legislature finds that tribal housing authorities should be afforded the same exemptions from tax as all other housing authorities and extends the exemption from state and local tax to tribal housing authorities." [2000 c 187 s 1.]

**Effective date—2000 c 187:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2000." [2000 c 187 s 3.]

**RCW 35.82.220 Housing bonds legal investments and security.**

Notwithstanding any restrictions on investments contained in any laws of this state, the state and all public officers, municipal corporations, political subdivisions, and public bodies, all banks, bankers, trust companies, savings banks and institutions, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, investment companies and other persons carrying on a banking business, all insurance companies, insurance associations and other persons carrying on an insurance business, and all executors, administrators, guardians, trustees and other fiduciaries may legally invest any sinking funds, moneys or other funds belonging to them or within their control in any bonds or other obligations issued by a housing authority pursuant to the housing authorities law of this state or issued by any public housing authority or agency in the United States, and such bonds and other obligations shall be authorized security for all public deposits; it being the purpose of this chapter to authorize any persons, firms, corporations, associations, political subdivisions, bodies and officers, public or private, to use any funds owned or controlled by them, including (but not limited to) sinking, insurance, investment, retirement, compensation, pension and trust funds, and funds held on deposit, for the purchase of any such bonds or other obligations: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as relieving any person, firm or corporation from any duty of exercising reasonable care in selecting securities. [1977 ex.s. c 274 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.82.220. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 23; RRS s 6889-23. Formerly RCW 74.24.220.]

**RCW 35.82.230 Reports.** At least once a year, an authority shall file with the clerk a report of its activities for the preceding year, and shall make recommendations with reference to such additional

legislation or other action as it deems necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.230. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 24; RRS s 6889-24. Formerly RCW 74.24.230.]

**RCW 35.82.240 Rural housing projects.** Housing authorities created for counties are specifically empowered and authorized to borrow money, accept grants and exercise their other powers to provide housing for farmers of low income as herein defined. In providing such housing, such housing authorities shall not be subject to the tenant selection limitations provided in RCW 35.82.090(3). In connection with such projects, such housing authorities may enter into such leases or purchase agreements, accept such conveyances and rent or sell dwellings forming part of such projects to or for farmers of low income, as such housing authority deems necessary in order to assure the achievement of the objectives of this chapter. Such leases, agreements or conveyances may include such covenants as the housing authority deems appropriate regarding such dwellings and the tracts of land described in any such instrument, which covenants shall be deemed to run with the land where the housing authority deems it necessary and the parties to such instrument so stipulate. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as limiting any other powers of any housing authority. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.240. Prior: 1941 c 69 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 6889-23a. Formerly RCW 74.24.240.]

**RCW 35.82.250 Housing applications by farmers.** The owner of any farm operated, or worked upon, by farmers of low income in need of safe and sanitary housing may file an application with a housing authority of a county requesting that it provide for a safe and sanitary dwelling or dwellings for occupancy by such farmers of low income. Such applications shall be received and examined by housing authorities in connection with the formulation of projects or programs to provide housing for farmers of low income. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.250. Prior: 1941 c 69 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 6889-23b. Formerly RCW 74.24.250.]

**RCW 35.82.260 Farmers of low income.** "Farmers of low income" shall mean persons or families who at the time of their admission to occupancy in a dwelling of a housing authority: (1) live under unsafe or insanitary housing conditions; (2) derive their principal income from operating or working upon a farm; and (3) had an aggregate average annual net income for the three years preceding their admission that was less than the amount determined by the housing authority to be necessary, within its area of operation, to enable them, without financial assistance, to obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing without overcrowding. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.260. Prior: 1941 c 69 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 6889-23c. Formerly RCW 74.24.260.]

**RCW 35.82.270 Powers are additional.** The powers conferred by RCW 35.82.240 through 35.82.270 shall be in addition and supplemental to the powers conferred by any other law, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting any other powers of any housing authority. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.270. Prior: 1941 c 69 s 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 6889-23d. Formerly RCW 74.24.270.]

**RCW 35.82.280 Supplemental projects.** Except as limited by this section, an authority shall have the same powers with respect to supplemental projects as hereinafter in this section defined as are now or hereafter granted to it under this chapter with respect to housing projects.

No funds shall be expended by an authority for a supplemental project except by resolution adopted on notice at a public hearing as provided by \*chapter 42.32 RCW, supported by formal findings of fact incorporated therein, establishing that:

(1) Low-income housing needs within the area of operation of the authority are being or will be adequately met by existing programs; and

(2) A surplus of funds will exist after meeting such low-income housing needs.

Expenditures for supplemental projects shall be limited to those funds determined to be surplus.

"Supplemental project" for the purposes of this chapter shall mean any work or undertaking to provide buildings, land, equipment, facilities, and other real or personal property for recreational, group home, halfway house or other community purposes which by resolution of the housing authority is determined to be necessary for the welfare of the community within its area of operation and to fully accomplish the purposes of this chapter. Such project need not be in conjunction with the clearing of a slum area under subsection (9)(a) of RCW 35.82.020 or with the providing of low-income housing under subsection (9)(b) of RCW 35.82.020. [1971 ex.s. c 300 s 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The only section in chapter 42.32 RCW, RCW 42.32.030, was recodified as RCW 42.30.035 pursuant to 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 s 30.

**RCW 35.82.285 Group homes or halfway houses for released juveniles or developmentally disabled.**

Housing authorities created under this chapter may establish and operate group homes or halfway houses to serve juveniles released from state juvenile or correctional institutions, or to serve the developmentally disabled as defined in \*RCW 71A.10.020(2). Authorities may contract for the operation of facilities so established, with qualified nonprofit organizations as agent of the authority. Authorities may provide support or supportive services in facilities serving juveniles, the developmentally disabled or other persons under a disability, and the frail elderly, whether or not they are operated by the authority.

Action under this section shall be taken by the authority only after a public hearing as provided by chapter 42.30 RCW. In exercising this power the authority shall not be empowered to acquire property by eminent domain, and the facilities established shall comply with all zoning, building, fire, and health regulations and procedures applicable in the locality. [1991 c 167 s 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 198 s 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 71A.10.020 was amended by 1998 c 216 s 2, changing subsection (2) to subsection (3). RCW 71A.10.020 was subsequently amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 30 s 3, changing subsection (3) to subsection (4). RCW 71A.10.020 was subsequently amended by 2014 c 139 s 2, changing subsection (4) to subsection (5). RCW 71A.10.020

was subsequently amended by 2022 c 277 s 2, changing subsection (5) to subsection (6).

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 198:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**RCW 35.82.300 Joint housing authorities—Creation authorized—Contents of ordinances creating—Powers.** This section applies to all cities and counties.

(1) Joint housing authorities are hereby authorized when the legislative authorities of one or more counties and the legislative authorities of any city or cities within any of those counties or in another county or counties have authorized such joint housing authority by ordinance. For legislative authorities that have created housing authorities prior to June 6, 2024, a joint housing authority may be formed by two or more city governments without county legislative authority authorization.

[(2)] The ordinances creating a joint housing authority must: (a) Provide for the creation of a new public body corporate and politic; or (b) provide that a housing authority created under this chapter and previously activated by resolution of one of the legislative authorities creating the joint housing authority will be converted to, and will thereafter operate as, a joint housing authority.

(3) The ordinances enacted by the legislative authorities creating the joint housing authority shall prescribe the number of commissioners, the method for their appointment and length of their terms, the election of officers, and the method for removal of commissioners.

(4) The ordinances enacted by the legislative authorities creating the joint housing authority shall prescribe the allocation of all costs of the joint housing authority and any other matters necessary for the operation of the joint housing authority.

(5) A joint housing authority shall have all the powers as prescribed by this chapter for any housing authority. The area of operation of a joint housing authority shall be the combined areas, defined by RCW 35.82.020(6), of the housing authorities created in each city and county authorizing the joint housing authority.

(6) The provisions of RCW 35.82.040 and 35.82.060 shall not apply to a joint housing authority created pursuant to this section.

(7) Unless a delayed date is specified in the ordinances providing for the creation of a joint housing authority, the creation of, or conversion to, a joint housing authority will take effect upon the latest effective date of the ordinances providing for its creation. [2024 c 12 s 1; 2002 c 258 s 1; 1980 c 25 s 1.]

**RCW 35.82.310 Joint housing authorities—Dissolution.** [(1)] A joint housing authority may be dissolved pursuant to substantially identical resolutions or ordinances of the legislative authority of each of the counties or cities that previously authorized that joint housing authority. These resolutions or ordinances may authorize the execution of an agreement among the counties, cities, and the joint housing authority that provides for the timing, distribution of assets, obligations and liabilities, and other matters deemed necessary or appropriate by the legislative authorities.



(2) Each resolution or ordinance dissolving a joint housing authority shall provide for the following:

(a) Activation or reactivation of a housing authority or joint housing authority by each of the cities and counties that previously authorized the joint housing authority and any additional cities or counties that are then to be added. This activation or reactivation takes effect upon the dissolution of the joint housing authority or at an earlier time provided in the resolutions or ordinances dissolving the joint housing authority; and

(b) Distribution of all assets, obligations, and liabilities of the joint housing authority to the housing authorities activated or reactivated under (a) of this subsection. Distribution of assets, obligations, and liabilities may be based on any, or a combination of any of, the following considerations:

(i) The population within the boundaries of each of the housing authorities activated or reactivated under (a) of this subsection;

(ii) The number of housing units owned by the joint housing authority within the boundaries of each of the housing authorities activated or reactivated under (a) of this subsection;

(iii) The number of low-income residents within the boundaries of each of the housing authorities activated or reactivated under (a) of this subsection;

(iv) The effect of the proposed distribution on the viability of the housing authorities activated or reactivated under (a) of this subsection; or

(v) Any other reasonable criteria to determine the distribution of assets, obligations, and liabilities.

(3) Each activated or reactivated housing authority shall be responsible for debt service on bonds or other obligations issued or incurred to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of the projects, properties, and other assets that have been distributed to them under the dissolution. However, if an outstanding bond issue is secured in whole or in part by the general revenues of the joint housing authority being dissolved, each housing authority activated or reactivated under subsection (2)(a) of this section shall remain jointly and severally liable for retirement of debt service through repayment of those outstanding bonds and other obligations of the joint housing authority until paid or defeased, from general revenues of each of the activated or reactivated housing authorities, and from any other revenues and accounts that had been expressly pledged by the joint housing authority to the payment of those bonds or other obligations. As used in this subsection, "general revenues" means all revenues of a housing authority from any source, but only to the extent that those revenues are available to pay debt service on bonds or other obligations and are not then or thereafter pledged or restricted by law, regulation, contract, covenant, resolution, deed of trust, or otherwise, solely to another particular purpose. [2006 c 349 s 12.]

**Finding—2006 c 349:** See note following RCW 43.185C.010.

**RCW 35.82.320 Deactivation of housing authority—Procedure.** A housing authority created under this chapter and activated by a resolution by the governing body of a city, town, or county may be deactivated by a resolution by the city, town, or county. The findings

listed in RCW 35.82.030 to activate the housing authority shall be considered prior to deactivating the housing authority. For the sole purposes of winding up the affairs of a deactivated housing authority, the governing body of the city, town, or county may exercise any power granted to a housing authority under this chapter. [1987 c 275 s 1.]

**RCW 35.82.325 Deactivation of housing authority—Distribution of assets.** The assets of an authority in the process of deactivation shall be applied and distributed as follows:

(1) All liabilities and obligations of the authority shall be paid, satisfied, and discharged, or adequate provision shall be made therefor;

(2) Assets held by the authority upon condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance, which condition occurs by reason of the deactivation shall be returned, transferred, or conveyed in accordance with such requirements;

(3) Assets received and held by the authority subject to limitations permitting their use only for activities purposes contained in RCW 35.82.070, but not held upon a condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance by reason of the deactivation, shall be transferred or conveyed to the governing body of the city, town, or county and used to engage in activities contained in RCW 35.82.070;

(4) Other assets, if any, shall be returned to the governing body of the city, town, or county for uses allowed under state law. [1987 c 275 s 2.]

**RCW 35.82.330 Chapter not applicable to certain transfers of property.** This chapter does not apply to transfers of property under \*sections 1 and 2 of this act. [2006 c 35 s 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to "sections 1 and 2 of this act" appears to be erroneous. Reference to "sections 2 and 3 of this act" codified as RCW 43.99C.070 and 43.83D.120 was apparently intended. RCW 43.99C.070 and 43.83D.120 were recodified as RCW 43.83.400 and 43.83.410, respectively, by the code reviser September 2015.

**Findings—2006 c 35:** See note following RCW 43.83.400.

**RCW 35.82.340 Previously incarcerated individuals—Rental policies that are not unduly burdensome encouraged.** The legislature recognizes that stable, habitable, and supportive housing is a critical factor that increases a previously incarcerated individual's access to treatment and services as well as the likelihood of success in the community. Housing authorities are therefore encouraged to formulate rental policies that are not unduly burdensome to previously incarcerated individuals attempting to reenter the community, particularly when the individual's family may already reside in government subsidized housing. [2007 c 483 s 603.]

**Finding—Intent—2007 c 483:** "The legislature finds that, in order to improve the safety of our communities, more housing needs to be made available to offenders returning to the community. The legislature intends to increase the housing available to offenders by providing that landlords who rent to offenders shall be immune from

civil liability for damages that may result from the criminal conduct of the tenant." [2007 c 483 s 601.]

**Findings—2007 c 483:** See RCW 72.78.005.

**RCW 35.82.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Housing Authorities Law." [1965 c 7 s 35.82.900. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 1.]

**RCW 35.82.910 Chapter controlling.** Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other law, the provisions of this chapter shall be controlling. [1965 c 7 s 35.82.910. Prior: 1939 c 23 s 26.]

**Chapter 35.83 RCW**  
**HOUSING COOPERATION LAW**

**Sections**

35.83.005 Short title.  
35.83.010 Finding and declaration of necessity.  
35.83.020 Definitions.  
35.83.030 Cooperation in undertaking housing projects.  
35.83.040 Agreements as to payments by housing authority.  
35.83.050 Advances to housing authority.  
35.83.060 Procedure for exercising powers.  
35.83.070 Supplemental nature of chapter.  
35.83.080 State public body support.

*Housing authorities law: Chapter 35.82 RCW.*

**RCW 35.83.005 Short title.** This act may be referred to as the "Housing Cooperation Law." [1965 c 7 s 35.83.005. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 1; RRS s 6889-31.]

**RCW 35.83.010 Finding and declaration of necessity.** It has been found and declared in the housing authorities law that there exist in the state unsafe and insanitary housing conditions and a shortage of safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for persons of low income; that these conditions necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of public funds for crime prevention and punishment, public health and safety, fire and accident protection, and other public services and facilities; and that the public interest requires the remedying of these conditions. It is hereby found and declared that the assistance herein provided for the remedying of the conditions set forth in the housing authorities law constitutes a public use and purpose and an essential governmental function for which public moneys may be spent, and other aid given; that it is a proper public purpose for any state public body to aid any housing authority operating within its boundaries or jurisdiction or any housing project located therein, as the state public body derives immediate benefits and advantages from such an authority or project; and that the provisions hereinafter enacted are necessary in the public interest. [1965 c 7 s 35.83.010. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 2; RRS s 6889-32. Formerly RCW 74.28.010.]

**RCW 35.83.020 Definitions.** The following terms, whenever used or referred to in this chapter shall have the following respective meanings, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

(1) "Housing authority" shall mean any housing authority created pursuant to the housing authorities law of this state.

(2) "Housing project" shall mean any work or undertaking of a housing authority pursuant to the housing authorities law or any similar work or undertaking of the federal government.

(3) "State public body" shall mean the state of Washington and any city, town, county, municipal corporation, commission, district, authority, other subdivision or public body of the state.

(4) "Governing body" shall mean the council, the commission, board of county commissioners or other body having charge of the fiscal affairs of the state public body.

(5) "Federal government" shall include the United States of America, the United States housing authority, or any other agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States of America. [1991 c 167 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.83.020. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 3; RRS s 6889-33. Formerly RCW 74.28.020.]

**RCW 35.83.030 Cooperation in undertaking housing projects.** For the purpose of aiding and cooperating in the planning, undertaking, construction or operation of housing projects located within the area in which it is authorized to act, any state public body may upon such terms, with or without consideration, as it may determine:

(1) Dedicate, sell, grant, convey, or lease any of its interest in any property, or grant easements, licenses or any other rights or privileges therein to a housing authority or the federal government;

(2) Cause parks, playgrounds, recreational, community, educational, water, sewer or drainage facilities, or any other works which it is otherwise empowered to undertake, to be furnished adjacent to or in connection with housing projects;

(3) Furnish, dedicate, close, pave, install, grade, regrade, plan or replan streets, roads, roadways, alleys, sidewalks or other places which it is otherwise empowered to undertake;

(4) Plan or replan, zone or rezone any part of such state public body; make exceptions from building regulations and ordinances; any city or town also may change its map;

(5) Cause services to be furnished to the housing authority of the character which such state public body is otherwise empowered to furnish;

(6) Enter into agreements with respect to the exercise by such state public body of its powers relating to the repair, elimination or closing of unsafe, insanitary or unfit dwellings;

(7) Employ (notwithstanding the provisions of any other law) any funds belonging to or within the control of such state public body, including funds derived from the sale or furnishing of property or facilities to a housing authority, in the purchase of the bonds or other obligations of a housing authority; and exercise all the rights of any holder of such bonds or other obligations;

(8) Do any and all things, necessary or convenient to aid and cooperate in the planning, undertaking, construction or operation of such housing projects;

(9) Incur the entire expense of any public improvements made by such state public body in exercising the powers granted in this chapter;

(10) Enter into agreements (which may extend over any period, notwithstanding any provision or rule of law to the contrary), with a housing authority respecting action to be taken by such state public body pursuant to any of the powers granted by this chapter. Any law or statute to the contrary notwithstanding, any sale, conveyance, lease or agreement provided for in this section may be made by a state public body without appraisal, advertisement or public bidding: PROVIDED, There must be five days public notice given either by posting in three public places or publishing in the official county newspaper of the county wherein the property is located; and

(11) With respect to any housing project which a housing authority has acquired or taken over from the federal government and which the housing authority by resolution has found and declared to have been constructed in a manner that will promote the public interest and afford necessary safety, sanitation and other protection, no state public body shall require any changes to be made in the housing project or the manner of its construction or take any other action relating to such construction. [1991 c 167 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.83.030. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 4; RRS s 6889-34. Formerly RCW 74.28.030.]

**RCW 35.83.040 Agreements as to payments by housing authority.**

In connection with any housing project located wholly or partly within the area in which it is authorized to act, any state public body may agree with a housing authority or the federal government that a certain sum (in no event to exceed the amount last levied as the annual tax of such state public body upon the property included in said project prior to the time of its acquisition by the housing authority) or that no sum, shall be paid by the authority in lieu of taxes for any year or period of years. [1965 c 7 s 35.83.040. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 5; RRS s 6889-35. Formerly RCW 74.28.040.]

**RCW 35.83.050 Advances to housing authority.** Any city, town, or county located in whole or in part within the area of operation of a housing authority shall have the power from time to time to lend or donate money to such authority or to agree to take such action. Such housing authority, when it has money available therefor, shall make reimbursements for all such loans made to it. [1965 c 7 s 35.83.050. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 6; RRS s 6889-36. Formerly RCW 74.28.050.]

**RCW 35.83.060 Procedure for exercising powers.** The exercise by a state public body of the powers herein granted may be authorized by resolution of the governing body of such state public body adopted by a majority of the members of its governing body present at a meeting of said governing body, which resolution may be adopted at the meeting at which such resolution is introduced. Such a resolution or resolutions shall take effect immediately and need not be laid over or published or posted. [1965 c 7 s 35.83.060. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 7; RRS s 6889-37. Formerly RCW 74.28.060.]

**RCW 35.83.070 Supplemental nature of chapter.** The powers conferred by this chapter shall be in addition and supplemental to the powers conferred by any other law. [1965 c 7 s 35.83.070. Prior: 1939 c 24 s 8; RRS s 6889-39. Formerly RCW 74.28.070.]

**RCW 35.83.080 State public body support.** For the purpose of aiding the board of commissioners of a housing authority in carrying out the board's duties or powers under any applicable law, any state public body may, with or without consideration, provide monetary, in-kind, or other support to the board of commissioners of a housing authority. Such support may not be for the purpose of compensation for

a commissioner for his or her services rendered to the housing authority. [2018 c 42 s 1.]

**Chapter 35.84 RCW**  
**UTILITY AND OTHER SERVICES BEYOND CITY LIMITS**

**Sections**

- 35.84.010 Electric energy—Sale of—Purchase.
- 35.84.020 Electric energy facilities—Right to acquire.
- 35.84.030 Limitation on right of eminent domain.
- 35.84.040 Fire apparatus—Use beyond city limits.
- 35.84.050 Firefighter injured outside corporate limits.
- 35.84.060 Street railway extensions.

**RCW 35.84.010 Electric energy—Sale of—Purchase.** Every city or town owning its own electric power and light plant, shall have the right to sell and dispose of electric energy to any other city or town, public utility district, governmental agency, or municipal corporation, mutual association, or to any person, firm, or corporation, inside or outside its corporate limits, and to purchase electric energy therefrom. [1965 c 7 s 35.84.010. Prior: 1933 c 51 s 1; RRS s 9209-1.]

*Reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens: RCW 74.38.070.*

**RCW 35.84.020 Electric energy facilities—Right to acquire.** Every city or town owning its own electric power and light plant may acquire, construct, purchase, condemn and purchase, own, operate, control, add to and maintain lands, easements, rights-of-way, franchises, distribution systems, substations, inter-tie or transmission lines, to enable it to use, purchase, sell, and dispose of electric energy inside or outside its corporate limits, or to connect its electric plant with any other electric plant or system, or to connect parts of its own electric system. [1965 c 7 s 35.84.020. Prior: 1933 c 51 s 2; RRS s 9209-2.]

**RCW 35.84.030 Limitation on right of eminent domain.** Every city or town owning its own electric power and light plant may exercise the power of eminent domain as provided by law for the condemnation of private property for any of the corporate uses or purposes of the city or town: PROVIDED, That no city or town shall acquire, by purchase or condemnation, any publicly or privately owned electric power and light plant or electric system located in any other city or town except with the approval of a majority of the qualified electors of the city or town in which the property to be acquired is situated; nor shall any city or town acquire by condemnation the electric power and light plant or electric system, or any part thereof, belonging to or owned or operated by any municipal corporation, mutual, nonprofit, or cooperative association or organization, or by a public utility district. [1965 c 7 s 35.84.030. Prior: 1933 c 51 s 3; RRS s 9209-3.]

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*



**RCW 35.84.040 Fire apparatus—Use beyond city limits.** Every municipal corporation which owns, operates, or maintains fire apparatus and equipment may permit, under conditions prescribed by the governing body of such corporation, such equipment and the personnel operating the same to go outside of the corporate limits of such municipality for the purpose of extinguishing or aiding in the extinguishing or control of fires. Any use made of such equipment or personnel under the authority of this section shall be deemed an exercise of a governmental function of such municipal corporation. [1965 c 7 s 35.84.040. Prior: 1941 c 96 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9213-9.]

**RCW 35.84.050 Firefighter injured outside corporate limits.** Whenever a firefighter engages in any duty outside the limits of such municipality, such duty shall be considered as part of his or her duty as firefighter for the municipality, and a firefighter who is injured while engaged in such duties outside the limits of the municipality shall be entitled to the same benefits that he or she or his or her family would be entitled to receive had he or she been injured within the municipality. [2009 c 549 s 2127; 1965 c 7 s 35.84.050. Prior: 1941 c 96 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9563-1.]

**RCW 35.84.060 Street railway extensions.** Every municipal corporation which owns or operates an urban public transportation system as defined in RCW 47.04.082 within its corporate limits may acquire, construct, extend, own, or operate such urban public transportation system to any point or points not to exceed fifteen miles outside of its corporate limits: PROVIDED, That no municipal corporation shall extend its urban public transportation system beyond its corporate limits to operate in any territory already served by a privately operated auto transportation company holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the utilities and transportation commission.

As a condition of receiving state funding, the municipal corporation shall submit a maintenance management plan for certification by the transportation commission or its successor entity. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the municipality, and provide a preservation plan based on lowest life-cycle cost methodologies. [2003 c 363 s 302; 1969 ex.s. c 281 s 26; 1965 c 7 s 35.84.060. Prior: 1919 c 138 s 1; 1917 c 59 s 1; RRS s 9213.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 363:** "The legislature finds that roads, streets, bridges, and highways in the state represent public assets worth over one hundred billion dollars. These investments require regular maintenance and preservation, or rehabilitation, to provide cost-effective transportation services. Many of these facilities are in poor condition. Given the magnitude of public investment and the importance of safe, reliable roadways to the motoring public, the legislature intends to create stronger accountability to ensure that cost-effective maintenance and preservation is provided for these transportation facilities." [2003 c 363 s 301.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 363:** See notes following RCW 47.28.241.

**Chapter 35.85 RCW**  
**VIADUCTS, ELEVATED ROADWAYS, TUNNELS AND SUBWAYS**

**Sections**

- 35.85.010 Authority to construct viaducts, bridges, elevated roadways, etc.
- 35.85.020 Assessment district—Resolution—Hearing—Ordinance ordering improvement.
- 35.85.030 Limit of assessment—Lien—Priority.
- 35.85.040 Operation by city—Leases—Use of income.
- 35.85.050 Authority to construct tunnels and subways.
- 35.85.060 Procedure.
- 35.85.070 Assessments—Bonds.
- 35.85.080 Construction of chapter.

**RCW 35.85.010 Authority to construct viaducts, bridges, elevated roadways, etc.** Any city of the first class shall have power to provide for the construction, maintenance and operation upon public streets and upon the extensions and connections thereof over intervening tidelands to and across any harbor reserves, waterways, canals, rivers, natural watercourses and other channels, any bridges, drawbridges, viaducts, elevated roadways and tunnels or any combination thereof together with all necessary approaches thereto, with or without street railway tracks thereon or therein, and to make any and all necessary cuts, fills, or other construction, upon, in, or along such streets and approaches as a part of any such improvement, and to order any and all work to be done which shall be necessary to complete any such improvement. The word "approaches" as used in this section shall include any arterial highway or highways or streets connecting with any such bridge, drawbridge, viaduct, elevated roadway or tunnel, or combination thereof, which are necessary to give convenient access thereto or therefrom from any portion of the improvement district which may be specially benefited by such improvement and which is liable to assessment for such improvement.

Whenever it is desired to pay the whole or any portion of the cost and expense of any such improvement by special assessments, the council or other legislative body of such city shall in the ordinance ordering such improvement fix and establish the boundaries of the improvement district, the property within which is to bear such assessment, which district shall include as near as may be, all the property specially benefited by such improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.010. Prior: 1911 c 103 s 1; 1909 ex.s. c 14 s 1; RRS s 9001.]

*First-class cities, generally: Chapter 35.22 RCW.*

**RCW 35.85.020 Assessment district—Resolution—Hearing—Ordinance ordering improvement.** Any such improvement may be initiated by the city council, or other legislative body, by a resolution, declaring its intention to order such improvement, which resolution shall set forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, shall specify and describe the boundaries of the proposed improvement district and notify all persons who may desire to object thereto to appear and present such objections at a meeting of the council specified in such resolution and directing the board of public works,

or other proper board, officer, or authority of the city, to submit to such council at or prior to the date fixed for such hearing the estimated cost and expense of the improvement, and a statement of the proportionate amount thereof which should be borne by the property within the proposed improvement district, and a statement of the aggregate assessed valuation of the real property exclusive of improvements, within said district, according to the valuation last placed upon it for purposes of general taxation. Such resolution shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of the official newspaper of the city, the date of the first publication to be at least thirty days prior to the date fixed by the resolution for hearing before the council.

Upon such hearing, or upon any adjournment thereof, the council shall have power to amend, change, extend, or contract the boundaries of the proposed improvement district as specified in the resolution, and to consider and determine all matters in relation to the proposed improvement, and, upon the conclusion of the hearing, or any adjournment thereof, shall have power by ordinance to order the improvement to be made and to adopt, fix and establish the boundaries of the improvement district. The action of such council in ordering such improvement, or in abandoning it, and in fixing and establishing the boundaries of the improvement district shall be final and conclusive. Any such ordinance may be passed upon majority vote of the council or other legislative body of the city.

Such ordinance may provide for the construction of the improvement in sections, the letting of separate contracts for each such section, and, in case the same is made in sections, separate assessment rolls to defray the cost and expense of any such section of such improvement may be prepared, and the amounts thereon appearing as finally determined, may be levied and assessed against real property within the improvement district. The provisions of law, charter and ordinance of any such city, relating to supplemental assessments, reassessments and omitted property shall be applicable to any improvement authorized in this chapter.

The city council, or other legislative body of such city, shall by general ordinance, make provision for hearing any objections in writing, to any assessment roll for such improvement, filed with the city clerk or comptroller at a prior date to the hearing thereon. Any right of appeal to the superior court provided by law to be taken from any local improvement assessment levied and assessed by any such city, may be exercised, within the time and in the manner therein provided, by any person so objecting to any assessment levied and assessed for any improvement authorized in this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.020. Prior: 1911 c 103 s 2; 1909 ex.s. c 14 s 2; RRS s 9002.]

*Appeal from local improvement district assessments: RCW 35.44.200 through 35.44.270.*

**RCW 35.85.030 Limit of assessment—Lien—Priority.** The city council may prescribe by general ordinance, the mode and manner in which the charge upon property in such local improvement district shall be assessed and determined for the purpose of paying the cost and expense of establishing and constructing such improvement: PROVIDED, That no assessment shall be levied on any such district, the aggregate of which is a greater sum than twenty-five percent of the

assessed value of all the real property in such district according to the last equalized assessment thereof for general taxation: PROVIDED FURTHER, That there shall be, in all cases, an opportunity for a hearing upon objections to the assessment roll by the parties affected thereby, before the council as a board of equalization, which hearing shall be after publication of a reasonable notice thereof, such notice to be published in such manner and for such time as may be prescribed by ordinance. At such hearing, or at legal adjournments thereof, such changes may be made in the assessment roll as the city council may find necessary to make the same just and equitable. Railroad rights-of-way shall be assessed for such benefits as shall inure or accrue to the owners, lessees, or operators of the same, resulting or to result from the construction and maintenance of any such improvement, whether such rights-of-way lie within the limits of any street or highway or not; such assessment to lie against the franchise rights when such right-of-way is within such street or highway.

When the assessment roll has been finally confirmed by the city council, the charges therein made shall be and become a lien against the property or franchise therein described, paramount to all other liens (except liens for assessments and taxes) upon the property assessed from the time the assessment roll shall be placed in the hands of the collector. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.030. Prior: 1909 ex.s. c 14 s 3; RRS s 9003.]

**RCW 35.85.040 Operation by city—Leases—Use of income.** As a part of the original construction of any improvement herein authorized, or afterward as an alteration or renewal thereof, any such city, notwithstanding any charter provision to the contrary, may, at its own cost, construct, maintain and operate street railway tracks in the roadway thereof, and may provide electric power for the propulsion of cars, and may lease the use of such tracks and power for the operation of streetcars or interurban railways; or such city may authorize any operator of the street or interurban railways to construct and furnish such street railway tracks and electric power and use the same for street or interurban purposes, under lease or franchise ordinance: PROVIDED, That no such lease or franchise shall be exclusive, but shall at all times reserve the right to the city to permit other lines of street or interurban railway to use such street railway tracks in common with any preceding lessee or grantee, upon equal terms. The rate of lease or use of such street railway tracks for streets or interurban cars shall be as fixed by the legislative authority of the city, but shall not be less than one mill for each passenger carried, or ten cents for each freight car moved over such improvement. The income from such charges, rental and leasing shall be used wholly for the maintenance, repair and betterment of said improvement and the extinguishment of any debt incurred by the city in constructing it. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.040. Prior: 1909 ex.s. c 14 s 4; RRS s 9004.]

**RCW 35.85.050 Authority to construct tunnels and subways.** Any city of the first class shall have power to provide for the construction, maintenance and operation within such city of tunnels, subways, or both, with or without roadways, sidewalks, street railway tracks or any combination thereof therein, together with all necessary

approaches thereto; and to order any and all work to be done which shall be necessary to complete any such improvement. The word "approaches," as used in this section, shall include any arterial highway or highways or streets connecting with any such tunnel or subway which may be necessary to give convenient access thereto or therefrom from any portion of the improvement district which may be specially benefited by such improvement, and which is liable to assessment for such improvement.

Whenever it is desired to pay the whole or any portion of the cost and expense of any such improvement by special assessments, the council or other legislative body of such city shall, in the ordinance ordering such improvement, fix and establish the boundaries of the improvement district, the property in which is to bear such assessment, which district shall include as near as may be all the property specially benefited by such improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.050. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 168 s 1; RRS s 9005-1.]

**RCW 35.85.060 Procedure.** Any such improvement may be initiated and assessments therefor determined and levied as prescribed in RCW 35.85.020 to 35.85.040, inclusive. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.060. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 168 s 2; RRS s 9005-2.]

**RCW 35.85.070 Assessments—Bonds.** Any assessments so levied shall be collected, and bonds may be issued for the payment of the whole or any part of the cost of such improvement, in the manner now or hereafter provided for the collection of assessments and the issuance of bonds for other local improvements. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.070. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 168 s 3; RRS s 9005-3.]

**RCW 35.85.080 Construction of chapter.** The provisions and remedies provided by this chapter are cumulative of existing provisions and remedies, and nothing herein contained shall be held to repeal any provision of the existing law or of any charter of any city upon the subject matter thereof, but such existing law or charter provision shall continue in full force and effect, and it shall be optional with the city authorities to proceed under either such existing law, charter provision or this chapter. [1965 c 7 s 35.85.080. Prior: (i) 1909 ex.s. c 14 s 5; RRS s 9005. (ii) 1925 ex.s. c 168 s 4; RRS s 9005-4.]

**Chapter 35.86 RCW**  
**OFF-STREET PARKING FACILITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.86.010 Space and facilities authorized.
- 35.86.020 Financing.
- 35.86.030 Acquisition and disposition of real property.
- 35.86.040 Operation—Leasing.
- 35.86.045 Operation of parking facilities by cities prohibited, exception—Bid requirements and procedure.
- 35.86.050 Procedure to establish—Plan, surveys, hearings.
- 35.86.060 Maximum parking fee schedule.
- 35.86.080 Leasing for store space in lieu of undesirable off-street parking facility.
- 35.86.910 Chapter prevails over inconsistent laws.

**RCW 35.86.010 Space and facilities authorized.** Cities of the first and second classes are authorized to provide off-street parking space and facilities located on land dedicated for park or civic center purposes, or on other municipally-owned land where the primary purpose of such off-street parking facility is to provide parking for persons who use such park or civic center facilities. In addition a city may own other off-street parking facilities and operate them in accordance with RCW 35.86A.120. [1997 c 361 s 16; 1975 1st ex.s. c 221 s 1; 1967 ex.s. c 144 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.86.010. Prior: 1961 c 186 s 1; 1959 c 302 s 1.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 221:** "If any provision of this 1975 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975 1st ex.s. c 221 s 5.]

**Severability—1967 ex.s. c 144:** See note following RCW 36.900.030.

*Off-street parking space and facilities in towns: RCW 35.27.550 through 35.27.600.*

*Public parks in or beneath off-street parking space or facilities—Revenue bond financing—Special funds—Use of off-street and on-street parking revenues: RCW 35.41.010.*

**RCW 35.86.020 Financing.** In order to provide for off-street parking space and/or facilities, such cities are authorized, in addition to the powers already possessed by them for financing public improvements, to finance their acquisition and construction through the issuance and sale of revenue bonds or general obligation bonds or both. Any bonds issued by such cities pursuant to this section shall be issued in the manner and within the limitations prescribed by the Constitution and the laws of this state.

In addition local improvement districts may be created and their financing procedures used for this purpose in accordance with the provisions of Title 35 RCW as now or hereafter amended.

Such cities may authorize and finance the economic and physical surveys and plans, acquisition and construction, for off-street parking spaces and facilities, and the maintenance and management of such off-street parking spaces and facilities either within their general budget or by issuing revenue bonds or general obligation bonds or both.

General obligation bonds issued hereunder may additionally be made payable from any otherwise unpledged revenue, fees or charges which may be derived from the ownership, operation, lease or license of off-street parking space or facilities or which may be derived from the license of on-street parking space.

Such cities may, in addition to utilizing the pledging revenues from off-street parking spaces and facilities, utilize and pledge revenues from on-street parking meters in exercising any of the powers provided by this chapter, including the financing of economic and physical surveys and plans, acquisition, and construction, for off-street parking facilities, the maintenance and management thereof, and for the payment of debt service of revenue bonds issued therefor.

In the event revenue bonds are issued, such cities are authorized to make such covenants pertaining to the continued maintenance of on-street and/or off-street parking spaces and facilities and the fixing of rates and charges for the use thereof as are deemed necessary to effectuate the sale of such revenue bonds. [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 14; 1967 ex.s. c 144 s 14; 1965 c 7 s 35.86.020. Prior: 1961 c 186 s 2; 1959 c 302 s 2.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 204:** See note following RCW 35.86A.010.

**Severability—1967 ex.s. c 144:** See note following RCW 36.900.030.

*Public parks in or beneath off-street parking space or facilities—  
Revenue bond financing—Special funds—Use of off-street and on-  
street parking revenues: RCW 35.41.010.*

**RCW 35.86.030 Acquisition and disposition of real property.** (1)  
Such cities are authorized to obtain by lease, purchase, donation and/or gift, or by eminent domain in the manner provided by law for the exercise of this power by cities, such real property for off-street parking as the legislative bodies thereof determine to be necessary by ordinance.

(2) Such property or any fraction or fractions thereof may be sold, transferred, exchanged, leased, or otherwise disposed of by the city when one or more of the following conditions have been satisfied:

(a) When its legislative body has determined by ordinance such property or fraction or fractions thereof is no longer necessary for off-street parking purposes;

(b) When all bonds or financing contracts issued for the acquisition or construction have been paid in full. The proceeds from the sale, transfer, exchange, or lease of the property may be applied to the remaining balance of the bonds or financing contract in order



to satisfy the requirement that the property bonds or financing contract be paid in full; or

(c) When the properties within any local improvement district created for the acquisition or construction of the off-street parking facilities are no longer subject to any assessment for such purpose.

(3) If the legislative body determines that all or a portion of the property that is being disposed of in accordance with subsection (2) of this section was acquired through condemnation or eminent domain, the former owner has the right to repurchase as described in this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection, "former owner" means the person or entity from whom the legislative body acquired title. At least ninety days prior to the date on which the property is intended to be sold by the legislative body, the legislative body must mail notice of the planned sale to the former owner of the property at the former owner's last known address or to a forwarding address if that owner has provided the legislative body with a forwarding address. If the former owner of the property's last known address, or forwarding address if the forwarding address has been provided, is no longer the former owner of the property's address, the right of repurchase is extinguished. If the former owner notifies the legislative body within thirty days of the date of the notice that the former owner intends to repurchase the property, the legislative body shall proceed with the sale of the property to the former owner for fair market value and shall not list the property for sale to other owners. If the former owner does not provide timely written notice to the legislative body of the intent to exercise a repurchase right, or if the sale to the former owner is not completed within six months of the date of notice that the former owner intends to repurchase the property, the right of repurchase is extinguished. [2019 c 254 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.86.030. Prior: 1961 c 186 s 3; 1959 c 302 s 3.]

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.86.040 Operation—Leasing.** Such cities are authorized to establish the method of operation of off-street parking space and/or facilities by ordinance, which may include leasing or municipal operation. [1975 1st ex.s. c 221 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 204 s 13; 1965 c 7 s 35.86.040. Prior: 1959 c 302 s 4.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 221:** See note following RCW 35.86.010.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 204:** See note following RCW 35.86A.010.

**RCW 35.86.045 Operation of parking facilities by cities prohibited, exception—Bid requirements and procedure.** See RCW 35.86A.120.

**RCW 35.86.050 Procedure to establish—Plan, surveys, hearings.** In the establishment of off-street parking space and/or facilities, cities shall proceed with the development of the plan therefor by making such economic and physical surveys as are necessary, shall

prepare comprehensive plans therefor, and shall hold a public hearing thereon prior to the adoption of any ordinances relating to the leasing or acquisition of property and providing for the financing thereof for this purpose. [1965 c 7 s 35.86.050. Prior: 1959 c 302 s 5.]

**RCW 35.86.060 Maximum parking fee schedule.** The lease referred to in RCW 35.86.040 shall specify a schedule of maximum parking fees which the operator may charge. This maximum parking fee schedule may be modified from time to time by agreement of the city and the operator. [1965 c 7 s 35.86.060. Prior: 1959 c 302 s 6.]

**RCW 35.86.080 Leasing for store space in lieu of undesirable off-street parking facility.** Cities are expressly authorized to lease space which would otherwise be wasted in an off-street parking facility for store space, both for the enhancement of civic beauty and aesthetic values and for revenue which such leasing can provide. [1965 c 7 s 35.86.080. Prior: 1961 c 186 s 4.]

**RCW 35.86.910 Chapter prevails over inconsistent laws.** Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other law, the provisions of this chapter shall be controlling. [1965 c 7 s 35.86.910. Prior: 1959 c 302 s 9.]

**Chapter 35.86A RCW**  
**OFF-STREET PARKING—PARKING COMMISSIONS**

**Sections**

- 35.86A.010 Declaration.
- 35.86A.020 Authority of cities of first and second class to establish parking facilities through parking commissions.
- 35.86A.030 Definitions.
- 35.86A.040 Ownership, control, and use of parking facilities.
- 35.86A.050 Parking commission—Creation authorized—Purpose—Membership—Terms—Vacancies—Expenses.
- 35.86A.060 Parking commission—Chair—Rules—Resolutions.
- 35.86A.070 Powers and authority of parking commission.
- 35.86A.080 New off-street parking facilities—Powers of parking commission and city council.
- 35.86A.090 Powers of cities.
- 35.86A.100 Disposition of revenues—Expenditure procedure.
- 35.86A.110 Excise tax to reimburse taxing authorities for loss of property tax revenue.
- 35.86A.120 Operation of parking facilities—Bid requirements and procedure.

**RCW 35.86A.010 Declaration.** It is hereby determined and declared:

- (1) The free circulation of traffic of all kinds through our cities is necessary to the health, safety and general welfare of the public, whether residing in, traveling to or through the cities of this state;
- (2) The most efficient use of the street and highway system requires availability of strategically located parking for vehicles in localities where large numbers of persons congregate;
- (3) An expanding suburban population has increased demands for further concentration of uses in central metropolitan areas, necessitating an increasing investment in streets and highways;
- (4) On-street parking is now inadequate, and becomes increasingly an inefficient and uneconomical method for temporary storage of vehicles in commercial, industrial and high-density residential areas, causing such immediate adverse consequences as the following, among others:
  - (a) Serious traffic congestion from on-street parking, which interferes with use of streets for travel, disrupts public surface transportation at peak hours, impedes rapid and effective fighting of fires and disposition of police forces, slows emergency vehicles, and inflicts hardship upon persons with disabilities and others dependent upon private vehicles for transportation;
  - (b) On-street parking absorbs right-of-way useful and usable for travel;
  - (c) On-street parking reduces the space available for truck and passenger loading for the abutting properties, hinders ready access, and impedes cleaning of streets;
  - (d) Inability to temporarily store automobiles has discouraged the public from travel to and within our cities, from congregating at public events, and from using public facilities;

(5) Insufficient off-street parking has had long-range results, as the following, among others:

(a) Metropolitan street and highway systems have lost efficiency and the free circulation of traffic and persons has been impaired;

(b) The growth and development of metropolitan areas has been retarded;

(c) Business, industry, and housing has become unnecessarily and uneconomically dispersed;

(d) Limited and valuable land area is under used.

All of which cause loss of payrolls, business and productivity, and property values, with resulting impairment of the public health, safety and welfare, the utility of our streets and highways, and tax revenues;

(6) Establishment of public off-street parking facilities will promote the public health, safety, convenience, and welfare, by:

(a) Expediting the movement of the public, and of goods in metropolitan areas, alleviating traffic congestion, and preserving the large investment in streets and highways;

(b) Permitting a greater use of public facilities, congregation of the public, and more intensive development of private property within the community;

(7) Establishment of public off-street parking is a necessary ancillary to and extension of an efficient street and highway system in metropolitan areas, as much so as a station or terminal is to a railroad or urban transit line;

(8) Public off-street parking facilities, open to the public and owned by a city or town, are and remain a public use and a public function, irrespective of whether:

(a) Parking fees are charged to users;

(b) The management or operation of one or more parking facilities is conducted by a public agency, or under contract or lease by private enterprise; or

(c) A portion of the facilities is used for commercial, store or automobile accessory purposes;

(9) Public parking facilities under the control of a parking commission are appropriately treated differently from other parking facilities of a city. [2020 c 274 s 13; 1969 ex.s. c 204 s 1.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 204:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 15.]

**RCW 35.86A.020 Authority of cities of first and second class to establish parking facilities through parking commissions.** Cities of the first and second class are authorized and empowered to establish and maintain public off-street parking facilities through a parking commission; the use of property and property rights for such purpose is declared to be a public use; and parking facilities under the control of such parking commission shall be governed by the provisions of this chapter. [1994 c 81 s 64; 1969 ex.s. c 204 s 2.]

**RCW 35.86A.030 Definitions.** (1) "Parking facilities" means lots, garages, parking terminals, buildings and structures and

accommodations for parking of motor vehicles off the street or highway, open to public use, with or without charge.

(2) "Parking commission" shall mean the department or agency created by the legislative authority of the municipality as hereinafter provided.

(3) "City council" shall mean the city council or legislative authority of the municipality.

(4) "Mayor" shall mean the chief executive officer of the municipality. [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 3.]

**RCW 35.86A.040 Ownership, control, and use of parking facilities.** Parking facilities established pursuant to this chapter shall be owned by the city, under the control of the parking commission (unless relinquished), and for the use of the public. The provisions of chapter 35.86 RCW as now or hereafter amended shall not apply to such parking facilities or other facilities under parking commission control. [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 4.]

**RCW 35.86A.050 Parking commission—Creation authorized—Purpose—Membership—Terms—Vacancies—Expenses.** Any city of the first or second class may by ordinance create a parking commission for the purpose of establishing and operating off-street parking facilities.

Such parking commission shall consist of five members appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council, who shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses. One member of the parking commission shall be selected from among persons actively engaged in the private parking industry, if available.

Three of those first appointed shall be designated to serve for one, two, and three years respectively, and two shall be designated to serve four years. The terms for all subsequently appointed members shall be four years. In event of any vacancy, the mayor, subject to confirmation of the city council, shall make appointments to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

A member may be reappointed, and shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed and has qualified. Members may be removed by the mayor upon consent of the city council. [1994 c 81 s 65; 1969 ex.s. c 204 s 5.]

**RCW 35.86A.060 Parking commission—Chair—Rules—Resolutions.** The parking commission shall select from its members a chair, and may establish its own rules, regulations and procedures not inconsistent with this chapter. No resolution shall be adopted by the parking commission except upon the concurrence of at least three members. [2009 c 549 s 2128; 1969 ex.s. c 204 s 6.]

**RCW 35.86A.070 Powers and authority of parking commission.** The parking commission is authorized and empowered, in the name of the municipality by resolution to:

(1) Own and acquire property and property rights by purchase, gift, devise, or lease for the construction, maintenance, or operation of off-street parking facilities, or for effectuating the purpose of

this chapter; and accept grants-in-aid, including compliance with conditions attached thereto;

(2) Construct, maintain, and operate off-street parking facilities located on land dedicated for park or civic center purposes, or on other municipally-owned land where the primary purpose of such off-street parking facility is to provide parking for persons who use such park or civic center facilities, and undertake research, and prepare plans incidental thereto subject to applicable statutes and charter provisions for municipal purchases, expenditures, and improvements; and in addition may own other off-street parking facilities and operate them in accordance with RCW 35.86A.120: PROVIDED, That the provisions of chapter 35.86 RCW as now or hereafter amended shall not apply to such construction, operation or maintenance;

(3) Establish and collect parking fees, require that receipts be provided for parking fees, make exemption for persons with disabilities, lease space for commercial, store, advertising or automobile accessory purposes, and regulate prices and service charges, for use of and within and the aerial space over parking facilities under its control;

(4) Subject to applicable city civil service provisions, provide for the appointment, removal and control of officers and employees, and prescribe their duties and compensation, and to control all equipment and property under the commission's jurisdiction;

(5) Contract with private persons and organizations for the management and/or operation of parking facilities under its control, and services related thereto, including leasing of such facilities or portions thereof;

(6) Cause construction of parking facilities as a condition of an operating agreement or lease, derived through competitive bidding, or in the manner authorized by chapter 35.42 RCW;

(7) Execute and accept instruments, including deeds, necessary or convenient for the carrying on of its business; acquire rights to develop parking facilities over or under city property; and to contract to operate and manage parking facilities under the jurisdiction of other city departments or divisions and of other public bodies;

(8) Determine the need for and recommend to the city council:

(a) The establishment of local improvement districts to pay the cost of parking facilities or any part thereof;

(b) The issuance of bonds or other financing by the city for construction of parking facilities;

(c) The acquisition of property and property rights by condemnation from the public, or in street areas;

(9) Transfer its control of property to the city and liquidate its affairs, so long as such transfer does not contravene any covenant or agreement made with the holders of bonds or other creditors; and

(10) Require payment of the excise tax hereinafter provided.

Parking fees for parking facilities under the control of the parking commission shall be maintained commensurate with and neither higher nor lower than prevailing rates for parking charged by commercial operators in the general area. [2020 c 274 s 14; 1980 c 127 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 221 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 204 s 7.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 221:** See note following RCW 35.86.010.

**RCW 35.86A.080 New off-street parking facilities—Powers of parking commission and city council.** (1) Whenever the parking commission intends to construct new off-street parking facilities it shall:

(a) Prepare plans for such proposed development, which shall meet the approval of the planning commission, other appropriate city planning agency, or city council;

(b) Prepare a report to the city council stating the proposed method of financing and property acquisition;

(c) Specify the property rights, if any, to be secured from the public or of property devoted to public use; the uses of streets necessary therefor, or realignment or vacation of streets and alleys; the relocation of street utilities; and any street area to be occupied or closed during construction.

(2) In the event the proposed parking facility shall require:

(a) Creation of a local improvement district;

(b) Issuance of bonds, allocation or appropriation of municipal revenues from other sources, or guarantees of or use of the credit of the municipality;

(c) Exercise of the power of eminent domain; or

(d) Use of, or vacation, realignment of streets and alleys, or relocation of municipal utilities.

One or more public hearings shall be held thereon before the city council, or an assigned committee thereof, which shall report its recommendations to be approved, revised, or rejected by the city council. Such hearings may be consolidated with any required hearings for street vacations, or creation of a local improvement district. Pursuant to such hearing, the city council may:

(1) Create a local improvement district to finance all or part of the parking facility, in accordance with Title 35 RCW, as now existing or hereinafter amended: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That assessments against property within the district may be measured per lot, per square foot, by property valuation, or any other method as fairly reflects the special benefits derived therefrom, and credit in calculating the assessment may be allowed for property rights or services performed;

(2) Provide for issuance of revenue bonds payable from revenues of the proposed parking facility, from other off-street parking facilities, on-street meter collections, or allocations of other sources of funds; issue general obligation bonds; make reimbursable or nonrefundable appropriations from the general fund, or reserves; and/or guarantee bonds issued or otherwise pledge the city's credit, all in such combination, and under such terms and conditions as the city council shall specify;

(3) Authorize acquisition of the necessary property and property rights by eminent domain proceedings, in the manner authorized by law for cities in Title 8 RCW: PROVIDED, That the city council shall first determine that the proposed parking facility will promote the circulation of traffic or the more convenient or efficient use by the public of streets or public facilities in the immediate area than would exist if the proposed parking facility were not provided, or that the parking facility otherwise enhances the public health, safety and welfare; and

(4) Authorize and execute the necessary transfer or control of property rights; vacate or realign streets and alleys or permit uses within the same; and direct relocation of street utilities.

In event none of the four above powers need be exercised, the city council's approval of construction plans shall be deemed full authority to construct and complete the parking facility. [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 8.]

**RCW 35.86A.090 Powers of cities.** The city may:

(1) Transfer control of off-street parking facilities under other departments to the parking commission under such conditions as deemed appropriate;

(2) Issue revenue bonds pursuant to chapter 35.41 RCW, and RCW \*35.24.305, and 35.81.100 as now or hereafter amended, and such other statutes as may authorize such bonds for parking facilities authorized herein;

(3) Issue general obligation bonds pursuant to chapters 39.44, 39.52 RCW, and RCW 35.81.115 as now or hereafter amended, and such other statutes and applicable provisions of the state Constitution that may authorize such bonds for parking facilities authorized herein;

(4) Appropriate funds for the parking commission; and

(5) Enact such ordinances as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, notwithstanding any charter provisions to the contrary. [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 9.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 35.24.305 was recodified as RCW 35.23.454 pursuant to 1994 c 81 s 90.

**RCW 35.86A.100 Disposition of revenues—Expenditure procedure.**

All revenues received shall be paid to the municipal treasurer for the credit of the general fund, or such other funds as may be provided by ordinance.

Expenditures of the parking commission shall be made in accordance with the budget adopted by the municipality pursuant to chapter 35.32A RCW. [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 10.]

**RCW 35.86A.110 Excise tax to reimburse taxing authorities for loss of property tax revenue.** Such cities shall pay to the county treasurer an annual excise tax equal to the amount which would be paid upon real property devoted to the purpose of off-street parking, were it in private ownership. This section shall apply to parking facilities acquired and/or operated under this chapter. The proceeds of such excise tax shall be allocated by the county treasurer to the various taxing authorities in which such property is situated, in the same manner as though the property were in private ownership. [1969 ex.s. c 204 s 11.]

**RCW 35.86A.120 Operation of parking facilities—Bid requirements and procedure.** Except for off-street parking facilities situated on real property leased or rented to a city and not used for park and civic center parking, cities may operate off-street parking facilities with city forces. Leased or rented off-street parking facilities shall be operated by responsible, experienced private operators of such facilities. The call for bids shall specify the terms and conditions under which the facility will be leased for private operation. The



call for bids shall specify the time and place at which the bids will be received and the time and when the same will be opened, and such call shall be advertised once a week for two successive weeks before the time fixed for the filing of bids in a newspaper of general circulation in the city. If no bid is received for the operation of such an off-street parking facility, or if the bids received are not satisfactory, the legislative body of the city may reject such bids and shall readvertise the facility for lease. In the event that no bids or no satisfactory bids shall have been received following the second advertising, the city may negotiate with a private operator for the operation of the facility without competitive bidding. In the event the city shall be unable to negotiate for satisfactory private operation within a reasonable time, the city may operate the facility for a period not to exceed three years, at which time it shall readvertise as provided above in this section. [1980 c 127 s 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 221 s 4; 1969 ex.s. c 204 s 12.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 221:** See note following RCW 35.86.010.

**Chapter 35.87A RCW**  
**PARKING AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS**

**Sections**

- 35.87A.010 Authorized—Purposes—Special assessments.
- 35.87A.020 Definitions.
- 35.87A.030 Initiation petition or resolution—Contents.
- 35.87A.040 Resolution of intention to establish—Contents—Hearing.
- 35.87A.050 Notice of hearing.
- 35.87A.060 Hearings.
- 35.87A.070 Change of boundaries.
- 35.87A.075 Modification of boundaries.
- 35.87A.080 Special assessments—Legislative authority may make reasonable classifications—Assessments for separate purposes.
- 35.87A.090 Special assessments—Same basis or rate for classes not required—Factors as to parking facilities.
- 35.87A.100 Ordinance to establish—Adoption—Contents.
- 35.87A.110 Use of revenue—Contracts to administer operation of area.
- 35.87A.120 Use of assessment proceeds restricted.
- 35.87A.130 Collection of assessments.
- 35.87A.140 Changes in assessment rates.
- 35.87A.150 Benefit zones—Authorized—Rates.
- 35.87A.160 Benefit zones—Establishment, modification and disestablishment of area provisions and procedure to be followed.
- 35.87A.170 Exemption period for new businesses and projects.
- 35.87A.180 Disestablishment of area—Hearing.
- 35.87A.190 Disestablishment of area—Assets and liabilities.
- 35.87A.200 Bids required—Monetary amount.
- 35.87A.210 Computing cost of improvement for bid requirement.
- 35.87A.220 Existing laws not affected—Chapter supplemental—Purposes may be accomplished in conjunction with other methods.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**RCW 35.87A.010 Authorized—Purposes—Special assessments.** To aid general economic development and neighborhood revitalization, and to facilitate the cooperation of merchants, businesses, and residential property owners which assists trade, economic viability, and liveability, the legislature hereby authorizes all counties and all incorporated cities and towns, including unclassified cities and towns operating under special charters:

(1) To establish, after a petition submitted by the operators responsible for sixty percent of the assessments by businesses and multifamily residential or mixed-use projects within the area, parking and business improvement areas, hereafter referred to as area or areas, for the following purposes:

(a) The acquisition, construction or maintenance of parking facilities for the benefit of the area;

(b) Decoration of any public place in the area;

(c) Sponsorship or promotion of public events which are to take place on or in public places in the area;

(d) Furnishing of music in any public place in the area;

(e) Providing professional management, planning, and promotion for the area, including the management and promotion of retail trade activities in the area;

(f) Providing maintenance and security for common, public areas; or

(g) Providing transportation services for the benefit of the area.

(2) (a) To levy special assessments on all businesses and multifamily residential or mixed-use projects within the area and specially benefited by a parking and business improvement area to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs incurred therein as provided in this chapter.

(b) A lodging business may, but is not required to, collect any special assessment amount from its guests in the form of a separately stated charge per night on the sale of lodging taxable by the state under chapter 82.08 RCW. Such charges must be separately stated from the room rate on the invoice, bill of sale, or similar document provided by the lodging business to the guest. A lodging business that collects a special assessment from its guests as authorized under this subsection (2)(b) is deemed to be collecting the assessment amount from its guests as agent for the jurisdiction levying the special assessment. Such per night charges are not part of the selling price under RCW 82.08.010 for state and local sales tax purposes, nor are they part of the gross proceeds of sales of the lodging business for purposes of state business and occupation taxes imposed under chapter 82.04 RCW. [2021 c 225 s 1; 2005 c 178 s 1; 2000 c 201 s 1; 1993 c 429 s 1; 1985 c 128 s 1; 1981 c 279 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 1.]

**Retroactive application—2021 c 225:** "This act applies prospectively to any special assessment amounts collected by a lodging business as provided in section 1 of this act that are collected on or after May 10, 2021, as well as retroactively for any taxpayer who has been assessed taxes by the department of revenue prior to May 10, 2021, on any special assessment amounts collected by a lodging business as provided in section 1 of this act. Nothing in this act is intended to be construed to require or otherwise authorize a refund of taxes lawfully paid prior to May 10, 2021." [2021 c 225 s 4.]

**Effective date—2021 c 225:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 10, 2021]." [2021 c 225 s 5.]

**RCW 35.87A.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Business" means all types of business, including professions.

(2) "Legislative authority" means the legislative authority of any city or town including unclassified cities or towns operating under special charters or the legislative authority of any county.

(3) "Lodging business" means a person that furnishes lodging taxable by the state under chapter 82.08 RCW.

(4) "Multifamily residential or mixed-use project" means any building or buildings containing four or more residential units or a combination of residential and commercial units, whether title to the entire property is held in single or undivided ownership or title to individual units is held by owners who also, directly or indirectly through an association, own real property in common with the other unit owners.

(5) "Residential operator" means the owner or operator of a multifamily residential or mixed-use project if title is held in single or undivided ownership, or, if title is held in a form of common interest ownership, the association of unit owners, condominium association, homeowners' association, property owners' association, or residential cooperative corporation. [2021 c 225 s 2; 1993 c 429 s 2; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 2.]

**Retroactive application—Effective date—2021 c 225:** See notes following RCW 35.87A.010.

**RCW 35.87A.030 Initiation petition or resolution—Contents.** For the purpose of establishing a parking and business improvement area, an initiation petition may be presented to the legislative authority having jurisdiction of the area in which the proposed parking and business improvement area is to be located or the legislative authority may by resolution initiate a parking and business improvement area. The initiation petition or resolution shall contain the following:

- (1) A description of the boundaries of the proposed area;
- (2) The proposed uses and projects to which the proposed special assessment revenues shall be put and the total estimated cost thereof;
- (3) The estimated rate of levy of special assessment with a proposed breakdown by class of business and multifamily residential or mixed-use project if such classification is to be used.

The initiating petition shall also contain the signatures of the persons who operate businesses and residential operators in the proposed area which would pay fifty percent of the proposed special assessments. [1993 c 429 s 3; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 3.]

**RCW 35.87A.040 Resolution of intention to establish—Contents—Hearing.** The legislative authority, after receiving a valid initiation petition or after passage of an initiation resolution, shall adopt a resolution of intention to establish an area. The resolution shall state the time and place of a hearing to be held by the legislative authority to consider establishment of an area and shall restate all the information contained in the initiation petition or initiation resolution regarding boundaries, projects and uses, and estimated rates of assessment. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 4.]

**RCW 35.87A.050 Notice of hearing.** Notice of a hearing held under the provisions of this chapter shall be given by:

- (1) One publication of the resolution of intention in a newspaper of general circulation in the city; and

(2) Mailing a complete copy of the resolution of intention to each business and multifamily residential or mixed-use project in the proposed, or established, area. Publication and mailing shall be completed at least ten days prior to the time of the hearing. [1993 c 429 s 4; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 5.]

**RCW 35.87A.060 Hearings.** Whenever a hearing is held under this chapter, the legislative authority shall hear all protests and receive evidence for or against the proposed action. The legislative authority may continue the hearing from time to time. Proceedings shall terminate if protest is made by businesses and residential operators in the proposed area which would pay a majority of the proposed special assessments. [1993 c 429 s 5; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 6.]

**RCW 35.87A.070 Change of boundaries.** If the legislative authority decides to change the boundaries of the proposed area, the hearing shall be continued to a time at least fifteen days after such decision and notice shall be given as prescribed in RCW 35.87A.050, showing the boundary amendments, but no resolution of intention is required. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 7.]

**RCW 35.87A.075 Modification of boundaries.** (1) The legislative authority may modify the boundaries of a parking and business improvement area by ordinance, adopted after a hearing before the legislative authority. The legislative authority may modify an area either by expanding or reducing the existing boundaries. If the modification to the boundaries is to expand existing boundaries, the expansion area must be adjacent to an existing boundary. A modification to an existing boundary may occur no more than once per year and may not affect an area with a projected assessment fee greater than ten percent of the current assessment role for the existing area. If the modification of an area results in the boundary being expanded, the assessments for the new area shall be established pursuant to RCW 35.87A.080 and 35.87A.090 and any other applicable provision of this chapter.

(2) The legislative authority shall adopt a resolution of intention to modify the boundaries of an area at least fifteen days prior to the hearing required in subsection (1) of this section. The resolution shall specify the proposed modification and shall give the time and place of the hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be made in accordance with RCW 35.87A.050. [2002 c 69 s 1.]

**RCW 35.87A.080 Special assessments—Legislative authority may make reasonable classifications—Assessments for separate purposes.** For purposes of the special assessments to be imposed pursuant to this chapter, the legislative authority may make a reasonable classification of businesses and multifamily residential or mixed-use projects, giving consideration to various factors such as business and occupation taxes imposed, square footage of the business, number of employees, gross sales, or any other reasonable factor relating to the benefit received, including the degree of benefit received from parking. Whenever it is proposed that a parking and business

improvement area provide more than one of the purposes listed in RCW 35.87A.010, special assessments may be imposed in a manner that measures benefit from each of the separate purposes, or any combination of the separate purposes. Special assessments shall be imposed and collected annually, or on another basis specified in the ordinance establishing the parking and business improvement area. [1993 c 429 s 6; 1985 c 128 s 2; 1981 c 279 s 2; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 8.]

**RCW 35.87A.090 Special assessments—Same basis or rate for classes not required—Factors as to parking facilities.** The special assessments need not be imposed on different classes of business and multifamily residential or mixed-use projects, as determined pursuant to RCW 35.87A.080, on the same basis or the same rate. The special assessments imposed for the purpose of the acquisition, construction or maintenance of parking facilities for the benefit of the area shall be imposed on the basis of benefit determined by the legislative authority after giving consideration to the total cost to be recovered from the businesses and multifamily residential or mixed-use projects upon which the special assessment is to be imposed, the total area within the boundaries of the parking and business improvement area, the assessed value of the land and improvements within the area, the total business volume generated within the area and within each business, and such other factors as the legislative authority may find and determine to be a reasonable measure of such benefit. [1993 c 429 s 7; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 9.]

**RCW 35.87A.100 Ordinance to establish—Adoption—Contents.** If the legislative authority, following the hearing, decides to establish the proposed area, it shall adopt an ordinance to that effect. This ordinance shall contain the following information:

(1) The number, date and title of the resolution of intention pursuant to which it was adopted;

(2) The time and place the hearing was held concerning the formation of such area;

(3) The description of the boundaries of such area;

(4) A statement that the businesses and multifamily residential or mixed-use projects in the area established by the ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of the special assessments authorized by RCW 35.87A.010;

(5) The initial or additional rate or levy of special assessment to be imposed with a breakdown by classification of business and multifamily residential or mixed-use project, if such classification is used; and

(6) A statement that a parking and business improvement area has been established.

(7) The uses to which the special assessment revenue shall be put. Uses shall conform to the uses as declared in the initiation petition presented pursuant to RCW 35.87A.030. [1993 c 429 s 8; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 10.]

**RCW 35.87A.110 Use of revenue—Contracts to administer operation of area.** The legislative authority of each city or town or county shall have sole discretion as to how the revenue derived from the

special assessments is to be used within the scope of the purposes; however, the legislative authority may appoint existing advisory boards or commissions to make recommendations as to its use, or the legislative authority may create a new advisory board or commission for the purpose.

The legislative authority may contract with a chamber of commerce or other similar business association operating primarily within the boundaries of the legislative authority to administer the operation of a parking and business improvement area, including any funds derived pursuant thereto: PROVIDED, That such administration must comply with all applicable provisions of law including this chapter, with all county, city, or town resolutions and ordinances, and with all regulations lawfully imposed by the state auditor or other state agencies. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 11.]

**RCW 35.87A.120 Use of assessment proceeds restricted.** The special assessments levied hereunder must be for the purposes specified in the ordinances and the proceeds shall not be used for any other purpose. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 12.]

**RCW 35.87A.130 Collection of assessments.** Collections of assessments imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be made at the same time and in the same manner as otherwise prescribed by Title 35 RCW or in such other manner as the legislative authority shall determine. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 13.]

**RCW 35.87A.140 Changes in assessment rates.** Changes may be made in the rate or additional rate of special assessment as specified in the ordinance establishing the area, by ordinance adopted after a hearing before the legislative authority.

The legislative authority shall adopt a resolution of intention to change the rate or additional rate of special assessment at least fifteen days prior to the hearing required by this section. This resolution shall specify the proposed change and shall give the time and place of the hearing. Proceedings to change the rate or impose an additional rate of special assessments shall terminate if protest is made by businesses or multifamily residential or mixed-use projects in the proposed area which would pay a majority of the proposed increase or additional special assessments. [1993 c 429 s 9; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 14.]

**RCW 35.87A.150 Benefit zones—Authorized—Rates.** The legislative authority may, for each of the purposes set out in RCW 35.87A.010, establish and modify one or more separate benefit zones based upon the degree of benefit derived from the purpose and may impose a different rate of special assessment within each such benefit zone. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 15.]

**RCW 35.87A.160 Benefit zones—Establishment, modification and disestablishment of area provisions and procedure to be followed.** All provisions of this chapter applicable to establishment or

disestablishment of an area also apply to the establishment, modification, or disestablishment of benefit zones pursuant to \*RCW 35.87A.150. The establishment or the modification of any such zone shall follow the same procedure as provided for the establishment of a parking and business improvement area and the disestablishment shall follow the same procedure as provided for disestablishment of an area. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 16.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "RCW 35.87A.150" has been translated from "section 13 of this act," as the reference to section 13, herein codified as RCW 35.87A.130, was apparently erroneous.

**RCW 35.87A.170 Exemption period for new businesses and projects.** Businesses or multifamily residential or mixed-use projects established after the creation of an area within the area may be exempted from the special assessments imposed pursuant to this chapter for a period not exceeding one year from the date they commenced business in the area. [1993 c 429 s 10; 1971 ex.s. c 45 s 17.]

**RCW 35.87A.180 Disestablishment of area—Hearing.** The legislative authority may disestablish an area by ordinance after a hearing before the legislative authority. The legislative authority shall adopt a resolution of intention to disestablish the area at least fifteen days prior to the hearing required by this section. The resolution shall give the time and place of the hearing. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 18.]

**RCW 35.87A.190 Disestablishment of area—Assets and liabilities.** Upon disestablishment of an area, any proceeds of the special assessments, or assets acquired with such proceeds, or liabilities incurred as a result of the formation of such area, shall be subject to disposition as the legislative authority shall determine: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, Any liabilities, either current or future, incurred as a result of action taken to accomplish the purposes of RCW 35.87A.010 shall not be an obligation of the general fund or any special fund of the city or town, but such liabilities shall be provided for entirely from available revenue generated from the projects or facilities authorized by RCW 35.87A.010 or from special assessments on the property specially benefited within the area. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 19.]

**RCW 35.87A.200 Bids required—Monetary amount.** Any city or town or county authorized by this chapter to establish a parking improvement area shall call for competitive bids by appropriate public notice and award contracts, whenever the estimated cost of such work or improvement, including cost of materials, supplies and equipment, exceeds the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 20.]

**RCW 35.87A.210 Computing cost of improvement for bid requirement.** The cost of the improvement for the purposes of this chapter shall be aggregate of all amounts to be paid for the labor, materials and equipment on one continuous or inter-related project



where work is to be performed simultaneously or in near sequence. Breaking an improvement into small units for the purposes of avoiding the minimum dollar amount prescribed in RCW 35.87A.200 is contrary to public policy and is prohibited. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 21.]

**RCW 35.87A.220 Existing laws not affected—Chapter supplemental—Purposes may be accomplished in conjunction with other methods.** This chapter providing for parking and business improvement areas shall not be deemed or construed to affect any existing act, or any part thereof, relating to special assessments or other powers of counties, cities and towns, but shall be supplemental thereto and concurrent therewith.

The purposes and functions of parking and business improvement areas as set forth by the provisions of this chapter may be accomplished in part by the establishment of an area pursuant to this chapter and in part by any other method otherwise provided by law, including provisions for local improvements. [1971 ex.s. c 45 s 22.]

**Chapter 35.88 RCW**  
**WATER POLLUTION—PROTECTION FROM**

**Sections**

- 35.88.010 Authority over sources of supply.
- 35.88.020 Enforcement of ordinance—Special police.
- 35.88.030 Pollution declared to be a nuisance—Abatement.
- 35.88.040 Pollution as criminal nuisance—Punishment.
- 35.88.050 Prosecution—Trial—Abatement of nuisance.
- 35.88.060 Health officers and mayor must enforce.
- 35.88.070 Injunction proceeding.
- 35.88.080 Inland cities over one hundred thousand—Discharge of sewage and other discharges prohibited—Nuisance.
- 35.88.090 Inland cities over one hundred thousand—Investigation of disposal systems by secretary of social and health services.

*Furnishing impure water: RCW 70.54.020.*

*Pollution of watershed or source of drinking water: RCW 70.54.010, 70.54.030.*

*Sewerage improvement districts: Chapter 85.08 RCW.*

*Water-sewer districts: Title 57 RCW.*

**RCW 35.88.010 Authority over sources of supply.** For the purpose of protecting the water furnished to the inhabitants of cities and towns from pollution, cities and towns are given jurisdiction over all property occupied by the works, reservoirs, systems, springs, branches and pipes, by means of which, and of all the lakes, rivers, springs, streams, creeks, or tributaries constituting the sources of supply from which the cities and towns or the companies or individuals furnishing water to the inhabitants thereof obtain their supply of water, or store or conduct it, and over all property acquired for any of the foregoing works or purposes or for the preservation and protection of the purity of the water supply, and over all property within the areas draining into the lakes, rivers, springs, streams, creeks, or tributaries constituting the sources of supply whether they or any of them are within the city or town limits or outside. [1965 c 7 s 35.88.010. Prior: 1907 c 227 s 1, part; 1899 c 70 s 1, part; RRS s 9473, part.]

**RCW 35.88.020 Enforcement of ordinance—Special police.** Every city and town may by ordinance prescribe what acts shall constitute offenses against the purity of its water supply and the punishment or penalties therefor and enforce them. The mayor of each city and town may appoint special police officers, with such compensation as the city or town may fix, who shall, after taking oath, have the powers of constables, and who may arrest with or without warrant any person committing, within the territory over which any city or town is given jurisdiction by this chapter, any offense declared by law or by ordinance, against the purity of the water supply, or which violate

any rule or regulation lawfully promulgated by the state board of health for the protection of the purity of such water supply. Every special police officer whose appointment is authorized herein may take any person arrested for any such offense or violation before any court having jurisdiction thereof to be proceeded with according to law. Every such special police officer shall, when on duty wear in plain view a badge or shield bearing the words "special police" and the name of the city or town by which he or she has been appointed. [2007 c 218 s 70; 1965 c 7 s 35.88.020. Prior: 1907 c 227 s 1, part; 1899 c 70 s 1, part; RRS s 9473, part.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**RCW 35.88.030 Pollution declared to be a nuisance—Abatement.**

The establishment or maintenance of any slaughter pens, stock feeding yards, hogpens, or the deposit or maintenance of any uncleanly or unwholesome substance, or the conduct of any business or occupation, or the allowing of any condition upon or sufficiently near the (1) sources from which the supply of water for the inhabitants of any city or town is obtained, or (2) where its water is stored, or (3) the property or means through which the same may be conveyed or conducted so that such water would be polluted or the purity of such water or any part thereof destroyed or endangered, is prohibited and declared to be unlawful, and is declared to constitute a nuisance, and may be abated as other nuisances are abated. [1965 c 7 s 35.88.030. Prior: 1899 c 70 s 2, part; RRS s 9474, part.]

**RCW 35.88.040 Pollution as criminal nuisance—Punishment.**

Any person who does, establishes, maintains, or creates any of the things which have the effect of polluting any such sources of water supply, or water, and any person who does any of the things in RCW 35.88.030 declared to be unlawful, shall be deemed guilty of creating and maintaining a nuisance, and may be prosecuted therefor, and upon conviction thereof may be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars. [1965 c 7 s 35.88.040. Prior: 1899 c 70 s 2, part; RRS s 9474, part.]

*Nuisance: Chapter 9.66 RCW.*

**RCW 35.88.050 Prosecution—Trial—Abatement of nuisance.**

If upon the trial of any person for the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter he or she is found guilty of creating or maintaining a nuisance or of violating any of the provisions of this chapter, he or she shall forthwith abate the nuisance, and if he or she fails so to do within one day after such conviction, unless further time is granted by the court, a warrant shall be issued by the court wherein the conviction was obtained, directed to the sheriff of the county in which such nuisance exists and the sheriff shall forthwith proceed to abate the said nuisance and the cost thereof shall be taxed against the person so convicted as a part of the costs of such case. [2009 c 549 s 2129; 1965 c 7 s 35.88.050. Prior: 1899 c 70 s 3; RRS s 9475.]

**RCW 35.88.060 Health officers and mayor must enforce.** The city health officer, city physician, board of public health, mayor, or any other officer, who has the sanitary condition of the city or town in charge, shall see that the provisions of this chapter are enforced and upon complaint being made to any such officer of an alleged violation, he or she shall immediately investigate the said complaint and if the same appears to be well-founded he or she shall file a complaint against the person or persons violating any of the provisions of this chapter and cause their arrest and prosecution. [2009 c 549 s 2130; 1965 c 7 s 35.88.060. Prior: 1899 c 70 s 4; RRS s 9476.]

**RCW 35.88.070 Injunction proceeding.** If any provision of this chapter is being violated, the city or town supplied with the water or a corporation owning waterworks for the purpose of supplying the city or town or the inhabitants thereof with water may, by civil action in the superior court of the proper county, have the maintenance of the nuisance which pollutes or tends to pollute the said water, enjoined and such injunction may be perpetual. [1965 c 7 s 35.88.070. Prior: 1899 c 70 s 5; RRS s 9477.]

**RCW 35.88.080 Inland cities over one hundred thousand—Discharge of sewage and other discharges prohibited—Nuisance.** Any city not located on tidewater, having a population of one hundred thousand or more, is hereby prohibited from discharging, draining or depositing, or causing to be discharged, drained or deposited, any sewage, garbage, feculent matter, offal, refuse, filth, or any animal, mineral, or vegetable matter or substance, offensive, injurious or dangerous to health, into any springs, streams, rivers, lakes, tributaries thereof, wells, or into any subterranean or other waters used or intended to be used for human or animal consumption or for domestic purposes.

Anything done, maintained, or suffered, in violation of any of the provisions of this section, shall be deemed to be a public nuisance, and may be summarily abated as such by any court of competent jurisdiction at the suit of the secretary of social and health services or any person whose supply of water for human or animal consumption or for domestic purposes is or may be affected. [1979 c 141 s 40; 1965 c 7 s 35.88.080. Prior: (i) 1941 c 186 s 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-1. (ii) 1941 c 186 s 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-3.]

*Nuisance: Chapter 9.66 RCW.*

**RCW 35.88.090 Inland cities over one hundred thousand—Investigation of disposal systems by secretary of social and health services.** The secretary of social and health services shall have the power, and it shall be his or her duty, to investigate the system of disposal of sewage, garbage, feculent matter, offal, refuse, filth, or any animal, mineral, or vegetable matter or substance, by cities not located on tidewater, having a population of one hundred thousand or more, and if he or she shall determine upon investigation that any such system or systems of disposal is or may be injurious or dangerous to health, he or she shall have the power, and it shall be his or she

duty, to order such city or cities to provide for, construct, and maintain a system or systems of disposal which will not be injurious or dangerous to health. [2009 c 549 s 2131; 1979 c 141 s 41; 1965 c 7 s 35.88.090. Prior: 1941 c 186 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9354-2.]

**Chapter 35.89 RCW**  
**WATER REDEMPTION BONDS**

**Sections**

- 35.89.010 Authority to issue water redemption bonds.
- 35.89.020 Bonds—Terms—Execution—Rights of owner.
- 35.89.030 Bonds exchange—Subrogation.
- 35.89.040 Water redemption fund—Creation.
- 35.89.050 Water redemption fund—Sources.
- 35.89.060 Water redemption fund—Trust fund.
- 35.89.070 Payment of interest on bonds.
- 35.89.080 Payment of principal of bonds.
- 35.89.090 Violations—Penalties—Personal liability.
- 35.89.100 Water systems—What included.

*Water-sewer districts: Title 57 RCW.*

**RCW 35.89.010 Authority to issue water redemption bonds.** If a public water system has been constructed within any local improvement district of any city or town for the construction of which bonds of the local improvement district were issued and are outstanding and unpaid, and if the city or town has taken over the system or is operating it as a public utility or has incorporated it into or connected it with any system operated by city or town as a public utility, from the operation of which such city or town derives a revenue, the city or town may by resolution of its council authorize the issue of bonds to an amount not exceeding the amount of the local improvement bonds issued for the construction of the water system then outstanding and unpaid with interest due and unpaid, and may redeem the outstanding local improvement bonds by exchanging therefor an equal amount at par of the bonds authorized by this chapter. The new bonds shall be called water redemption bonds. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.010. Prior: (i) 1929 c 85 s 1; 1923 c 52 s 1; RRS s 9154-1. (ii) 1923 c 52 s 2, part; RRS s 9154-2, part.]

**RCW 35.89.020 Bonds—Terms—Execution—Rights of owner.** (1) Water redemption bonds shall be in denominations of not more than one thousand nor less than one hundred dollars each, and shall bear interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the city or town council, payable semiannually, and shall bear a serial number and shall be signed by the mayor of the city or town and shall be otherwise executed in such manner and payable at such time and place not exceeding twenty years after the date of issue as the city or town council shall determine and such bonds shall be payable only out of the special fund created by authority of this chapter and shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only against that fund and the fixed portion or amount of the revenues of the water system pledged to the fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the city or town. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c

167 s 66; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 46; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 23; 1965 c 7 s 35.89.020. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 2, part; RRS s 9154-2, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 35.89.030 Bonds exchange—Subrogation.** Water redemption bonds issued under the authority of this chapter shall only be sold or disposed of in exchange for an equal amount in par value of principal and interest of the local improvement district bonds issued for the construction of water systems taken over and operated by the city or town, or incorporated into or connected with a water system operated by it.

Upon the exchange of the water redemption bonds authorized by this chapter for local improvement district bonds the city or town shall be subrogated to all the rights of the owners and holders of such local improvement district bonds against the property of the local improvement district and against any person or corporation liable thereon.

Any money derived by the city or town from the sale or enforcement of such local improvement district bonds shall be paid into the city's water redemption fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.030. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 3; RRS s 9154-3.]

**RCW 35.89.040 Water redemption fund—Creation.** The city or town council before issuing water redemption bonds shall by ordinance establish a fund for the payment of the bonds at maturity and of interest thereon as it matures to be designated the water redemption fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.040. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 4; RRS s 9154-4.]

**RCW 35.89.050 Water redemption fund—Sources.** Every city and town shall have power to regulate and control the use and price of water supplied through a water system taken over from a local improvement district.

It shall establish such rates and charges for the water as shall be sufficient after providing for the operation and maintenance of the system to provide for the payment of the water redemption bonds at maturity and of interest thereon as it matures, and such portion shall be included in and collected as a part of the charges made by such city or town for water supplied through such water system and such portion shall be paid into the water redemption fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.050. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 5; RRS s 9154-5.]

**RCW 35.89.060 Water redemption fund—Trust fund.** All moneys paid into or collected for the water redemption fund shall be used for the payment of principal and interest of the water redemption bonds issued under the authority of this chapter and no part thereof while

any of said bonds are outstanding and unpaid, shall be diverted to any other fund or use: PROVIDED, That when both principal and interest on all water redemption bonds issued and outstanding have been paid, any unexpended balance remaining in the fund may be transferred to the general fund or such other fund as the city or town council may direct. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.060. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 8; RRS s 9154-8.]

**RCW 35.89.070 Payment of interest on bonds.** The treasurer of such city or town shall pay the interest on the water redemption bonds authorized by this chapter out of the money in the water redemption fund. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.070. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 6; RRS s 9154-6.]

**RCW 35.89.080 Payment of principal of bonds.** Whenever there is sufficient money in the water redemption fund, over and above the amount that will be required to pay the interest on the bonds up to the time of maturity of the next interest payment, to pay the principal of one or more bonds, the city or town treasurer shall call in and pay such bonds. The bonds shall be called and paid in their numerical order, and the call shall be made by publication in the official newspaper of the city or town. The call shall state the total amount and the serial number or numbers of the bonds called and that they will be paid on the date when the next semiannual payment of interest will be due, and that interest on the bonds called will cease from such date. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.080. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 7; RRS s 9154-7.]

**RCW 35.89.090 Violations—Penalties—Personal liability.** Every ordinance, resolution, order, or action of the council, board, or officer of any city or town, and every warrant or other instrument made, issued, passed or done in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be void.

Every officer, agent, employee, or member of the council of the city or town, and every person or corporation who shall knowingly commit any violation of the provisions of this chapter or knowingly aid in such violation, shall be liable to the city or town for all money transferred, diverted or paid out in violation thereof and such liability shall attach to and be enforceable against the official bond, if any, of such official agent, employee, or member of the council. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.090. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 9; RRS s 9154-9.]

**RCW 35.89.100 Water systems—What included.** The term "water system" as used in this chapter shall include and be applicable to all reservoirs, storage and clarifying tanks, conduits, mains, laterals, pipes, hydrants and other equipment used or constructed for the purpose of supplying water for public or domestic use, and shall include not only water systems constructed by local improvement districts, but also any system with which the same may be incorporated or connected. [1965 c 7 s 35.89.100. Prior: 1923 c 52 s 10; RRS s 9154-10.]



**Chapter 35.90 RCW**  
**MUNICIPAL BUSINESS LICENSING**

**Sections**

35.90.010	Definitions.
35.90.020	Licensing as partnership with department—Partnership priority—Biennial plan—Exception.
35.90.030	Licenses issued under business license act—Fee structures—License renewal—Penalty accommodation—Inconsistent ordinances.
35.90.040	Department enforcement of licensing laws.
35.90.050	Authority retained by cities.
35.90.060	Geographic restrictions on license requirement.
35.90.070	License change—When effective.
35.90.080	Adoption of model ordinance—Development committee—Mandatory provisions—City registration.
35.90.090	Adoption of mandatory provisions of model ordinance.
35.90.100	Report.

**RCW 35.90.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Business licensing service," "business licensing system," and "business license" have the same meaning as in RCW 19.02.020.
- (2) "City" means a city, town, or code city.
- (3) "Department" means the department of revenue.
- (4) "General business license" means a license, not including a regulatory license or a temporary license, that a city requires all or most businesses to obtain to conduct business within that city.
- (5) "Partner" means the relationship between a city and the department under which general business licenses are issued and renewed through the business licensing service in accordance with chapter 19.02 RCW.
- (6) "Regulatory business license" means a license, other than a general business license, required for certain types of businesses that a city has determined warrants additional regulation, such as taxicab or other for hire vehicle operators, adult entertainment businesses, amusement device operators, massage parlors, debt collectors, door-to-door sales persons, trade-show operators, and home-based businesses. [2017 c 209 s 1.]

**RCW 35.90.020 Licensing as partnership with department—Partnership priority—Biennial plan—Exception.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7) of this section, a city that requires a general business license of any person that engages in business activities within that city must partner with the department to have such license issued, and renewed if the city requires renewal, through the business licensing service in accordance with chapter 19.02 RCW.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, the department must phase in the issuance and renewal of general business licenses of cities that required a general business

license as of July 1, 2017, and are not already partnering with the department, as follows:

(i) Between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2021, the department must partner with at least six cities per year;

(ii) Between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2027, the department must partner with the remaining cities; or

(iii) Between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2022, the department must partner with all cities requiring a general business license if specific funding for the purposes of this subsection (1)(a)(iii) is appropriated in the omnibus appropriations act.

(b) A city that imposes a general business license requirement and does not partner with the department as of January 1, 2018, may continue to issue and renew its general business licenses until the city partners with the department as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(2)(a) A city that did not require a general business license as of July 1, 2017, but imposes a new general business license requirement after that date must advise the department in writing of its intent to do so at least 90 days before the requirement takes effect.

(b) If a city subject to (a) of this subsection (2) imposes a new general business license requirement after July 1, 2017, the department, in its sole discretion, may adjust resources to partner with the imposing city as of the date that the new general business licensing requirement takes effect. If the department cannot reallocate resources, the city may issue and renew its general business license until the department is able to partner with the city.

(3) The department may delay assuming the duties of issuing and renewing general business licenses beyond the dates provided in subsection (1)(a) of this section if:

(a) Insufficient funds are appropriated for this specific purpose;

(b) The department cannot ensure the business licensing system is adequately prepared to handle all general business licenses due to unforeseen circumstances;

(c) The department determines that a delay is necessary to ensure that the transition to mandatory department issuance and renewal of general business licenses is as seamless as possible; or

(d) The department receives a written notice from a city within 60 days of the date that the city appears on the department's biennial partnership plan, which includes an explanation of the fiscal or technical challenges causing the city to delay joining the system. A delay under this subsection (3)(d) may be for no more than three years.

(4)(a) In consultation with affected cities and in accordance with the priorities established in subsection (5) of this section, the department must establish a biennial plan for partnering with cities to assume the issuance and renewal of general business licenses as required by this section. The plan must identify the cities that the department will partner with and the dates targeted for the department to assume the duties of issuing and renewing general business licenses.

(b) By January 1, 2018, and January 1st of each even-numbered year thereafter until the department has partnered with all cities that currently impose a general business license requirement and that have not declined to partner with the department under subsection (7)

of this section, the department must submit the partnering plan required in (a) of this subsection (4) to the governor; legislative fiscal committees; house local government committee; senate financial institutions, economic development and trade committee; senate local government committee; affected cities; association of Washington cities; association of Washington business; national federation of independent business; and Washington retail association.

(c) The department may, in its sole discretion, alter the plan required in (a) of this subsection (4) with a minimum notice of 30 days to affected cities.

(5) When determining the plan to partner with cities for the issuance and renewal of general business licenses as required in subsection (4) of this section, cities that notified the department of their wish to partner with the department before January 1, 2017, must be allowed to partner before other cities.

(6) A city that partners with the department for the issuance and renewal of general business licenses through the business licensing service in accordance with chapter 19.02 RCW may not issue and renew those licenses.

(7)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a city may decline to partner with the department for the issuance and renewal of a general business license as provided in subsection (1) of this section if the city participates in the online local business license and tax filing portal known as "FileLocal" as of July 1, 2020.

(b) A city that receives at least \$1,950,000 in fiscal year 2020 for temporary streamlined sales tax mitigation under the 2019 omnibus appropriations act, section 722, chapter 415, Laws of 2019, may decline to partner with the department for the issuance and renewal of a general business license as provided in subsection (1) of this section if the city participates in FileLocal as of July 1, 2021.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (7), a city is considered to be a FileLocal participant as of the date that a business may access FileLocal for purposes of applying for or renewing that city's general business license and reporting and paying that city's local business and occupation taxes. A city that ceases participation in FileLocal after July 1, 2020, or July 1, 2021, in the case of a city eligible for the extension under (b) of this subsection, must partner with the department for the issuance and renewal of its general business license as provided in subsection (1) of this section. [2023 c 374 s 5; 2020 c 139 s 59; 2017 c 209 s 2.]

**RCW 35.90.030 Licenses issued under business license act—Fee structures—License renewal—Penalty accommodation—Inconsistent ordinances.**

(1) A general business license that must be issued and renewed through the business licensing service in accordance with chapter 19.02 RCW is subject to the provisions of this section.

(2)(a) A city has broad authority to impose a fee structure as provided by RCW 35.22.280, 35.23.440, and 35A.82.020. However, any fee structure selected by a city must be within the department's technical ability to administer. The department has the sole discretion to determine if it can administer a city's fee structure.

(b) If the department is unable to administer a city's fee structure, the city must work with the department to adopt a fee structure that is administrable by the department. If a city fails to comply with this subsection (2)(b), it may not enforce its general

business licensing requirements on any person until the effective date of a fee structure that is administrable by the department.

(3) A general business license may not be renewed more frequently than once per year except that the department may require a more frequent renewal date as may be necessary to synchronize the renewal date for the general business license with the business's business license expiration date.

(4) The business licensing system need not accommodate any monetary penalty imposed by a city for failing to obtain or renew a general business license. The penalty imposed in RCW 19.02.085 applies to general business licenses that are not renewed by their expiration date.

(5) The department may refuse to administer any provision of a city business license ordinance that is inconsistent with this chapter. [2017 c 209 s 3.]

**RCW 35.90.040 Department enforcement of licensing laws.** The department is not authorized to enforce a city's licensing laws except to the extent of issuing or renewing a license in accordance with this chapter and chapter 19.02 RCW or refusing to issue a license due to an incomplete application, nonpayment of the appropriate fees as indicated by the license application or renewal application, or the nonpayment of any applicable penalty for late renewal. [2017 c 209 s 4.]

**RCW 35.90.050 Authority retained by cities.** Cities whose general business licenses are issued through the business licensing system retain the authority to set license fees, provide exemptions and thresholds for these licenses, approve or deny license applicants, and take appropriate administrative actions against licensees. [2017 c 209 s 5.]

**RCW 35.90.060 Geographic restrictions on license requirement.** Cities may not require a person to obtain or renew a general business license unless the person engages in business within its respective city. For the purposes of this section, a person may not be considered to be engaging in business within a city unless the person is subject to the taxing jurisdiction of a city under the standards established for interstate commerce under the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. [2017 c 209 s 6.]

**RCW 35.90.070 License change—When effective.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a general business license change enacted by a city whose general business license is issued through the business licensing system takes effect no sooner than 75 days after the department receives notice of the change if the change affects in any way who must obtain a license, who is exempt from obtaining a license, or the method of determining any fee for the issuance or renewal of a license.

(2) If a general business license change enacted by a city whose general business license is issued through the business licensing system only affects the amount of the fee for the issuance or renewal

of the license, the change takes effect no sooner than 10 business days after the department receives notice of the change. [2024 c 270 s 2; 2017 c 209 s 7.]

**RCW 35.90.080 Adoption of model ordinance—Development committee—Mandatory provisions—City registration.**

(1)(a) The cities, working through the association of Washington cities, must form a model ordinance development committee made up of a representative sampling of cities that impose a general business license requirement. This committee must work through the association of Washington cities to adopt a model ordinance on general business license requirements by July 1, 2018. The model ordinance and subsequent amendments developed by the committee must be adopted using a process that includes opportunity for substantial input from business stakeholders and other members of the public. Input must be solicited from statewide business associations and from local chambers of commerce and downtown business associations in cities that require a person that conducts business in the city to obtain a general business license.

(b) The department, association of Washington cities, and municipal research and services center must post copies of, or links to, the model ordinance on their internet websites. Additionally, a city that imposes a general business license requirement must make copies of its general business license ordinance or ordinances available for inspection and copying as provided in chapter 42.56 RCW.

(c) The definitions in the model ordinance may not be amended more frequently than once every four years, except that the model ordinance may be amended at any time to comply with changes in state law or court decisions. Any amendment to a mandatory provision of the model ordinance must be adopted with the same effective date by all cities.

(2) A city that imposes a general business license requirement must adopt the mandatory provisions of the model ordinance by January 1, 2019. The following provisions are mandatory:

(a) A definition of "engaging in business within the city" for purposes of delineating the circumstances under which a general business license is required;

(b) A uniform minimum licensing threshold under which a person would be relieved of the requirement to obtain a city's general business license. A city retains the authority to create a higher threshold for the requirement to obtain a general business license but must not deviate lower than the level required by the model ordinance.

(3)(a) A city may require a person that is under the uniform minimum licensing threshold as provided in subsection (2) of this section to obtain a city registration with no fee due to the city.

(b) A city that requires a city registration as provided in (a) of this subsection must partner with the department to have such registration issued through the business licensing service in accordance with chapter 19.02 RCW. This subsection (3)(b) does not apply to a city that is excluded from the requirement to partner with the department for the issuance and renewal of general business licenses as provided in RCW 35.90.020. [2017 c 209 s 8.]

**RCW 35.90.090 Adoption of mandatory provisions of model ordinance.** Cities that impose a general business license must adopt

the mandatory provisions of the model ordinance as provided in RCW 35.90.080 by January 1, 2019. A city that has not complied with the requirements of this section by January 1, 2019, may not enforce its general business licensing requirements on any person until the date that the mandatory provisions of the model ordinance take effect within the city. [2017 c 209 s 9.]

**RCW 35.90.100 Report.** Cities must coordinate with the association of Washington cities to submit a report to the governor; legislative fiscal committees; house local government committee; and the senate agriculture, water, trade and economic development committee by January 1, 2019. The report must:

- (1) Provide information about the model ordinance adopted by the cities as required in RCW 35.90.080;
- (2) Identify cities that have and have not adopted the mandatory provisions of the model ordinance; and
- (3) Incorporate comments from statewide business organizations concerning the process and substance of the model ordinance. Statewide business organizations must be allowed thirty days to submit comments for inclusion in the report. [2017 c 209 s 10.]

**Chapter 35.91 RCW**  
**MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER FACILITIES ACT**

**Sections**

- 35.91.010 Declaration of purpose—Short title.
- 35.91.015 Definitions.
- 35.91.020 Contracts with owners of real estate for water or sewer facilities—Requirements—Financing—Reimbursement of costs.
- 35.91.025 Extension outside city subject to review by boundary review board.
- 35.91.030 Approval and acceptance of facilities by municipality—Rates, costs.
- 35.91.040 Contract payment to be made prior to tap, connection, or use—Removal of tap or connection.
- 35.91.050 Owner's pro rata share of cost to which he or she did not contribute.
- 35.91.060 Assessment reimbursement areas for water or sewer facilities—Requirements—Boundaries—Reimbursement of costs.

*Water-sewer districts: Title 57 RCW.*

**RCW 35.91.010 Declaration of purpose—Short title.** The improvement of public health and the implementation of both urban and rural development being furthered by adequate and comprehensive water facilities and storm and sanitary sewer systems, and there being a need for legislation enabling such aids to the welfare of the state, there is hereby enacted the "municipal water and sewer facilities act." [1965 c 7 s 35.91.010. Prior: 1959 c 261 s 1.]

**RCW 35.91.015 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Latecomer fee" means a charge collected by a municipality, whether separately stated or as part of a connection fee for providing access to a municipal system, against a real property owner who connects to or uses a water or sewer facility subject to a contract created under RCW 35.91.020.

(2) "Municipality" means the governing body of any county, city, town, or drainage district.

(3) "Water or sewer facilities" means storm, sanitary, or combination sewers, pumping stations, and disposal plants, water mains, hydrants, reservoirs, or appurtenances. [2013 c 243 s 2.]

**Effective date—2013 c 243 ss 2 and 3:** "Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect July 1, 2014." [2013 c 243 s 5.]

**RCW 35.91.020 Contracts with owners of real estate for water or sewer facilities—Requirements—Financing—Reimbursement of costs.**

(1)(a) At the owner's request, a municipality must contract with the owner of real estate for the construction or improvement of water or

sewer facilities that the owner elects to install solely at the owner's expense. The owner must submit a request for a contract to the municipality prior to approval of the water or sewer facility by the municipality. The owner's request may only require a contract under this subsection (1)(a) in locations where a municipality's ordinances require the facilities to be improved or constructed as a prerequisite to further property development. Water or sewer facilities improved or constructed in accordance with this subsection (1)(a) must be located within the municipality's corporate limits or, except as provided otherwise by this subsection (1)(a), within ten miles of the municipality's corporate limits. Water or sewer facilities improved or constructed in accordance with this subsection (1)(a) may not be located outside of the county that is party to the contract. The contract must be filed and recorded with the county auditor and must contain conditions required by the municipality in accordance with its adopted policies and standards. Unless the municipality provides written notice to the owner of its intent to request a comprehensive plan approval, the owner must request a comprehensive plan approval for a water or sewer facility, if required, and connection of the water or sewer facility to the municipal system must be conditioned upon:

- (i) Construction of the water or sewer facility according to plans and specifications approved by the municipality;
- (ii) Inspection and approval of the water or sewer facility by the municipality;
- (iii) Transfer to the municipality of the water or sewer facility, without cost to the municipality, upon acceptance by the municipality of the water or sewer facility;
- (iv) Full compliance with the owner's obligations under the contract and with the municipality's rules and regulations;
- (v) Provision of sufficient security to the municipality to ensure completion of the water or sewer facility and other performance under the contract;
- (vi) Payment by the owner to the municipality of all of the municipality's costs associated with the water or sewer facility including, but not limited to, engineering, legal, and administrative costs; and
- (vii) Verification and approval of all contracts and costs related to the water or sewer facility.

(b) If authorized by ordinance or contract, a municipality may participate in financing water or sewer facilities development projects authorized and improved or constructed in accordance with (a) of this subsection. Unless otherwise provided by ordinance or contract, municipalities that participate in the financing of water or sewer facilities improved or constructed in accordance with (a) of this subsection:

- (i) Have the same rights to reimbursement as owners of real estate who make contributions as authorized under this section; and
- (ii) Are entitled to a pro rata share of the reimbursement based on the respective contribution of the owner and the municipality.

(2) A contract entered into under this section must also provide, in accordance with the requirements of this section, for the pro rata reimbursement to the owner or the owner's assigns for twenty years, or for a longer period if extended in accordance with subsection (4) of this section. The reimbursements must be: (a) Within the period of time that the contract is effective; (b) for a portion of the costs of the water or sewer facilities improved or constructed in accordance



with the contract; and (c) from latecomer fees received by the municipality from property owners who subsequently connect to or use the water or sewer facilities, but who did not contribute to the original cost of the facilities.

(3) Except as provided otherwise by this section, a municipality seeking reimbursement from an owner of real estate under this section is limited to the dollar amount authorized in accordance with subsection (7) of this section. This does not prevent the municipality from collecting amounts for services or infrastructure that are additional expenditures not subject to the ordinance, contract, or agreement, nor does it prevent the collection of fees that are reasonable and proportionate to the total expenses incurred by the municipality in complying with this section.

(4) (a) The contract may provide for an extension of the twenty-year reimbursement period for a time not to exceed the duration of any moratorium, phasing ordinance, concurrency designation, or other governmental action that prevents making applications for, or the approval of, any new development within the benefit area for a period of six months or more.

(b) Upon the extension of the reimbursement period pursuant to (a) of this subsection, the contract must specify the duration of the contract extension and must be filed and recorded with the county auditor. Property owners who are subject to the reimbursement obligations under subsection (1) of this section shall be notified by the contracting municipality of the extension filed under this subsection.

(5) The requirement for a municipality to contract with an owner of real estate for the construction or improvement of water or sewer facilities under this section is only applicable if the facilities are consistent with all applicable comprehensive plans and development regulations of the municipalities through which the facilities will be constructed or will serve.

(6) Each contract must include a provision requiring that every two years from the date the contract is executed a property owner entitled to reimbursement under this section provide the municipality with information regarding the current contract name, address, and telephone number of the person, company, or partnership that originally entered into the contract. If the property owner fails to comply with the notification requirements of this subsection within sixty days of the specified time, then the contracting municipality may collect any reimbursement funds owed to the property owner under the contract. The funds collected under this subsection must be deposited in the capital fund of the municipality.

(7) To the extent it may require in the performance of the contract, the municipality may install the water or sewer facilities in and along the county streets in the area to be served as hereinabove provided, subject to reasonable requirements as to the manner of occupancy of the streets as the county may by resolution provide. The provisions of the contract may not be effective as to any owner of real estate not a party thereto unless the contract has been recorded in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the real estate of the owner is located prior to the time the owner taps into or connects to the water or sewer facilities.

(8) Within one hundred twenty days of the completion of a water or sewer facility, the owners of the real estate must submit the total cost of the water or sewer facility to the applicable municipality. This information must be used by the municipality as the basis for

determining reimbursements by future users who benefit from the water or sewer facility, but who did not contribute to the original cost of the water or sewer facility.

(9) Nothing in this section is intended to create a private right of action for damages against a municipality for failing to comply with the requirements of this section. A municipality, its officials, employees, or agents may not be held liable for failure to collect a latecomer fee unless the failure was willful or intentional. Failure of a municipality to comply with the requirements of this section does not relieve a municipality of any future requirement to comply with this section. [2013 c 243 s 3. Prior: 2009 c 344 s 1; 2009 c 230 s 1; 2006 c 88 s 2; 1999 c 153 s 38; 1981 c 313 s 11; 1967 c 113 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.91.020; prior: 1959 c 261 s 2.]

**Effective date—2013 c 243 ss 2 and 3:** See note following RCW 35.91.015.

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**Severability—1981 c 313:** See note following RCW 36.94.020.

**RCW 35.91.025 Extension outside city subject to review by boundary review board.** The extension of water or sewer facilities outside of the boundaries of a city or town may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 33.]

**RCW 35.91.030 Approval and acceptance of facilities by municipality—Rates, costs.** Upon the completion of water or sewer facilities pursuant to contract mentioned in the foregoing section, the governing body of any such municipality shall be authorized to approve their construction and accept the same as facilities of the municipality and to charge for their use such water or sewer rates as such municipality may be authorized by law to establish, and if any such water or sewer facilities are so approved and accepted, all further maintenance and operation costs of said water or sewer lines and facilities shall be borne by such municipality. [1965 c 7 s 35.91.030. Prior: 1959 c 261 s 3.]

**RCW 35.91.040 Contract payment to be made prior to tap, connection, or use—Removal of tap or connection.** (1) A person, firm, or corporation may not be granted a permit or be authorized to tap into, or use any such water or sewer facilities or extensions thereof during the period of time prescribed in such contract without first paying to the municipality, in addition to any and all other costs and charges made or assessed for such tap, or use, or for the water lines or sewers constructed in connection therewith, the amount required by the provisions of the contract under which the water or sewer facilities so tapped into or used were constructed. All amounts so received by the municipality shall be paid out by it under the terms of such contract within sixty days after the receipt thereof. Whenever any tap or connection is made into any such contracted water or sewer

facilities without such payment having first been made, the governing body of the municipality may remove, or cause to be removed, such unauthorized tap or connection and all connecting tile, or pipe located in the facility right-of-way and dispose of unauthorized material so removed without any liability whatsoever.

(2) A tap or connection charge under this section for service to a manufactured housing community, as defined in RCW 59.20.030, applies to an individual lot within that community only if the municipality provides and maintains the tap-in connection. [2005 c 324 s 1; 1965 c 7 s 35.91.040. Prior: 1959 c 261 s 4.]

**RCW 35.91.050 Owner's pro rata share of cost to which he or she did not contribute.** Whenever the cost, or any part thereof, of any water or sewer improvement, whether local or general, is or will be assessed against the owners of real estate and such water or sewer improvement will be connected into or will make use of, contracted water or sewer facilities constructed under the provisions of this chapter and to the cost of which such owners, or any of them, did not contribute, there shall be included in the engineer's estimate before the hearing on any such improvement, separately itemized, and in such assessments, a sum equal to the amount provided in or computed from such contract as the fair pro rata share due from such owners upon and for such contracted water or sewer facilities. [1965 c 7 s 35.91.050. Prior: 1959 c 261 s 5.]

**RCW 35.91.060 Assessment reimbursement areas for water or sewer facilities—Requirements—Boundaries—Reimbursement of costs.** (1) As an alternative to the procedures provided in RCW 35.91.020 for financing the construction or improvement of water or sewer facilities, a municipality may create an assessment reimbursement area on its own initiative, without the participation of a private property owner, finance all of the costs associated with the construction or improvement, and become the sole beneficiary of reimbursements.

(a) A municipality may only establish an assessment reimbursement area in locations where a municipality's ordinances require water or sewer facilities to be improved or constructed as a prerequisite to further property development or redevelopment.

(b) The boundaries of an assessment reimbursement area must be formulated by the municipality based upon a determination of which parcels in the proposed area would require construction or improvement of water or sewer facilities upon development or redevelopment, or would be allowed connection to or usage of constructed or improved water or sewer facilities.

(c) A preliminary determination of the assessment reimbursement area boundaries and assessments, along with a description of property owners' rights and options, must be sent by certified mail to each owner of record of real property within the proposed assessment reimbursement area. Owners of property within the proposed area may request a public hearing by submitting a written request to the municipality within twenty days of the preliminary determination's mailing. If a written request is submitted, the legislative authority of the municipality must hold a public hearing on the assessment reimbursement area. Notice of the hearing must be provided to all affected property owners. Any rulings of the legislative authority of

the municipality are determinative and final, subject to judicial review.

(d) The final determination of the assessment reimbursement area boundaries and assessments must be recorded in the county auditor's office of the county in which the area is situated.

(2) A municipality may be reimbursed in accordance with this section only for the costs associated with construction or improvements that benefit property that will be connected to, and property owners who will use, the water or sewer facilities within the assessment reimbursement area. Reimbursement may only occur when a property is developed or redeveloped in a manner requiring connection to or use of the water or sewer facilities, or when a property is requesting connection to or use of the water or sewer facilities. The reimbursement assessment may be no greater than a property's pro rata share of costs associated with construction of the water or sewer facilities required to meet utility service and fire suppression standards. The municipality must determine the reimbursement share of each property owner by using a method of cost apportionment that is based on the benefit to the property owner from the project and that is consistent with the method used to determine the cost and reimbursement share under RCW 35.91.020(1) (a) and (b). However, the municipality's administrative and legal costs are not subject to reimbursement. A municipality may not receive reimbursement of costs for the portion of construction or improvements that benefit the general public, which means that portion of the water or sewer facilities that only benefit property outside of the assessment reimbursement area.

(3) For the purposes of this section, administrative costs do not include engineering and construction management costs. [2015 c 96 s 1.]

**Chapter 35.92 RCW**  
**MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.92.010 Authority to acquire and operate waterworks—Generation of electricity—Classification of services for rates.
- 35.92.012 May accept and operate water-sewer district's property when boundaries are identical.
- 35.92.014 Acquisition of out-of-state waterworks.
- 35.92.015 Acquisition of out-of-state waterworks—Joint acquisition and operation.
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- 35.92.365 Tariff for irrigation pumping service—Authority to buy back electricity.
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- 35.92.400 Provision of water services and facilities—Contract with Canadian corporation.
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- 35.92.420 Purchase of electric power and energy from joint operating agency.
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- 35.92.440 Production and distribution of biodiesel, ethanol, and ethanol blend fuels—Crop purchase contracts for dedicated energy crops.
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*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Electric franchises and rights-of-way: Chapter 80.32 RCW.*

*Electrical utilities and facilities owned by cities, support for political subdivisions and taxing districts: RCW 35.21.420 through 35.21.440.*

*Hydroelectric resources, creation of separate legal authority by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts: RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.*

*Joint development of nuclear, thermal power facilities: Chapter 54.44 RCW.*

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), chapter 39.36 RCW, RCW 84.52.050.*

*Local improvement districts, creation: Chapter 35.43 RCW.*

*Public utility districts: Title 54 RCW.*

*Sewerage improvement districts: Chapter 85.08 RCW.*

*Special assessments or taxation for local improvements: State Constitution Art. 7 s 9.*

*Street railways: Chapter 81.64 RCW.*

*Water-sewer districts: Title 57 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.010 Authority to acquire and operate waterworks—Generation of electricity—Classification of services for rates.** A city or town may construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain and operate waterworks, including fire hydrants as an integral utility service incorporated within general rates, within or without its limits, for the purpose of furnishing the city and its inhabitants, and any other persons, with an ample supply

of water for all purposes, public and private, including water power and other power derived therefrom, with full power to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price thereof: PROVIDED, That the rates charged must be uniform for the same class of customers or service. Such waterworks may include facilities for the generation of electricity as a by-product and such electricity may be used by the city or town or sold to an entity authorized by law to distribute electricity. Such electricity is a by-product when the electrical generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of water supply.

In classifying customers served or service furnished, the city or town governing body may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors: The difference in cost of service to the various customers; location of the various customers within and without the city or town; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system; the different character of the service furnished various customers; the quantity and quality of the water furnished; the time of its use; the achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use practices; capital contributions made to the system including, but not limited to, assessments; and any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction. No rate shall be charged that is less than the cost of the water and service to the class of customers served.

For such purposes any city or town may take, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, and retain water from any public or navigable lake or watercourse, surface or ground, and, by means of aqueducts or pipe lines, conduct it to the city or town; and it may erect and build dams or other works across or at the outlet of any lake or watercourse in this state for the purpose of storing and retaining water therein up to and above high water mark; and for all the purposes of erecting such aqueducts, pipe lines, dams, or waterworks or other necessary structures in storing and retaining water, or for any of the purposes provided for by this chapter, the city or town may occupy and use the beds and shores up to the high water mark of any such watercourse or lake, and acquire the right by purchase, or by condemnation and purchase, or otherwise, to any water, water rights, easements or privileges named in this chapter, or necessary for any of said purposes, and the city or town may acquire by purchase or condemnation and purchase any properties or privileges necessary to be had to protect its water supply from pollution. Should private property be necessary for any such purposes or for storing water above high water mark, the city or town may condemn and purchase, or purchase and acquire such private property. For the purposes of waterworks which include facilities for the generation of electricity as a by-product, nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a city or town that does not own or operate an electric utility system to condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or to acquire such rights or facilities without the consent of the owner. [2002 c 102 s 2; 1991 c 347 s 18. Prior: 1985 c 445 s 4; 1985 c 444 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.010; prior: 1959 c 90 s 6; 1957 c 209 s 2; prior: 1951 c 252 s 1; 1947 c 214 s 1, part; 1933 c 163 s 1, part; 1931 c 53 s 1, part; 1923 c 173 s 1, part; 1913 c 45 s 1, part; 1909 c 150 s 1, part; 1899 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 112 s 1, part; 1893 c 8 s 1, part; 1890 p 520 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9488, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.010.]



**Purpose—Findings—2002 c 102:** "The purpose of this act is to affirm the authority of cities and towns to operate fire hydrants and streetlights as part of their rate-based water and electric utilities, respectively. The legislature finds that it has been the practice of most, if not all, cities and towns, as well as water and sewer districts, to include the operation of fire hydrants for fire and maintenance purposes and to incorporate the cost of this operation as a normal part of the utility's services and general rate structure. The legislature further finds and declares that it has been the intent of the legislature that cities and towns, just as water and sewer districts, have the right to operate and maintain streetlights in the same manner as fire hydrants, that is, as a normal part of the electric utility and a normal part of that utility's general rate structure. The legislature therefore affirms that authority." [2002 c 102 s 1.]

**Severability—2002 c 102:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2002 c 102 s 4.]

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

**Intent—1985 c 444:** "For the purposes of this act, the legislature finds it is the policy of the state of Washington that:

- (1) The quality of the natural environment shall be protected and, where possible, enhanced as follows: Perennial rivers and streams of the state shall be retained with base flows necessary to provide for preservation of wildlife, fish, scenic, aesthetic and other environmental values, and navigational values. Lakes and ponds shall be retained substantially in their natural condition. Withdrawals of water which would conflict therewith shall be authorized only in those situations where it is clear that overriding considerations of the public interest will be served.
- (2) Development of water supply systems, whether publicly or privately owned, which provide water to the public generally in regional areas within the state shall be encouraged. Development of water supply systems for multiple domestic use which will not serve the public generally shall be discouraged where water supplies are available from water systems serving the public." [1985 c 444 s 1.]

**Construction—Economic feasibility study—1985 c 444:** "(1) Nothing in this act exempts any city or town, water district, or sewer district from compliance with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations including but not limited to: State environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW; national environmental policy act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.; federal power act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 791 et seq.; public utility regulatory policies act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 717f; Pacific northwest electric power planning and conservation act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 839; energy financing voter approval act, chapter 80.52 RCW; water resources act, chapter 90.54 RCW; federal clean water act, 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.; the public water system coordination act, chapter 70.116 RCW; and the state clean water act, chapter 90.48 RCW.

(2) In addition, if the work proposed under this act involves a new water supply project combined with an electric generation facility with an installed capacity in excess of five megawatts which may

produce electricity for sale in excess of present and future needs of the water system, then each of those with a greater than twenty-five percent ownership interest in the project shall jointly prepare an independent economic feasibility study evaluating the cost-effectiveness of the combined facility in the context of forecast regional water needs, alternate sources of water supply, and the potential impact of the combined facility on rates charged for water and electricity.

In addition to the economic feasibility study, the results of the environmental impact statement required by chapter 43.21C RCW and any review by the department of ecology made pursuant to chapter 90.54 RCW shall be made available to the public at least sixty days prior to any public vote on the new combined project.

(3) This act supplements the authority of cities and towns, water districts, and sewer districts and does not restrict or impose limits on any authority such municipal corporations may otherwise have under any laws of this state nor may the authority of such municipal corporations under other laws of this state be construed more narrowly on account of this act." [1985 c 444 s 7.]

**Severability—1985 c 444:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 444 s 8.]

**Validating—1917 c 12:** "Whenever any city or town has heretofore issued or authorized to be issued by such vote of its electors as is required by law at any election duly and legally held to vote on such proposition, such utility bonds for the purpose of purchasing, paying for or acquiring any such utility as is described in this act, in every such case such utility bonds are hereby declared to be legal and valid, and such city or town is hereby authorized and empowered to proceed to issue and negotiate such bonds and to continue and conclude proceedings for the purchase or acquirement of such utility, and is hereby given full power to maintain and operate the same within all and every part of such contiguous territory whether incorporated or unincorporated." [1917 c 12 s 2.]

**Validating—1909 c 150:** "That in all cases where the qualified electors of any city or town have heretofore, at any election, ratified any plan or system of any public utility mentioned in section 1 of this act, and shall have authorized a general indebtedness of such city or town and the issuance of bonds therefor, or the creation of a special fund or funds out of the revenues of the public utility the plan or system of which was so ratified, and the issuance of bonds or warrants payable only out of such fund or funds; and pursuant to such authorization or ratification a general indebtedness shall have been incurred or authorized to be incurred, and bonds or other obligations issued or contracted to be issued or authorized to be issued, or a special fund or funds shall have been created out of the revenue of any such public utility by pledging or setting aside a fixed proportion of such revenues, or a fixed amount out of and not exceeding a fixed proportion or a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, and bonds or warrants payable either upon the call of such city or town or at a fixed date, but only out of such special fund or funds, issued or contracted to be issued or authorized to be

issued, or a contract or contracts for the purchase, construction, acquisition, improvement, betterment, or addition to such public utility entered into; such general indebtedness, bonds or other obligations, contracts, special funds, and bonds or warrants, payable out of such special funds, and all proceedings relating thereto, are hereby ratified, confirmed and validated; and any bonds or other obligations constituting a general indebtedness, or bonds or warrants payable out of such special funds, heretofore so authorized, may be hereafter issued or sold as if all of said proceedings were taken pursuant to and under the authority of this act, and in full compliance therewith." [1909 c 150 s 5.]

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

*Evaluation of application to appropriate water for electric generation facility: RCW 90.54.170.*

**RCW 35.92.012 May accept and operate water-sewer district's property when boundaries are identical.** A city or town, whose boundaries are identical with those of a water-sewer district, or within which a water-sewer district is entirely located, which is free from all debts and liabilities except contractual obligations between the district and the town, may accept the property and assets of the district and operate such property and assets as a municipal waterworks, if the district and the city or town each participate in a summary dissolution proceedings for the district as provided in RCW 57.04.110. [1999 c 153 s 39; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.012. Prior: 1955 c 358 s 2. Formerly RCW 80.40.012.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.92.014 Acquisition of out-of-state waterworks.** Municipalities of this state under ordinance of the governing body are empowered to acquire by purchase or lease, and to maintain and operate, in cooperation with neighboring municipalities of states bordering this state, the out-of-state property, plant and equipment of privately owned utilities supplying water to the purchasing municipalities from an out-of-state source: PROVIDED, The legislature of the state in which such property, plant, equipment and supply are located, by enabling legislation similar to this, authorizes its municipalities to join in such acquisition, maintenance and operation. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.014. Prior: 1951 c 39 s 1. Formerly RCW 80.40.014.]

**RCW 35.92.015 Acquisition of out-of-state waterworks—Joint acquisition and operation.** The governing bodies of the municipalities acting jointly under RCW 35.92.014 and this section shall have authority by mutual agreement to exercise jointly all powers granted to each individual municipality in the acquisition, maintenance and operation of a water supply system. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.015. Prior: 1951 c 39 s 2. Formerly RCW 80.40.015.]

**RCW 35.92.017 Authority to assist customers in the acquisition of water conservation equipment—Limitations.** Any city or town engaged in the sale or distribution of water is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of structures in financing the acquisition and installation of fixtures, systems, and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of water in the structures under a water conservation plan adopted by the city or town if the cost per unit of water saved or conserved by the use of the fixtures, systems, and equipment is less than the cost per unit of water supplied by the next least costly new water source available to the city or town to meet future demand. Except where otherwise authorized, assistance shall be limited to:

(1) Providing an inspection of the structure, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life-cycle savings to the water system and the consumer that are likely to result from the installation of the fixtures, systems, or equipment;

(2) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the fixtures, systems, and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the city or town, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the fixtures, systems, and equipment in accordance with the prevailing national standards;

(3) Arranging to have approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the structure and verifying the installation; and

(4) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment. The fixtures, systems, and equipment shall be purchased or installed by a private business, the owner, or the utility.

Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with [the] use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed two hundred forty months in length. [2010 1st sp.s. c 5 s 1; 1989 c 421 s 3.]

**Intent—Water conservation encouraged—1989 c 421:** "The conservation and efficient use of water is found and declared to be a public purpose of highest priority. The legislature further finds and declares that all municipal corporations, public utility districts, water districts, and other political subdivisions of the state that are engaged in the sale or distribution of water should be granted the authority to develop and carry out programs that will conserve resources, reduce waste, and encourage more efficient use of water by consumers.

In order to establish the most effective statewide program for water conservation, the legislature hereby encourages any company, corporation, or association engaged in selling or furnishing utility services to assist their customers in the acquisition and installation of fixtures, systems, and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of water." [1989 c 421 s 1.]

**Contingent effective date—1989 c 421:** "This act shall take effect on the same date as the proposed amendment to Article VIII of the state Constitution, authorizing the use of public moneys or credit to promote conservation or more efficient use of water, is validly submitted and is approved and ratified by the voters at a general election held in November 1989. If the proposed amendment is not so approved and ratified, this act shall be void in its entirety." [1989 c 421 s 6.] Senate Joint Resolution No. 8210 was approved and ratified by the voters at the November 7, 1989, general election.

**RCW 35.92.020 Authority to acquire and operate sewerage and solid waste handling systems, plants, sites, or facilities—Classification of services and facilities for rates—Assistance for low-income persons.**

(1) A city or town may construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain, and operate systems, plants, sites, or other facilities of sewerage as defined in RCW 35.67.010, or solid waste handling as defined by RCW 70A.205.015. A city or town shall have full authority to manage, regulate, operate, control, and, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, to fix the price of service and facilities of those systems, plants, sites, or other facilities within and without the limits of the city or town.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the rates charged shall be uniform for the same class of customers or service and facilities. In classifying customers served or service and facilities furnished by a system or systems of sewerage, the legislative authority of the city or town may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors:

(a) The difference in cost of service and facilities to customers;

(b) The location of customers within and without the city or town;

(c) The difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair, and replacement of the parts of the system;

(d) The different character of the service and facilities furnished to customers;

(e) The quantity and quality of the sewage delivered and the time of its delivery;

(f) Capital contributions made to the systems, plants, sites, or other facilities, including but not limited to, assessments;

(g) The public benefit nonprofit corporation status, as defined in RCW 24.03A.245, of the land user; and

(h) Any other factors that present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction.

(3) The rate a city or town may charge under this section for storm or surface water sewer systems or the portion of the rate allocable to the storm or surface water sewer system of combined sanitary sewage and storm or surface water sewer systems shall be reduced by a minimum of ten percent for any new or remodeled commercial building that utilizes a permissive rainwater harvesting system. Rainwater harvesting systems shall be properly sized to utilize the available roof surface of the building. The jurisdiction shall consider rate reductions in excess of ten percent dependent upon the amount of rainwater harvested.

(4) Rates or charges for on-site inspection and maintenance services may not be imposed under this chapter on the development, construction, or reconstruction of property.

(5) A city or town may provide assistance to aid low-income persons in connection with services provided under this chapter.

(6) Under this chapter, after July 1, 1998, any requirements for pumping the septic tank of an on-site sewage system should be based, among other things, on actual measurement of accumulation of sludge and scum by a trained inspector, trained owner's agent, or trained owner. Training must occur in a program approved by the state board of health or by a local health officer.

(7) Before adopting on-site inspection and maintenance utility services, or incorporating residences into an on-site inspection and maintenance or sewer utility under this chapter, notification must be provided, prior to the applicable public hearing, to all residences within the proposed service area that have on-site systems permitted by the local health officer. The notice must clearly state that the residence is within the proposed service area and must provide information on estimated rates or charges that may be imposed for the service.

(8) A city or town shall not provide on-site sewage system inspection, pumping services, or other maintenance or repair services under this section using city or town employees unless the on-site system is connected by a publicly owned collection system to the city or town's sewerage system, and the on-site system represents the first step in the sewage disposal process. Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of state or local health officers to carry out their responsibilities under any other applicable law. [2021 c 176 s 5213; 2020 c 20 s 1014; 2003 c 394 s 2; 1997 c 447 s 9; 1995 c 124 s 5; 1989 c 399 s 6; 1985 c 445 s 5; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.020. Prior: 1959 c 90 s 7; 1957 c 288 s 3; 1957 c 209 s 3; prior: 1947 c 214 s 1, part; 1933 c 163 s 1, part; 1931 c 53 s 1, part; 1923 c 173 s 1, part; 1913 c 45 s 1, part; 1909 c 150 s 1, part; 1899 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 112 s 1, part; 1893 c 8 s 1, part; 1890 p 520 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9488, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.020.]

**Effective date—2021 c 176:** See note following RCW 24.03A.005.

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

**RCW 35.92.021 Public property subject to rates and charges for stormwater control facilities.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for stormwater control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by cities and towns pursuant to RCW 35.92.020. In setting these rates and charges, consideration may be made of in-kind services, such as stream improvements or donation of property. [1986 c 278 s 56; 1983 c 315 s 2.]

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Severability—1983 c 315:** See note following RCW 90.03.500.

*Flood control zone districts—Stormwater control improvements: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

*Rates and charges for stormwater control facilities—Limitations—Definitions: RCW 90.03.500 through 90.03.525. See also RCW 35.67.025, 36.89.085, and 36.94.145.*

**RCW 35.92.023 Solid waste—Compliance with chapter 70A.205 RCW required.** See RCW 35.21.154.

**RCW 35.92.025 Authority to make charges for connecting to water or sewerage system—Interest charges.** Cities and towns are authorized to charge property owners seeking to connect to the water or sewerage system of the city or town as a condition to granting the right to so connect, in addition to the cost of such connection, such reasonable connection charge as the legislative body of the city or town shall determine proper in order that such property owners shall bear their equitable share of the cost of such system. The equitable share may include interest charges applied from the date of construction of the water or sewer system until the connection, or for a period not to exceed ten years, at a rate commensurate with the rate of interest applicable to the city or town at the time of construction or major rehabilitation of the water or sewer system, or at the time of installation of the water or sewer lines to which the property owner is seeking to connect but not to exceed ten percent per year: PROVIDED, That the aggregate amount of interest shall not exceed the equitable share of the cost of the system allocated to such property owners. Connection charges collected shall be considered revenue of such system. [1985 c 445 s 6; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.025. Prior: 1959 c 90 s 8. Formerly RCW 80.40.025.]

**RCW 35.92.027 Extension of water and sewer facilities outside city subject to review by boundary review board.** The extension of water or sewer facilities outside of the boundaries of a city or town may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 34.]

**RCW 35.92.030 Authority to acquire and operate stone or asphalt plants.** A city or town may also construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain, and operate works, plants and facilities for the preparation and manufacture of all stone or asphalt products or compositions or other materials which may be used in street construction or maintenance, together with the right to use them, and also fix the price of and sell such products for use in the construction of municipal improvements. [1985 c 445 s 8; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.030. Prior: 1957 c 288 s 4; 1957 c 209 s 4; prior: 1947 c 214 s 1, part; 1933 c 163 s 1, part; 1931 c 53 s 1, part; 1923 c 173 s 1, part; 1913 c 45 s 1, part; 1909 c 150 s 1, part; 1899 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 112 s 1, part; 1893 c 8 s 1, part; 1890 p 520 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9488, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.030.]

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.040 Authority to acquire and operate public markets and cold storage plants—"Public markets" defined.** A city or town may also construct, acquire, and operate public markets and cold storage plants for the sale and preservation of butter, eggs, meats, fish, fruits, vegetables, and other perishable provisions. Whenever the words "public markets" are used in this chapter and the public market is managed in whole or in part by a public corporation created by a city, the words shall be construed to include all real or personal property located in a district or area designated by a city as a public market and traditionally devoted to providing farmers, crafts vendors and other merchants with retail space to market their wares to the public. Property located in such a district or area need not be exclusively or primarily used for such traditional public market retail activities and may include property used for other public purposes including, but not limited to, the provision of human services and low-income or moderate-income housing. [1990 c 189 s 4; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.040. Prior: 1957 c 288 s 5; 1957 c 209 s 5; prior: 1947 c 214 s 1, part; 1933 c 163 s 1, part; 1931 c 53 s 1, part; 1923 c 173 s 1, part; 1913 c 45 s 1, part; 1909 c 150 s 1, part; 1899 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 112 s 1, part; 1893 c 8 s 1, part; 1890 p 520 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9488, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.040.]

**RCW 35.92.050 Authority to acquire and operate utilities.** A city or town may also construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain, and operate works, plants, facilities for the purpose of furnishing the city or town and its inhabitants, and any other persons, with gas, electricity, green electrolytic hydrogen as defined in RCW 54.04.190, renewable hydrogen as defined in RCW 54.04.190, and other means of power and facilities for lighting, including streetlights as an integral utility service incorporated within general rates, heating, fuel, and power purposes, public and private, with full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price thereof, together with the right to handle and sell or lease, any meters, lamps, motors, transformers, and equipment or accessories of any kind, necessary and convenient for the use, distribution, and sale thereof; authorize the construction of such plant or plants by others for the same purpose, and purchase gas, electricity, or power from either within or without the city or town for its own use and for the purpose of selling to its inhabitants and to other persons doing business within the city or town and regulate and control the use and price thereof. [2022 c 292 s 405; 2002 c 102 s 3; 1985 c 445 s 9; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.050. Prior: 1957 c 288 s 6; 1957 c 209 s 6; prior: 1947 c 214 s 1, part; 1933 c 163 s 1, part; 1931 c 53 s 1, part; 1923 c 173 s 1, part; 1913 c 45 s 1, part; 1909 c 150 s 1, part; 1899 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 112 s 1, part; 1893 c 8 s 1, part; 1890 p 520 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9488, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.050.]

**Findings—Intent—2022 c 292:** See note following RCW 43.330.565.

**Purpose—Findings—Severability—2002 c 102:** See notes following RCW 35.92.010.



**RCW 35.92.052 First-class cities operating electrical facilities—Participation in agreements to use or own high voltage transmission facilities and other electrical generating facilities—Terms—**

**Limitations.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, cities of the first class which operate electric generating facilities and distribution systems shall have power and authority to participate and enter into agreements for the use or undivided ownership of high voltage transmission facilities and capacity rights in those facilities and for the undivided ownership of any type of electric generating plants and facilities, including, but not limited to, nuclear and other thermal power generating plants and facilities and transmission facilities including, but not limited to, related transmission facilities, to be called "common facilities"; and for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance with: (a) Each other; (b) electrical companies which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Washington utilities and transportation commission or the regulatory commission of any other state, to be called "regulated utilities"; (c) rural electric cooperatives, including generation and transmission cooperatives in any state; (d) municipal corporations, utility districts, or other political subdivisions in any state; and (e) any agency of the United States authorized to generate or transmit electrical energy. It shall be provided in such agreements that each city shall use or own a percentage of any common facility equal to the percentage of the money furnished or the value of property supplied by it for the acquisition and construction of or additions or improvements to the facility and shall own and control or provide for the use of a like percentage of the electrical transmission or output.

(2) A city using or owning common facilities under this section may issue revenue bonds or other obligations to finance the city's share of the use or ownership of the common facilities.

(3) Cities of the first class shall have the power and authority to participate and enter into agreements for the use or undivided ownership of a coal-fired thermal electric generating plant and facility placed in operation before July 1, 1975, including related common facilities, and for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of the plant and facility. It shall be provided in such agreements that each city shall use or own a percentage of any common facility equal to the percentage of the money furnished or the value of property supplied by the city for the acquisition and construction of or additions or improvements to the facility and shall own and control or provide for the use of a like percentage of the electrical transmission or output of the facility. Cities may enter into agreements under this subsection with each other, with regulated utilities, with rural electric cooperatives, with utility districts, with electric companies subject to the jurisdiction of the regulatory commission of any other state, and with any power marketer subject to the jurisdiction of the federal energy regulatory commission.

(4) The agreement must provide that each participant shall defray its own interest and other payments required to be made or deposited in connection with any financing undertaken by it to pay its percentage of the money furnished or value of property supplied by it for the planning, acquisition, and construction of any common facility, or any additions or betterments. The agreement shall provide

a uniform method of determining and allocating operation and maintenance expenses of a common facility.

(5) Each city participating in the ownership, use, or operation of a common facility shall pay all taxes chargeable to its share of the common facility and the electric energy generated under any applicable statutes and may make payments during preliminary work and construction for any increased financial burden suffered by any county or other existing taxing district in the county in which the common facility is located, under agreement with such county or taxing district.

(6) In carrying out the powers granted in this section, each such city shall be severally liable only for its own acts and not jointly or severally liable for the acts, omissions, or obligations of others. No money or property supplied by any such city for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, or maintenance of, or addition or improvement to any common facility shall be credited or otherwise applied to the account of any other participant therein, nor shall the undivided share of any city in any common facility be charged, directly or indirectly, with any debt or obligation of any other participant or be subject to any lien as a result thereof. No action in connection with a common facility shall be binding upon any city unless authorized or approved by resolution or ordinance of its governing body.

(7) Any city acting jointly outside the state of Washington, by mutual agreement with any participant under authority of this section, shall not acquire properties owned or operated by any public utility district, by any regulated utility, or by any public utility owned by a municipality without the consent of the utility owning or operating the property, and shall not participate in any condemnation proceeding to acquire such properties. [1997 c 230 s 1; 1992 c 11 s 1; 1989 c 249 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.054 May acquire electrical distribution property from public utility district.** Any city or town may acquire by purchase or condemnation from any public utility district or combination of public utility districts any electrical distribution property within the boundaries of such city or town: PROVIDED, That such right of condemnation shall not apply to a city or town located within a public utility district that owns the electric distribution properties sought to be condemned. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.054. Prior: 1953 c 97 s 1; 1951 c 272 s 1. Formerly RCW 80.40.054.]

*Right of countywide utility district to acquire distribution properties: RCW 54.32.040.*

**RCW 35.92.060 Authority to acquire and operate transportation facilities.** A city or town may also construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain, operate, or lease cable, electric, and other railways, automobiles, motor cars, motor buses, auto trucks, and any and all other forms or methods of transportation of freight or passengers within the corporate limits of the city or town, and a first-class city may also construct, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain, operate, or lease cable, electric, and other railways beyond those corporate limits only within the boundaries of the county in which the city is located and of any adjoining county,

for the transportation of freight and passengers above, upon, or underneath the ground. It may also fix, alter, regulate, and control the fares and rates to be charged therefor; and fares or rates may be adjusted or eliminated for any distinguishable class of users including, but not limited to, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and students. Without the payment of any license fee or tax, or the filing of a bond with, or the securing of a permit from, the state, or any department thereof, the city or town may engage in, carry on, and operate the business of transporting and carrying passengers or freight for hire by any method or combination of methods that the legislative authority of any city or town may by ordinance provide, with full authority to regulate and control the use and operation of vehicles or other agencies of transportation used for such business. [2020 c 274 s 15; 1995 c 42 s 1; 1991 c 124 s 1; 1990 c 43 s 49; 1985 c 445 s 10; 1981 c 25 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.060. Prior: 1957 c 288 s 7; 1957 c 209 s 7; prior: 1947 c 214 s 1, part; 1933 c 163 s 1, part; 1931 c 53 s 1, part; 1923 c 173 s 1, part; 1913 c 45 s 1, part; 1909 c 150 s 1, part; 1899 c 128 s 1, part; 1897 c 112 s 1, part; 1893 c 8 s 1, part; 1890 p 520 s 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 s 9488, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.060.]

**Construction—Severability—Headings—1990 c 43:** See notes following RCW 81.100.010.

*Additional sales and use taxes: RCW 82.14.045.*

*Public transportation systems, financing, purchase of leased systems: Chapter 35.95 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.070 Procedure—Election.** When the governing body of a city or town deems it advisable that the city or town purchase, acquire, or construct any such public utility, or make any additions and betterments thereto or extensions thereof, it shall provide therefor by ordinance, which shall specify and adopt the system or plan proposed, and declare the estimated cost thereof, as near as may be, and the ordinance shall be submitted for ratification or rejection by majority vote of the voters of the city or town at a general or special election.

(1) No submission shall be necessary:

(a) When the work proposed is an addition to, or betterment of, extension of, or an increased water supply for existing waterworks, or an addition, betterment, or extension of an existing system or plant of any other public utility;

(b) When in the charter of a city a provision has been adopted authorizing the corporate authorities thereof to provide by ordinance for acquiring, opening, or operating any of such public utilities; or

(c) When in the judgment of the corporate authority, the public health is being endangered by the discharge of raw or untreated sewage into any body of water and the danger to the public health may be abated by the construction and maintenance of a sewage disposal plant.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, submission to the voters shall be necessary if:

(a) The project or work may produce electricity for sale in excess of present or future needs of the water system;

(b) The city or town does not own or operate an electric utility system;

(c) The work involves an ownership greater than twenty-five percent in a new water supply project combined with an electric generation facility; and

(d) The combined facility has an installed capacity in excess of five megawatts.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, submission to the voters shall be necessary to make extensions to a public utility which would expand the previous service capacity by fifty percent or more, where such increased service capacity is financed by the issuance of general obligation bonds.

(4) Thirty days' notice of the election shall be given in the official newspaper of the city or town, by publication at least once each week in the paper during such time.

(5) When a proposition has been adopted, or in the cases where no submission is necessary, the corporate authorities of the city or town may proceed forthwith to purchase, construct, and acquire the public utility or make additions, betterments, and extensions thereto and to make payment therefor. [1987 c 145 s 1. Prior: 1985 c 445 s 11; 1985 c 444 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.070; prior: 1941 c 147 s 1; 1931 c 53 s 2; 1909 c 150 s 2; 1901 c 85 s 1; 1897 c 112 s 2; 1893 c 8 s 2; 1891 c 141 s 1; 1890 p 520 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 s 9489. Formerly RCW 80.40.070.]

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1985 c 444:** See notes following RCW 35.92.010.

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.075 Indebtedness incurred on credit of expected utility revenues.** A city or town may contract indebtedness and borrow money for a period not in excess of two years for any public utility purpose on the credit of the revenues expected from such public utility. [1982 c 24 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.080 General obligation bonds.** General obligation bonds may be issued by a city or town for the purposes of providing all or part of the costs of purchasing, acquiring, or constructing a public utility or making any additions, betterments, or alterations thereto, or extensions thereof. The bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

There shall be levied each year a tax upon the taxable property of the city or town sufficient to pay the interest on and principal of the bonds then due, which taxes shall become due and collectible as other taxes: PROVIDED, That it may pledge to the payment of such principal and interest the revenue of the public utility being acquired, constructed, or improved out of the proceeds of sale of such bonds. Such pledge of revenue shall constitute a binding obligation, according to its terms, to continue the collection of such revenue so long as such bonds or any of them are outstanding, and to the extent that revenues are insufficient to meet the debt service requirements on such bonds, the governing body of the municipality shall provide for the levy of taxes sufficient to meet such deficiency. [1985 c 445

s 12; 1984 c 186 s 23; 1983 c 167 s 67; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 47; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 24; 1967 c 107 s 1; 1965 c 118 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.080. Prior: 1909 c 150 s 3, part; RRS s 9490, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.080.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.92.090 Limit of indebtedness.** The total general indebtedness incurred under this chapter, added to all other indebtedness of a city or town at any time outstanding, shall not exceed the amounts of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without and with the assent of the voters: PROVIDED, That a city or town may become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding the amount authorized therefor by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, for supplying it with water, artificial light, and sewers when works for supplying such water, light, and sewers are owned and controlled by the city or town. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.090. Prior: 1909 c 150 s 3, part; RRS s 9490, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.090.]

*Limitations upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59), Art. 8 s 6 (Amendment 27), RCW 84.52.050.*

**RCW 35.92.100 Revenue bonds or warrants.** (1) When the voters of a city or town, or the corporate authorities thereof, have adopted a proposition for any public utility and either no general indebtedness has been authorized or the corporate authorities do not desire to incur a general indebtedness, and when the corporate authorities are authorized to exercise any of the powers conferred by this chapter without submitting the proposition to a vote, the corporate authorities may create a special fund for the sole purpose of defraying the cost of the public utility or addition, betterment, or extension thereto, into which special fund they may obligate and bind the city or town to set aside and pay a fixed proportion of the gross revenues of the utility, or any fixed amount out of and not exceeding a fixed proportion of such revenues, or a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, and issue and sell bonds or warrants bearing interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the corporate authorities; payable semiannually, executed in such manner and payable at such times and places as the corporate authorities shall determine, but the bonds or warrants and the interest thereon shall be payable only out of the special fund and shall be a lien and charge against payments received from any utility local improvement district assessments pledged to secure such bonds. Such bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the meaning of the negotiable instruments law, Title 62A RCW, notwithstanding same are made payable out of a particular fund contrary to the provisions of RCW 62A.3-105. Such bonds and warrants may be of any form, including bearer bonds or bearer warrants, or registered bonds or registered warrants as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

When corporate authorities deem it necessary to construct any sewage disposal plant, it may be considered as a part of the waterworks department of the city or town and the cost of construction and maintenance thereof may be chargeable to the water fund of the municipality, or to any other special fund which the corporate authorities may by ordinance designate.

In creating a special fund, the corporate authorities shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the plant or system as constructed or added to, and to any proportion or part of the revenue previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds, warrants, or other indebtedness, and shall not set aside into such special fund a greater amount or proportion of the revenue and proceeds than in their judgment will be available above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue so previously pledged. Rates shall be maintained adequate to service such bonds and to maintain the utility in sound financial condition.

The bonds or warrants and interest thereon issued against any such fund shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against the special fund and its fixed proportion or amount of the revenue pledged thereto, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the city or town within the meaning of constitutional provisions and limitations. Each bond or warrant shall state upon its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming it and the ordinance creating it. The bonds and warrants shall be sold in such manner as the corporate authorities shall deem for the best interest of the city or town, and they may provide in any contract for the construction and acquirement of the proposed improvement that payment therefor shall be made only in such bonds and warrants at par value thereof.

When a special fund is created and any such obligation is issued against it, a fixed proportion, or a fixed amount out of and not exceeding such fixed proportion, or a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, of revenue shall be set aside and paid into such fund as provided in the ordinance creating it, and in case the city or town fails to thus set aside and pay such fixed proportion or amount, the owner of any bond or warrant against the fund may bring action against the city or town and compel such setting aside and payment: PROVIDED, That whenever the corporate authorities of any city or town shall so provide by ordinance then all such bonds thereafter issued shall be on a parity, without regard to date of issuance or authorization and without preference or priority of right or lien with respect to participation of special funds in amounts from gross revenues for payment thereof.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds and warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 68; 1983 c 3 s 57; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 48; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 25; 1967 c 52 s 25; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.100. Prior: 1953 c 231 s 1; 1931 c 53 s 3; 1909 c 150 s 4; RRS s 9491. Formerly RCW 80.40.100.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**Construction—Severability—1967 c 52:** See notes following RCW 35.43.042.

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds: RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.*

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount: RCW 39.44.140.*

*Instruments payable from a particular fund: RCW 62A.3-105.*

*Municipal revenue bond act: Chapter 35.41 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.105 Revenue bonds, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness for energy or water conservation programs.** A city or town engaged in the sale or distribution of water or energy may issue revenue bonds, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness in the manner provided by this chapter for the purpose of defraying the cost of financing programs for the conservation or more efficient use of energy or water. The bonds, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness shall be deemed to be for capital purposes within the meaning of the uniform system of accounts for municipal corporations. [1992 c 25 s 1; 1981 c 273 s 1.]

*Uniform system of accounts for local governments: RCW 43.09.200.*

**RCW 35.92.110 Funding or refunding bonds.** The legislative authority of a city or town which has any outstanding warrants or bonds issued for the purpose of purchasing, acquiring, or constructing any such public utility or for making any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, whether the warrants or bonds are general obligation warrants or bonds of the municipality or are payable solely from a special fund, into which fund the city or town is bound and obligated to set aside and pay any proportion or part of the revenue of the public utility, for the purchase, acquisition, or construction of which utility or the making of any additions and betterments thereto or extensions thereof such outstanding warrants or bonds were issued, may, without submitting the matter to the voters, provide for the issuance of funding or refunding bonds with which to take up, cancel, retire, and refund such outstanding warrants or bonds, or any part thereof, at maturity thereof, or before the maturity thereof, if they are subject to call for prior redemption. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.110. Prior: 1935 c 81 s 1; RRS s 9492-1. Formerly RCW 80.40.110.]

**RCW 35.92.120 Funding or refunding bonds—Bonds not general obligation.** Such funding or refunding bonds shall not be a general indebtedness of the city or town, but shall be payable solely from a special fund created therefor by ordinance. Each bond shall state upon its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming the fund and

the ordinance creating it. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.120. Prior: 1935 c 81 s 2; RRS s 9492-2. Formerly RCW 80.40.120.]

**RCW 35.92.130 Funding or refunding bonds—Single issue may refund multiple series.** At the option of the legislative authority of the city or town various series and issues of outstanding warrants or bonds, or parts thereof, issued for the purpose of acquiring or constructing any public utility, or for making any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, may be funded or refunded by a single issue of funding or refunding bonds. No proportion or part of the revenue of any one such public utility shall be pledged for the payment of funding or refunding bonds issued to fund or refund warrants or bonds issued for the acquisition or construction, or the making of additions or betterments to or extensions of, any other public utility. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.130. Prior: 1935 c 81 s 3; RRS s 9492-3. Formerly RCW 80.40.130.]

**RCW 35.92.140 Funding or refunding bonds—Issuance of bonds—Ordinance.** When the legislative authority of a city or town determines to issue such funding or refunding bonds, it shall provide therefor by ordinance, which shall create a special fund for the sole purpose of paying the bonds and the interest thereon, into which fund the ordinance shall bind and obligate the city or town to set aside and pay a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion out of the gross revenue of the public utility as provided therein. In creating such special fund, the legislative authority shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the utility as constructed or added to, and to any proportion or part of the revenue thereof previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds, warrants, or other indebtedness, and shall not bind and obligate the city or town to set aside into the fund a greater amount of the revenue of the utility than in its judgment will be available above the cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion of the revenue thereof so previously pledged. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.140. Prior: 1935 c 81 s 4, part; RRS s 9492-4, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.140.]

**RCW 35.92.150 Funding or refunding bonds—Terms of bonds.** (1) Such funding or refunding bonds, together with the interest thereon, issued against the special fund shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against such fund, and the amount of the revenue of the utility pledged thereto, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the city or town within the meaning of constitutional or statutory provisions and limitations. They shall be sold in such manner as the corporate authorities shall deem for the best interest of the municipality. The effective rate of interest on the bonds shall not exceed the effective rate of interest on warrants or bonds to be funded or refunded thereby. Interest on the bonds shall be paid semiannually. The bonds shall be executed in such manner and payable at such time and place as the legislative authority shall by ordinance determine. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a city or town from funding or refunding any of its indebtedness in any other manner



provided by law. Such bonds may be of any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 s 69; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.150. Prior: 1935 c 81 s 4, part; RRS s 9492-4, part. Formerly RCW 80.40.150.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.92.160 Funding or refunding bonds—Recourse of bond owners.** When such funding or refunding bonds have been issued and the city or town fails to set aside and pay into the special fund from which they are payable, the amount without regard to any fixed proportion out of the gross revenue of the public utility which the city or town has, by ordinance, bound and obligated itself to set aside and pay into the special fund, the owner of any funding or refunding bond may bring action against the city or town and compel such setting aside and payment. [1983 c 167 s 70; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.160. Prior: 1935 c 81 s 5; RRS s 9492-5. Formerly RCW 80.40.160.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**RCW 35.92.170 City may extend water system outside limits.** When a city or town owns or operates a municipal waterworks system and desires to extend such utility beyond its corporate limits it may acquire, construct and maintain any addition to or extension of the system, and dispose of and distribute water to any other municipality, water-sewer district, community, or person desiring to purchase it. [1999 c 153 s 40; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.170. Prior: 1933 ex.s. c 17 s 1; RRS s 9502-1. Cf. 1917 c 12 s 1. Formerly RCW 80.40.170.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

*Water-sewer districts: Title 57 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.180 City may extend water system outside limits—May acquire property outside city.** A city or town may construct, purchase, or acquire any waterworks, pipe lines, distribution systems and any extensions thereof, necessary to furnish such outside service. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.180. Prior: 1933 ex.s. c 17 s 2; RRS s 9502-2. Cf. 1917 c 12 s 1. Formerly RCW 80.40.180.]

**RCW 35.92.190 City may extend water system outside limits—Cannot condemn irrigation system.** No city or town may exercise the power of eminent domain to take or damage any waterworks, storage reservoir, site, pipe line distribution system or any extension thereof, or any water right, water appropriation, dam, canal, plant, or any interest in, or to any of the above used, operated, held, or

owned by an irrigation district. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.190. Prior: 1933 ex.s. c 17 s 2A; RRS s 9502-2A. Formerly RCW 80.40.190.]

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.200 City may extend water system outside limits—Contracts for outside service.** A city or town may enter into a firm contract with any outside municipality, community, corporation, or person, for furnishing them with water without regard to whether said water shall be considered as surplus or not and regardless of the source from which such water is obtained, which contract may fix the terms upon which the outside distribution systems will be installed and the rates at which and the manner in which payment shall be made for the water supplied or for the service rendered. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.200. Prior: 1961 c 125 s 1; 1957 c 288 s 8; 1933 ex.s. c 17 s 3; RRS s 9502-3. Cf. 1917 c 12 s 1. Formerly RCW 80.40.200.]

**RCW 35.92.220 Acquisition of water rights—Consolidation of irrigation assessment districts.** (1) A city or town, situated within or served by, an irrigation project, or projects, owned or operated by the United States government, a water users' association, associations, corporation, or corporations or another city or town or towns, where the legislative authority deems it feasible to furnish water for irrigation and domestic purposes, or either, and where the water used for irrigation and domestic purposes or either, is appurtenant or may become appurtenant to the land located within such city or town, may purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire water or water rights for the purpose of furnishing the city or town and the inhabitants thereof with a supply of water for irrigation and domestic purposes, or either; purchase, construct, or otherwise acquire systems and means of distribution and delivery of water within and without the limits of the city or town, or for the delivery of water where the owner of land within the city or town owns a water right appurtenant to his or her land, with full power to maintain, repair, reconstruct, regulate, and control the same, and if private property is necessary for such purposes, the city or town may condemn and purchase or purchase and acquire property, enter into any contract, and order any and all work to be done that is necessary to carry out such purposes, and it may do so either by the entire city or town or by assessment districts, consisting of the whole or any portion thereof, as the legislative authority of the city or town may determine.

(2) The legislative authority of any city or town may by ordinance authorize the consolidation of separate irrigation assessment districts, previously established pursuant to this section, for the purposes of construction or rehabilitation of improvements, or of ongoing administration, service, repair, and reconstruction of irrigation systems. The separate irrigation assessment districts to be consolidated need not be adjoining, vicinal, or neighboring. If the legislative authority orders the creation of such consolidated irrigation assessment districts, the money received and on hand from assessments levied within the original districts shall be deposited in a consolidated fund to be used by the municipality for future expenses within the consolidated district. [1995 c 89 s 1; 1965 c 130 s 1;

1965 c 7 s 35.92.220. Prior: 1915 c 112 s 1; RRS s 9495. Formerly RCW 80.40.220.]

**RCW 35.92.230 Acquisition of water rights—Special assessments.**

For the purpose of paying for a water right purchased by the city or town from the United States government where the purchase price has not been fully paid; paying annual maintenance or annual rental charge to the United States government or any corporation or individual furnishing the water for irrigation and domestic purposes, or either; paying assessments made by any water users' association; paying the cost of constructing or acquiring any system or means of distribution or delivery of water for such purposes; and for the upkeep, repair, reconstruction, operation, and maintenance thereof; accumulating reasonable operating fund reserves to pay for system upkeep, repair, operation, and maintenance, in such amount as is determined by the city or town legislative authority; accumulating reasonable capital fund reserves in an amount not to exceed the total estimated cost of system construction, reconstruction, or refurbishment, over such period of time as is determined by the city or town legislative authority; and for any expense incidental to such purposes, the city or town may levy and collect special assessments against the property within any district created pursuant to RCW 35.92.220, to pay the whole or any part of any such costs and expenses. [1995 c 89 s 2; 1965 c 130 s 2; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.230. Prior: 1915 c 112 s 2; RRS s 9496. Formerly RCW 80.40.230.]

**RCW 35.92.240 Acquisition of water rights—Levy of assessments.**

All such assessments shall be levied upon the several parcels of land located within the local improvement district in accordance to the special benefits conferred on such property in proportion to the surface area, one square foot of surface to be the unit of assessment: PROVIDED, That where the water right is acquired or a special improvement is made for a portion of any district, the cost of the water right or the cost of such special improvement shall be levied in the same manner upon such portion of the district as shall be specially benefited thereby: PROVIDED FURTHER, That whenever a special improvement is made for a portion of any district, the land assessed for the cost thereof shall be entitled to an equitable reduction in the annual assessments in proportion to the reduced cost of operation on account of the construction of the improvement. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.240. Prior: 1915 c 112 s 3; RRS s 9497. Formerly RCW 80.40.240.]

**RCW 35.92.250 Acquisition of water rights—District property need not be contiguous.** One local improvement district may be established for any or all of the purposes embraced herein even though the area assessed for such purposes may not coincide or be contiguous: PROVIDED, That whenever the legislative body of the city or town decides to construct a special improvement in a distribution system, a separate local improvement district may be formed for such portion and bonds may be issued therefor as provided in the general local improvement law. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.250. Prior: 1915 c 112 s 4; RRS s 9498. Formerly RCW 80.40.250.]

*Creation of local improvement districts: Chapter 35.43 RCW.*

*Issuance of bonds to pay for local improvements: Chapters 35.45, 35.48 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.260 Acquisition of water rights—Mode of assessment.**

When a city or town makes local improvements for any of the purposes specified in RCW 35.92.220 and 35.92.230, as now or hereafter amended, the proceedings relative to the creation of districts, financing of improvements, levying and collecting assessments and all other procedure shall be had, and the legislative authority shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of the laws relating to local improvement districts in cities of the first class: PROVIDED, That when the improvement is initiated upon petition, the petition shall set forth the fact that the signers are the owners according to the records in the office of the county auditor, of property to an aggregate amount of a majority of the surface area within the limits of the assessment district to be created: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when an assessment is made for any purpose other than the construction or reconstruction of any system or means of distribution or delivery of water, it shall not be necessary for the legislative authority to be furnished with a statement of the aggregate assessed valuation of the real estate exclusive of improvements in the district according to the valuation last placed upon it for purposes of general taxation, or the estimated amount of the cost of the improvement to be borne by each tract of land or other property, but a statement by the engineer or other officer, showing the estimated cost of the improvement per square foot, shall be sufficient: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when the legislative authority of a city or town shall deem it necessary to levy special assessments for the purposes specified in RCW 35.92.230, as now or hereafter amended, other than for the purpose of paying the costs of acquiring, constructing or reconstructing any system or means of distribution or delivery of water for irrigation or domestic purposes, the legislative authority for such city or town may hold a single hearing on the assessment rolls for all irrigation local improvement districts within the city or town. Such legislative authority shall fix the date of such hearing and shall direct the city or town clerk to give notice thereof, in the form prescribed by RCW 35.44.080, by publication thereof in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the city or town, once, not less than fifteen days prior to the date fixed for hearing; and by mailing, not less than fifteen days prior to the date fixed for hearing, notice thereof to the owner or reputed owner of each item of property described on the assessment roll whose name appears on such roll at the address of such owner or reputed owner shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer for each such item of property: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when an assessment roll is once prepared and does not include the cost of purchase, construction, or reconstruction of works of delivery or distribution and the legislative authority of such city or town decides to raise a similar amount the ensuing year, it shall not be necessary to prepare a new assessment roll, but the legislative authority may pass a resolution of intention estimating the cost for the ensuing year to be the same as the preceding year, and directing the clerk to give notice stating the estimated cost per square foot of all land within the district and refer persons interested to the books

of the treasurer, and fixing the date for a hearing on such assessment roll. Notice of such hearing shall be given by the city or town clerk in the form and manner required in the preceding proviso. The treasurer shall be present at the hearing and shall note any changes on his or her books. The legislative authority shall have the same right to make changes in the assessment roll as in an original assessment, and after all changes have been made it shall, by ordinance, confirm the assessment and direct the treasurer to extend it on the books of his or her office. [2009 c 549 s 2132; 1965 c 130 s 3; 1965 c 7 s 35.92.260. Prior: 1915 c 112 s 5; RRS s 9499. Formerly RCW 80.40.260.]

**RCW 35.92.263 Acquisition of water rights—Water rights acquired by purchase of shares in water users' association or corporation—Authority to acquire and hold shares.** Whenever the public interest, welfare, convenience and necessity require that a city or town acquire water rights for the purposes set forth in RCW 35.92.220, as now or hereafter amended, and that such water rights be acquired through the purchases of shares in a water users' association or corporation, such city or town shall have full authority and power to acquire, or to hold in trust, such shares as shall be necessary for said purposes. [1965 c 130 s 4.]

**RCW 35.92.265 Acquisition of water rights—Existing local improvement districts validated—Debts, obligations, assessments, etc., declared legal and valid.** Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore organized into local improvement assessment districts for irrigation or domestic water supply purposes including all areas annexed thereto, under the provisions of chapter 112, Laws of 1915, codified as RCW 35.92.220-35.92.260, whether organized by or within a city or town other than a city of the first class or by or within a city of the first class, are hereby validated and declared to be duly existing local improvement districts having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization or annexation proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the clerk of the city or town in which formed. All debts, contracts and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any such local improvement district and any and all assessments or levies and all other things and proceedings done or taken by the city or town within, and by which such districts were organized, under or in pursuance of such organization, and under or in pursuance of the levy and collection of special assessments by the city or town to pay the whole or any part of the cost and expense or upkeep, repair, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of such local improvement districts and any expense incident to said purposes are hereby declared legal and valid and in full force and effect. [1965 c 130 s 5.]

**RCW 35.92.270 Passenger transportation systems—Authority to make studies—Contracts with and acquisition of privately owned systems.** Every passenger transportation system owned by a municipal corporation may:

(1) Engage in planning, studies and surveys with respect to areas within and beyond the corporate boundaries of such municipal

corporation, in order to develop a sound factual basis for any possible future adjustment or expansion of such municipally owned passenger transportation system;

(2) Purchase or lease privately owned passenger transportation systems: PROVIDED, That such purchases shall not, per se, extend the area of service of such municipally owned passenger transportation system;

(3) Contract with privately owned passenger transportation systems in order to provide adequate service in the service area of the municipal transportation system. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.270. Prior: 1957 c 114 s 1. Formerly RCW 80.40.270.]

**RCW 35.92.275 Assumption of obligations of private pension plan when urban transportation system acquired.** See RCW 54.04.160.

**RCW 35.92.280 Cities over one hundred fifty thousand, joint undertaking with P.U.D. as to electric utility properties—"Electric utility properties" defined.** As used in RCW 35.92.280 through 35.92.310 "electric utility properties" shall mean any and all permits, licenses, property rights, water rights and any and all works, plants, dams, powerhouses, transmission lines, switchyards, substations, property and facilities of every kind and character which may be used, or may be useful, in the generation and transmission of electric power and energy, produced by water power, steam or any other methods. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.280. Prior: 1957 c 287 s 1. Formerly RCW 80.40.280.]

**RCW 35.92.290 Cities over one hundred fifty thousand, joint undertaking with P.U.D. as to electric utility properties—Agreements.** Any city or town with a population over one hundred fifty thousand within the state of Washington owning an electric public utility is authorized to cooperate with any public utility district within this state in the joint acquisition, purchase, construction, ownership, maintenance and operation, within or without the respective limits of any such city or town or public utility district, of electric utility properties. The respective governing bodies of any such city or town and of any such public utility district desiring to cooperate in the joint ownership, maintenance and operation of electric utility properties pursuant to the authority contained in RCW 35.92.280 through 35.92.310, shall by mutual agreement provide for such joint ownership, maintenance and operation. Such agreement shall prescribe the rights and property interest which the parties thereto shall have in such electric utility properties, which property interest may be either divided or undivided; and shall further provide for the rights of the parties thereto in the ownership and disposition of the power and energy produced by such electric utility properties, and for the operation and management thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.290. Prior: 1957 c 287 s 2. Formerly RCW 80.40.290.]

**RCW 35.92.300 Cities over one hundred fifty thousand, joint undertaking with P.U.D. as to electric utility properties—Financing.** Any city or town and any public utility district cooperating under the

provisions of RCW 35.92.280 through 35.92.310 may, without an election or other proceedings under any existing law, contribute money and property, both real and personal, to any joint undertaking pursuant hereto, and may issue and sell revenue bonds to pay its respective share of the costs of acquisition and construction of such electric utility properties. Such bonds shall be issued under the provisions of applicable laws authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the acquisition and construction of electric public utility properties by cities, towns and public utility districts, as the case may be. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.300. Prior: 1957 c 287 s 3. Formerly RCW 80.40.300.]

*Revenue bonds and warrants issued by  
cities and towns to finance acquisition of public utilities:  
RCW 35.92.100.  
public utility districts: Chapter 54.24 RCW.*

**RCW 35.92.310 Cities over one hundred fifty thousand, joint undertaking with P.U.D. as to electric utility properties—Authority granted is additional power.** The authority and power granted by RCW 35.92.280 through 35.92.310 is an additional grant of power to cities, towns, and public utility districts to acquire and operate electric public utilities, and the provisions hereof shall be construed liberally to effectuate the authority herein conferred, and no restriction or limitation prescribed in any other law shall prohibit the cities, towns and public utility districts of this state from exercising the authority herein conferred: PROVIDED, That nothing in RCW 35.92.280 through 35.92.310 shall authorize any public utility district or city cooperating under the provisions of RCW 35.92.280 through 35.92.310 to condemn any property owned or operated by any privately owned utility. [1965 c 7 s 35.92.310. Prior: 1957 c 287 s 4. Formerly RCW 80.40.310.]

**RCW 35.92.350 Electrical construction or improvement—Bid proposals—Contract proposal forms—Conditions for issuance—Refusal—Appeal.** Any city or town owning an electrical utility shall require that bid proposals upon any electrical construction or improvement shall be made upon contract proposal form supplied by the governing authority of such utility, and in no other manner. The governing authority shall, before furnishing any person, firm or corporation desiring to bid upon any electrical work with a contract proposal form, require from such person, firm or corporation, answers to questions contained in a standard form of questionnaire and financial statement, including a complete statement of the financial ability and experience of such person, firm, or corporation in performing electrical work. Such questionnaire shall be sworn to before a notary public or other person authorized to take acknowledgment of deeds, and shall be submitted once a year and at such other times as the governing authority may require. Whenever the governing authority is not satisfied with the sufficiency of the answers contained in such questionnaire and financial statement or whenever the governing authority determines that such person, firm, or corporation does not meet all of the requirements hereinafter set forth it may refuse to furnish such person, firm or corporation with a contract proposal form and any bid proposal of such person, firm or corporation must be

disregarded. In order to obtain a contract proposal form, a person, firm or corporation shall have all of the following requirements:

- (1) Adequate financial resources, or the ability to secure such resources;
- (2) The necessary experience, organization, and technical qualifications to perform the proposed contract;
- (3) The ability to comply with the required performance schedule taking into consideration all of its existing business commitments;
- (4) A satisfactory record of performance, integrity, judgment, and skills; and
- (5) Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Such refusal shall be conclusive unless appeal therefrom to the superior court of the county where the utility district is situated or Thurston county be taken within fifteen days, which appeal shall be heard summarily within ten days after the same is taken and on five days' notice thereof to the governing authority of the utility. [1971 ex.s. c 220 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.355 Energy conservation—Legislative findings—Tree plantings.** The conservation of energy in all forms and by every possible means is found and declared to be a public purpose of highest priority. The legislature further finds and declares that all municipal corporations, quasi municipal corporations, and other political subdivisions of the state which are engaged in the generation, sale, or distribution of energy should be granted the authority to develop and carry out programs which will conserve resources, reduce waste, and encourage more efficient use of energy by consumers.

In order to establish the most effective statewide program for energy conservation, the legislature hereby encourages any company, corporation, or association engaged in selling or furnishing utility services to assist their customers in the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of energy including, but not limited to, materials and equipment installed as part of a utility cool roof program. The use of appropriate tree plantings for energy conservation is highly encouraged as part of these programs. It is the policy of the state of Washington that any tree planting program engaged in by a municipal utility where energy reduction is a goal as part of a broader energy conservation program under this section should accomplish the following:

- (1) Reduce the peak-load demand for electricity in residential and commercial business areas during the summer months through direct shading of buildings provided by strategically planted trees;
- (2) Reduce wintertime demand for energy in residential areas by blocking cold winds from reaching homes, which lowers interior temperatures and drives heating demand;
- (3) Protect public health by removing harmful pollution from the air and prioritize in communities with environmental health disparities;
- (4) Utilize the natural photosynthetic and transpiration process of trees to lower ambient temperatures and absorb carbon dioxide;



(5) Lower electric bills for residential and commercial business ratepayers by limiting electricity consumption without reducing benefits;

(6) Relieve financial and demand pressure on the utility that stems from large peak-load electricity demand;

(7) Protect water quality and public health by reducing and cooling stormwater runoff and keeping harmful pollutants from entering waterways, with special attention given to waterways vital for the preservation of threatened and endangered salmon;

(8) Ensure that trees are planted in locations that limit the amount of public funding needed to maintain public and electric infrastructure;

(9) Measure program performance in terms of the estimated present value benefit per tree planted and equitable and accessible community engagement consistent with the department of health's environmental health disparities map recommendations 12 and 13, and with the community engagement plan guidance in appendix C of the final report of the environmental justice task force established under chapter 415, Laws of 2019;

(10) Give special consideration to achieving environmental justice in goals and policies, avoid creating or worsening environmental health disparities, and make use of the department of health's environmental health disparities map to help guide engagement and actions; and

(11) Coordinate with the department of natural resources urban and community forestry program's efforts to identify areas of need related to urban tree canopy and to provide technical assistance and capacity building to encourage urban tree canopy. [2021 c 11 s 2; 1993 c 204 s 5; 1979 ex.s. c 239 s 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2021 c 11:** "(1) The legislature acknowledges the scientific consensus that there is a well-documented problem of urban heat islands. The buildings, roads, and infrastructure that comprise urban environments make cities hotter than surrounding rural areas. Concrete, asphalt, and shingled roofs can get much hotter than vegetated areas, causing surface temperatures in cities to be several degrees hotter in the midday than in rural areas. At night, these same materials release heat more slowly, keeping urban air temperatures higher than overnight temperatures in most rural areas. Cities tend to have fewer trees and less vegetation, resulting in a deficit of shade to keep areas cool. Cities also have more industrial heat sources, including cars and air conditioners.

(2) Cities tend to have many more extremely hot days each year, on average, than nearby rural areas. According to one recent study, over the past 10 years, cities had an average of at least eight more days over 90 degrees Fahrenheit each summer, compared to nearby rural areas. The difference between urban and surrounding rural temperatures is also widening; temperatures have been rising in urban areas faster than in the surrounding rural areas since 1970. Studies also conclude that areas historically redlined as a result of housing policy experience higher air temperatures than urban areas outside of redlined areas.

(3) The legislature finds that the phenomenon of urban heat island impact is detrimental to several significant and long-standing state policy goals, including the promotion of human health, energy conservation, and preserving the water quality that sustains salmon.

The legislature also finds that the urban heat island effects exacerbate the impacts of climate change. It is well understood that higher urban summer temperatures pose serious human health risks and that these health risks are inequitably distributed. Hotter urban summers can lead to increased energy demands to cool buildings, which runs counter to long-standing state policy of promoting energy conservation. Studies have also documented the impact of urban heat islands on the temperature of streams. Streams draining through urban heat islands tend to be hotter than rural and forested streams because of warmer urban air and ground temperatures, paved surfaces, and decreased riparian canopy. Urban infrastructure routes runoff over hot impervious surfaces and through storm drains directly into streams and can lead to rapid, dramatic increases in temperature, which can be lethal for aquatic life.

(4) The legislature recognizes that this problem is a clear and present danger that impacts the environment of our state. The Pacific Northwest, with its reputation for rain and temperate weather, is not immune to urban heat islands. Seattle is among the top 10 cities for most intense urban heat island effect, with greater than four degrees Fahrenheit difference between the city and nearby rural areas. Portland, Oregon was among the top 10 cities with the most intense summer nighttime heat island over the past 10 years.

(5) The legislature finds that organized shade tree and cool roof programs offered by utilities can reduce the amount of energy required to cool buildings. Energy conservation results in carbon dioxide reduction in areas where fossil fuels are part of the fuel mix that supplies the electricity. Secondary benefits of shade tree and cool roof programs are the mitigation of the urban heat island effect. Other nonenergy benefits include improvement in local and regional air quality, enhanced neighborhood aesthetics, and improved property values for program participants.

(6) From the utility perspective, incentives to implement tree planting programs represents a type of demand side management program that has a tangible economic value to the utility. This value can be quantified based on avoided supply costs of energy and capacity during high cost of summer peak load periods, or the decrease in supply costs to the utility due to reduced electrical loads.

(7) From the customers' perspective, these programs save money by reducing average summertime electricity bills. In 2008, researchers showed that the Sacramento municipal utility district tree program reduced summertime electricity bills by an average of \$25.16. Additionally, the utility's commercial cool roof program provided average energy cooling load savings of 20 percent.

(8) In consideration of the environmental, public, and customer benefits, the legislature intends to encourage policies for the state's utilities that will promote shade tree and cool roof programs to facilitate energy conservation and mitigate urban heat island impacts." [2021 c 11 s 1.]

**Findings—1993 c 204:** See note following RCW 35.92.390.

**Effective date—Contingency—1979 ex.s. c 239:** See note following RCW 35.92.360.

**RCW 35.92.360 Energy conservation plan—Financing authorized for energy conservation projects in structures or equipment—Limitations.**

(1) Any city or town engaged in the generation, sale, or distribution of energy is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures or equipment pursuant to an energy conservation plan adopted by the city or town if the cost per unit of energy saved or produced by the use of such materials and equipment is less than the cost per unit of energy produced by the next least costly new energy resource which the city or town could acquire to meet future demand. Any financing authorized under this chapter shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures, and such financing shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one energy source to another. For the purposes of this section, "conservation purposes in existing structures" may include projects to allow a municipal electric utility's customers to generate all or a portion of their own electricity through the on-site installation of a distributed electricity generation system that uses as its fuel solar, wind, geothermal, or hydropower, or other renewable resource that is available on-site and not from a commercial source. Such projects shall not be considered "a conversion from one energy source to another" which is limited to the change or substitution of one commercial energy supplier for another commercial energy supplier. Except where otherwise authorized, such assistance shall be limited to:

(a) Providing an inspection of the structure or equipment, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation materials and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life-cycle savings in energy costs that are likely to result from the installation of such materials or equipment;

(b) Providing a list of businesses who sell and install such materials and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the city or town, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize such materials in accordance with the prevailing national standards;

(c) Arranging to have approved conservation materials and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the residential structure and verifying such installation; and

(d) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation materials and equipment. Such materials and equipment shall be purchased from a private business and shall be installed by a private business or the owner.

(2) Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed two hundred forty months in length. [2009 c 416 s 1; 2002 c 276 s 2; 1989 c 268 s 1; 1979 ex.s. c 239 s 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2002 c 276:** "The legislature finds that energy conservation can take many useful and cost-effective forms, and that

the types of conservation projects available to utilities and customers evolve with time as technologies are developed and market conditions change. In some cases, electricity conservation projects are most cost-effective when they reduce the total amount of electricity consumed by an individual customer, and in other cases they can be cost-effective by reducing the amount of electricity a customer needs to purchase from an electric utility.

The legislature intends to encourage and support a broad array of cost-effective energy conservation by electric utilities and customers alike by clarifying that public utilities may assist in the financing of projects that allow customers to generate their own electricity from renewable resources that do not depend on commercial sources of fuel thereby reducing the amount of electricity a public utility needs to generate or acquire on their customers' behalf." [2002 c 276 s 1.]

**Effective date—Contingency—1979 ex.s. c 239:** "This 1979 act shall take effect on the same date as the proposed amendment to Article VIII of the state Constitution, authorizing the use of public moneys or credit to promote conservation or more efficient use of energy, is validly submitted and is approved and ratified by the voters at a general election held in November, 1979. If the proposed amendment is not so approved and ratified, this 1979 act shall be null and void in its entirety." [1979 ex.s. c 239 s 4.] The referenced constitutional amendment (1979 Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 120) was approved by the voters on November 6, 1979. See Article VIII, section 10 of the state Constitution.

**RCW 35.92.365 Tariff for irrigation pumping service—Authority to buy back electricity.** The council or board may approve a tariff for irrigation pumping service that allows the municipal utility to buy back electricity from customers to reduce electricity usage by those customers during the municipal utility's particular irrigation season. [2001 c 122 s 3.]

**Effective date—2001 c 122:** See note following RCW 80.28.310.

**RCW 35.92.370 Lease of real property under electrical transmission lines for private gardening purposes.** A city or town owning facilities for the purpose of furnishing the city or town and its inhabitants with electricity may lease for private gardening purposes the real property under its electrical transmission and distribution lines for a nominal rent to any person who has an income of less than ten thousand dollars per year. [1981 c 100 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.380 Waiver or delay of collection of tap-in charges, connection or hookup fees for low-income persons and certain organizations.** Whenever a city or town waives or delays collection of tap-in charges, connection fees, or hookup fees for low-income persons, a class of low-income persons, or a nonprofit organization, public development authority, housing authority, or local agency that provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or affordable housing as defined in RCW 35.92.385 to connect to lines or pipes used by the city or town to provide utility service,

the waiver or delay shall be pursuant to a program established by ordinance. As used in this section, the provision of "utility service" includes, but is not limited to, water, sanitary or storm sewer service, electricity, gas, other means of power, and heat. [2023 c 249 s 2; 1980 c 150 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.385 Connection charge waivers.** (1) Municipal utilities formed under this chapter may waive connection charges for properties owned or developed by, or on the behalf of, a nonprofit organization, public development authority, housing authority, or local agency that provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or affordable housing, including a limited partnership as described in RCW 84.36.560(7)(f)(ii) and a limited liability company as described in RCW 84.36.560(7)(f)(iii).

(2) Connection charges waived under this chapter shall be funded using general funds, grant dollars, or other identified revenue stream.

(3) At such time as a property receiving a waiver under subsection (1) of this section is no longer operating under the eligibility requirements under subsection (1) of this section:

(a) The waiver of connection charges required under subsection (1) of this section is no longer required; and

(b) Any connection charges waived under subsection (1) of this section are immediately due and payable to the utility as a condition of continued service.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Affordable housing" has the same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

(b) "Connection charges" means the one-time capital and administrative charges, as authorized in RCW 35.92.025, that are imposed by a utility on a building or facility owner for a new utility service and costs borne or assessed by a utility for the labor, materials, and services necessary to physically connect a designated facility to the respective utility service.

(c) "Emergency shelter" means any facility that has, as its sole purpose, the provision of a temporary shelter for the homeless and that does not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement.

(d) "Permanent supportive housing" has the same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

(e) "Transitional housing" has the same meaning as in RCW 84.36.043. [2023 c 249 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.390 Municipal utilities encouraged to provide customers with landscaping information and to request voluntary donations for urban forestry.** (1) Municipal utilities under this chapter are highly encouraged to provide information to their customers regarding landscaping that includes tree planting for energy conservation.

(2) (a) Municipal utilities under this chapter are highly encouraged to request voluntary donations from their customers for the purposes of urban forestry. The request may be in the form of a check-off on the billing statement or other form of request for a voluntary donation.

(b) Voluntary donations collected by municipal utilities under this section may be used by the municipal utility to:

(i) Support the development and implementation of urban forestry ordinances, as that term is defined in RCW 76.15.010, for cities, towns, or counties within their service areas;

(ii) Complete projects consistent with the urban forestry management plans and ordinances developed under RCW 76.15.090; or

(iii) Fund a tree planting program for energy conservation that accomplishes the goals established under RCW 35.92.355.

(c) Donations received under this section do not contribute to the gross income of a light and power business or gas distribution business under chapter 82.16 RCW. [2021 c 209 s 12; 2021 c 11 s 3; 2008 c 299 s 19; 1993 c 204 s 2.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2021 c 11 s 3 and by 2021 c 209 s 12, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Intent—2021 c 209:** See note following RCW 76.15.005.

**Findings—Intent—2021 c 11:** See note following RCW 35.92.355.

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 76.15.020.

**Findings—1993 c 204:** "The legislature finds that large-scale reduction of tree cover increases the temperature of urban areas, known as the "heat island effect." Planting trees in urban areas for shading and cooling mitigates the urban heat island effect and reduces energy consumption. Tree planting also can benefit the environment by combating global climate change, reducing soil erosion, and improving air quality. Urban forestry programs can improve urban aesthetics that will improve public and private property values.

The legislature also finds that urban forestry programs should consider the relationship between urban forests and public service facilities such as water, sewer, natural gas, telephone, and electric power lines. Urban forestry programs should promote the use of appropriate tree species that will not interfere with or cause damage to such public service facilities." [1993 c 204 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.395 Voluntary donations for purpose of supporting hunger programs.**

(1) Municipal utilities under this chapter may request voluntary donations from their customers for the purpose of supporting hunger programs.

(2) Voluntary donations collected by municipal utilities under this section must be used by the municipal utility to support the maintenance and operation of hunger programs.

(3) Donations received under this section do not contribute to the gross income of a light and power business or gas distribution business under chapter 82.16 RCW.

(4) Nothing in this section precludes a municipal utility from requesting voluntary donations to support other programs. [2011 c 226 s 2.]

**RCW 35.92.400 Provision of water services and facilities—**

**Contract with Canadian corporation.** A city or town contiguous with Canada may contract with a Canadian corporation for the purchase of water and for the construction, purchase, maintenance, and supply of waterworks to furnish the city or town and other areas within its water service area, and inhabitants thereof, and residents of Canada with an ample supply of water. [1999 c 61 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.410 Provision of sewer services and facilities—**

**Contract with Canadian corporation.** A city or town contiguous with Canada may contract with a Canadian corporation for the discharge of sewage from all or any portion of the city's or town's sewer service area into the sewer system of the Canadian corporation. A city or town contiguous with Canada may contract with a Canadian corporation for the construction, operation, or maintenance of sewers and sewage treatment and disposal facilities for their joint use and benefit upon such terms and conditions and for such period of time as the contracting parties may determine, which may include vesting one of the contracting parties with the sole authority to construct, operate, or maintain the facilities with the other contracting party or parties paying an agreed-upon portion of the expenses to the party with sole authority to construct, operate, or maintain the facilities. [1999 c 61 s 2.]

**RCW 35.92.420 Purchase of electric power and energy from joint**

**operating agency.** A city or town may contract to purchase from a joint operating agency electric power and energy required for its present or future requirements. For projects the output of which is limited to qualified alternative energy resources as defined by RCW 19.29A.090(3), the contract may include the purchase of capability of the projects to produce electricity in addition to the actual output of the projects. The contract may provide that the city or town must make the payments required by the contract whether or not a project is completed, operable, or operating and notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or curtailment of the output of a project or the power and energy contracted for. The contract may also provide that payments under the contract are not subject to reduction, whether by offset or otherwise, and shall not be conditioned upon the performance or nonperformance of the joint operating agency or a city, town, or public utility district under the contract or other instrument. [2003 c 138 s 3.]

**RCW 35.92.430 Environmental mitigation activities.**

(1) A city or town authorized to acquire and operate utilities for the purpose of furnishing the city or town and its inhabitants and other persons with water, with electricity for lighting and other purposes, or with service from sewerage, stormwater, surface water, or solid waste handling facilities, may develop and make publicly available a plan to reduce its greenhouse gases emissions or achieve no-net emissions from all sources of greenhouse gases that the utility owns, leases, uses, contracts for, or otherwise controls.

(2) A city or town authorized to acquire and operate utilities for the purpose of furnishing the city or town and its inhabitants and

other persons with water, with electricity for lighting and other purposes, or with service from sewerage, stormwater, surface water, or solid waste handling facilities, may, as part of its utility operation, mitigate the environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gases emissions, of its operation, including any power purchases. The mitigation may include, but is not limited to, those greenhouse gases mitigation mechanisms recognized by independent, qualified organizations with proven experience in emissions mitigation activities. Mitigation mechanisms may include the purchase, trade, and banking of greenhouse gases offsets or credits. If a state greenhouse gases registry is established, a utility that has purchased, traded, or banked greenhouse gases mitigation mechanisms under this section shall receive credit in the registry. [2007 c 349 s 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2007 c 349 s 2:** "The legislature finds and declares that greenhouse gases offset contracts, credits, and other greenhouse gases mitigation efforts are a recognized utility purpose that confers a direct benefit on the utility's ratepayers. The legislature declares that section 2 of this act is intended to reverse the result of *Okeson v. City of Seattle* (January 18, 2007), by expressly granting municipal utilities the statutory authority to engage in mitigation activities to offset their utility's impact on the environment." [2007 c 349 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.440 Production and distribution of biodiesel, ethanol, and ethanol blend fuels—Crop purchase contracts for dedicated energy crops.** In addition to any other authority provided by law, municipal utilities are authorized to produce and distribute biodiesel, ethanol, and ethanol blend fuels, including entering into crop purchase contracts for a dedicated energy crop for the purpose of generating electricity or producing biodiesel produced from Washington feedstocks, cellulosic ethanol, and cellulosic ethanol blend fuels for use in internal operations of the electric utility and for sale or distribution. [2007 c 348 s 209.]

**Findings—2007 c 348:** See RCW 43.325.005.

**RCW 35.92.445 Green electrolytic hydrogen and renewable hydrogen—Power to produce, distribute, and use.** (1) A city or town that acquires and operates transportation facilities as a city transportation authority consistent with RCW 35.92.060 may:

(a) Produce, distribute, and use green electrolytic hydrogen and renewable hydrogen for internal operations;

(b) Produce, distribute for sale, or sell green electrolytic hydrogen and renewable hydrogen at wholesale or to an end-use customer; and

(c) (i) Sell green electrolytic hydrogen and renewable hydrogen at wholesale or to an end-use customer to or through facilities that distribute, compress, store, liquefy, or dispense green electrolytic hydrogen or renewable hydrogen for end use as a transportation fuel.

(ii) For the purposes of (c) (i) of this subsection, city transportation authorities may own, operate, or own and operate pipelines or dispensing facilities for green electrolytic hydrogen or renewable hydrogen for end use as a transportation fuel if all such



pipelines and dispensing facilities are: (A) Located in the area where the city transportation authority is authorized to provide public transportation service; (B) located within the area where the city transportation authority is authorized to provide public transportation service and are service connected; or (C) located within the area where the city transportation authority is authorized to provide public transportation service and are pursuant to a partnership or agreement with one or more public or private partners.

(2) Nothing in this section authorizes a city transportation authority to sell green electrolytic hydrogen or renewable hydrogen delivered by pipeline to an end-use customer of a gas company.

(3) Nothing in this section subjects a city transportation authority to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, except that the utilities and transportation commission may administer and enforce state and federal pipeline safety requirements, as authorized in chapter 81.88 RCW, including applicable fees payable to the utilities and transportation commission.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Green electrolytic hydrogen" has the same meaning provided in RCW 54.04.190.

(b) "Renewable hydrogen" has the same meaning provided in RCW 54.04.190.

(c) "Gas company" has the same meaning provided in RCW 80.04.010. [2023 c 234 s 3.]

#### **RCW 35.92.450 Electrification of transportation plan—**

**Considerations—Incentive programs.** (1) The governing authority of an electric utility formed under this chapter may adopt an electrification of transportation plan that, at a minimum, establishes a finding that utility outreach and investment in the electrification of transportation infrastructure does not increase net costs to ratepayers in excess of one-quarter of one percent.

(2) In adopting an electrification of transportation plan under subsection (1) of this section, the governing authority may consider some or all of the following: (a) The applicability of multiple options for electrification of transportation across all customer classes; (b) the impact of electrification on the utility's load, and whether demand response or other load management opportunities, including direct load control and dynamic pricing, are operationally appropriate; (c) system reliability and distribution system efficiencies; (d) interoperability concerns, including the interoperability of hardware and software systems in electrification of transportation proposals; and (e) overall customer experience.

(3) An electric utility formed under this chapter may, upon making a determination in accordance with subsection (1) of this section, offer incentive programs in the electrification of transportation for its customers, including the promotion of electric vehicle adoption and advertising programs to promote the utility's services, incentives, or rebates. [2019 c 109 s 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 287; 2019 c 109:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Programs for the electrification of transportation have the potential to allow electric utilities to optimize the use of electric

grid infrastructure, improve the management of electric loads, and better manage the integration of variable renewable energy resources. Depending upon each utility's unique circumstances, electrification of transportation programs may provide cost-effective energy efficiency, through more efficient use of energy resources, and more efficient use of the electric delivery system. Electrification of transportation may result in cost savings and benefits for all ratepayers.

(2) State policy can achieve the greatest return on investment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality by expediting the transition to alternative fuel vehicles, including electric vehicles. Potential benefits associated with electrification of transportation include the monetization of environmental attributes associated with carbon reduction in the transportation sector.

(3) Legislative clarity is important for utilities to offer programs and services, including incentives, in the electrification of transportation for their customers. It is the intent of the legislature to allow all utilities to support transportation electrification to further the state's policy goals and achieve parity among all electric utilities, so each electric utility, depending on its unique circumstances, can determine its appropriate role in the development of electrification of transportation infrastructure." [2019 c 287 s 4; 2019 c 109 s 1.]

**RCW 35.92.460 Utility fee or tax—Disclosure.** (1) Any city or town that operates its own water, sewer or wastewater, or stormwater utility and imposes a fee or tax on the gross revenue of such a utility shall disclose the fee or tax rate to its utility customers. Such disclosure shall include statements, as applicable, that "the amount billed includes a fee or tax up to . . . . (dollar amount or percentage) calculated on the gross revenue of the water utility; a fee or tax up to . . . . (dollar amount or percentage) calculated on gross revenue of the sewer or wastewater utility; a fee or tax up to . . . . (dollar amount or percentage) calculated on the gross revenue of the stormwater utility."

(2) The disclosures required by this section must occur through at least one of the following methods:

(a) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in written form;

(b) On the city or town's website, if the city or town provides written notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is available on its website; or

(c) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any subsequent tax rate change. [2020 c 135 s 1.]

**Chapter 35.94 RCW**  
**SALE OR LEASE OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.94.010 Authority to sell or let.
- 35.94.020 Procedure.
- 35.94.030 Execution of lease or conveyance.
- 35.94.040 Lease or sale of land or property originally acquired for public utility purposes.
- 35.94.050 Application of chapter to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70A.140 RCW.

**RCW 35.94.010 Authority to sell or let.** A city may lease for any term of years or sell and convey any public utility works, plant, or system owned by it or any part thereof, together with all or any equipment and appurtenances thereof. [1965 c 7 s 35.94.010. Prior: 1917 c 137 s 1; RRS s 9512. Cf. 1907 c 86 ss 1-3; 1897 c 106 ss 1-4. Formerly RCW 80.48.010.]

**RCW 35.94.020 Procedure.** The legislative authority of the city, if it deems it advisable to lease or sell the works, plant, or system, or any part thereof, shall adopt a resolution stating whether it desires to lease or sell. If it desires to lease, the resolution shall state the general terms and conditions of the lease, but not the rent. If it desires to sell the general terms of sale shall be stated, but not the price. The resolution shall direct the city clerk, or other proper official, to publish the resolution not less than once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the city, together with a notice calling for sealed bids to be filed with the clerk or other proper official not later than a certain time, accompanied by a certified check payable to the order of the city, for such amount as the resolution shall require, or a deposit of a like sum in money. Each bid shall state that the bidder agrees that if his or her bid is accepted and he or she fails to comply therewith within the time hereinafter specified, the check or deposit shall be forfeited to the city. If bids for a lease are called for, bidders shall bid the amount to be paid as the rent for each year of the term of the lease. If bids for a sale are called for, the bids shall state the price offered. The legislative authority of the city may reject any or all bids and accept any bid which it deems best. At the first meeting of the legislative authority of the city held after the expiration of the time fixed for receiving bids, or at some later meeting, the bids shall be considered. In order for the legislative authority to declare it advisable to accept any bid it shall be necessary for two-thirds of all the members elected to the legislative authority to vote in favor of a resolution making the declaration. If the resolution is adopted it shall be necessary, in order that the bid be accepted, to enact an ordinance accepting it and directing the execution of a lease or conveyance by the mayor and city clerk or other proper official. The ordinance shall not take effect until it has been submitted to the voters of the city for their approval or rejection at the next general election or at a special election called for that purpose, and a majority of the voters voting thereon have approved it. If approved it shall take effect as soon as the result of the vote is proclaimed by

the mayor. If it is so submitted and fails of approval, it shall be rejected and annulled. The mayor shall proclaim the vote as soon as it is properly certified. [2009 c 549 s 2133; 1985 c 469 s 40; 1965 c 7 s 35.94.020. Prior: 1917 c 137 s 2; RRS s 9513. Cf. 1907 c 86 ss 1-3; 1897 c 106 ss 1-4. Formerly RCW 80.48.020.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**RCW 35.94.030 Execution of lease or conveyance.** Upon the taking effect of the ordinance the mayor and the city clerk or other proper official shall execute, in the name and on behalf of the city, the lease or conveyance directed thereby. The lessee or grantee shall accept and execute the instrument within ten days after notice of its execution by the city or forfeit to the city, the amount of the check or deposit accompanying his or her bid: PROVIDED, That if litigation in good faith is instituted within ten days to determine the rights of the parties, no forfeiture shall take place unless the lessee or grantee fails for five days after the termination of the litigation in favor of the city to accept and execute the lease or conveyance. [2009 c 549 s 2134; 1965 c 7 s 35.94.030. Prior: 1917 c 137 s 3; RRS s 9514. Cf. 1907 c 86 ss 1-3; 1897 c 106 ss 1-4. Formerly RCW 80.48.030.]

**RCW 35.94.040 Lease or sale of land or property originally acquired for public utility purposes.** (1) Whenever a city shall determine, by resolution of its legislative authority, that any lands, property, or equipment originally acquired for public utility purposes is surplus to the city's needs and is not required for providing continued public utility service and, in the case of personal property or equipment, has an estimated value of greater than fifty thousand dollars, then such legislative authority by resolution and after a public hearing may cause such lands, property, or equipment to be leased, sold, or conveyed. Such resolution shall state the fair market value or the rent or consideration to be paid and such other terms and conditions for such disposition as the legislative authority deems to be in the best public interest.

(2) The provisions of RCW 35.94.020 and 35.94.030 shall not apply to dispositions authorized by this section. The provisions of this section and RCW 35.94.020 and 35.94.030 shall not apply to the disposition of any personal property or equipment originally acquired for public utility purposes that is surplus to the city's needs and is not required for providing continued public utility service and has an estimated value of fifty thousand dollars or less.

(3) This section does not apply to property transferred, leased, or otherwise disposed in accordance with RCW 39.33.015. [2020 c 31 s 1; 2018 c 217 s 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 95 s 1.]

**RCW 35.94.050 Application of chapter to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70A.140 RCW.** This chapter does not apply to dispositions of utility property in connection with an agreement entered into pursuant to chapter 70A.140 RCW provided there is compliance with the procurement procedure under RCW 70A.140.040. [2020 c 20 s 1015; 1986 c 244 s 11.]

**Chapter 35.95 RCW**  
**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN MUNICIPALITIES**

**Sections**

- 35.95.010 Declaration of intent and purpose.
- 35.95.020 Definitions.
- 35.95.030 Appropriation of funds for transportation systems authorized—Referendum.
- 35.95.040 Levy and collection of excise taxes authorized—Business and occupation tax—Excise tax on residents—Appropriation and use of proceeds—Voter approval.
- 35.95.050 Collection of tax—Billing.
- 35.95.060 Funds derived from taxes—Restrictions on classification, etc.
- 35.95.070 Purchase of leased public transportation system—Purchase price.
- 35.95.080 Referendum rights not impaired.
- 35.95.090 Corporate authorities may refer ordinance levying tax to voters.
- 35.95.100 Public transportation systems.

*Contracts between political subdivisions for services or use of public transportation systems: RCW 39.33.050.*

*Local sales and use taxes for financing public transportation systems: RCW 82.14.045 through 82.14.060.*

*Public transportation systems: RCW 35.58.272 through 35.58.2794.*

**RCW 35.95.010 Declaration of intent and purpose.** We, the legislature find that an increasing number of municipally owned, or leased, and operated transportation systems in the urban areas of the state of Washington, as in the nation, are finding it impossible, from the revenues derived from tolls, tariffs and fares, to maintain the financial solvency of such systems, and as a result thereof such municipalities have been forced to subsidize such systems to the detriment of other essential public services.

All persons in a community benefit from a solvent and adequate public transportation system, either directly or indirectly, and the responsibility of financing the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of such systems is a community obligation and responsibility which should be shared by all.

We further find and declare that the maintenance and operation of an adequate public transportation system is an absolute necessity and is essential to the economic, industrial and cultural growth, development and prosperity of a municipality and of the state and nation, and to protect the health and welfare of the residents of such municipalities and the public in general.

We further find and declare that the appropriation of general funds and levying and collection of taxes by such municipalities as authorized in the succeeding sections of this chapter is necessary, and any funds so derived and expended are for a public purpose for which public funds may properly be used. [1969 ex.s. c 255 s 1; 1965 ex.s. c 111 s 1.]

**Construction—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 255:** See notes following RCW 35.58.272.

**RCW 35.95.020 Definitions.** The following terms however used or referred to in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless a different meaning is required by the context:

(1) "Corporate authority" shall mean the council or other legislative body of a municipality.

(2) "Municipality" shall mean any incorporated city, town, county pursuant to RCW 36.57.100 and 36.57.110, any county transportation authority created pursuant to chapter 36.57 RCW, any public transportation benefit area created pursuant to chapter 36.57A RCW, or any metropolitan municipal corporation created pursuant to RCW 35.58.010, et seq: PROVIDED, That the term "municipality" shall mean in respect to any county performing the public transportation function pursuant to RCW 36.57.100 and 36.57.110 only that portion of the unincorporated area lying wholly within such unincorporated transportation benefit area.

(3) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, school district or political subdivision of the state, fraternal, benevolent, religious or charitable society, club or organization, and shall include any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other person acting in a similar representative capacity. The term "person" shall not be construed to include the United States nor the state of Washington. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 255 s 2; 1967 ex.s. c 145 s 65; 1965 ex.s. c 111 s 2.]

**Severability—Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 270:** See notes following RCW 35.58.272.

**Severability—Construction—1969 ex.s. c 255:** See notes following RCW 35.58.272.

**RCW 35.95.030 Appropriation of funds for transportation systems authorized—Referendum.** The corporate authorities of any municipality are authorized to appropriate general funds for the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of municipally owned or leased and municipally operated public transportation systems subject to the right of referendum as provided by statute or charter. [1965 ex.s. c 111 s 3.]

**RCW 35.95.040 Levy and collection of excise taxes authorized—Business and occupation tax—Excise tax on residents—Appropriation and use of proceeds—Voter approval.** The corporate authorities of a municipality are authorized to adopt ordinances for the levy and collection of excise taxes and/or for the imposition of an additional tax for the act or privilege of engaging in business activities. Such business and occupation tax shall be imposed in such amounts as fixed and determined by the corporate authorities of the municipality and shall be measured by the application of rates against value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income of the business, as the case may be. The terms "business", "engaging in business", "gross

proceeds of sales", and "gross income of the business" shall for the purpose of this chapter have the same meanings as defined and set forth in chapter 82.04 RCW or as said chapter may hereafter be amended.

The excise taxes other than the business and occupation tax above provided for shall be levied and collected from all persons within the municipality in such amounts as shall be fixed and determined by the corporate authorities of the municipality: PROVIDED, That such excise tax shall not exceed one dollar per month for each housing unit. For the purposes of this section, the term "housing unit" shall mean a building or portion thereof designed for or used as the residence or living quarters of one or more persons living together, or of one family.

All taxes herein authorized shall be taxes other than a retail sales tax defined in chapter 82.08 RCW and a use tax defined in chapter 82.12 RCW, and the municipality shall appropriate and use the proceeds derived from all taxes authorized herein only for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of its municipally owned or leased and municipally operated public transportation system.

Before any county transportation authority established pursuant to chapter 36.57 RCW or any public transportation benefit area authority established pursuant to chapter 36.57A RCW may impose any of the excise taxes authorized pursuant to this section, the authorization for imposition of such taxes shall be approved by the voters residing within such respective area.

The county on behalf of an unincorporated transportation benefit area established pursuant to RCW 36.57.100 and 36.57.110 may impose any of the excise taxes authorized pursuant to this section only within the boundaries of such unincorporated transportation benefit area. [1975 1st ex.s. c 270 s 4; 1965 ex.s. c 111 s 4.]

**Severability—Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 270:** See notes following RCW 35.58.272.

*Municipal taxation of motor carriers of freight for hire: RCW 35.21.840.*

**RCW 35.95.050 Collection of tax—Billing.** The tax levied under the provisions of RCW 35.95.040 shall be billed and collected at such times and in the manner fixed and determined by the corporate authorities in an ordinance levying the tax: PROVIDED, That the tax shall be designated and identified as a tax to be used solely for the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of the municipally owned or leased and municipally operated public transit system: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the corporate authorities may in connection with municipally owned or leased transit systems enter into contracts covering the operation and maintenance of such systems, including the employment of personnel. [1967 ex.s. c 145 s 66; 1965 ex.s. c 111 s 5.]

**RCW 35.95.060 Funds derived from taxes—Restrictions on classification, etc.** No funds derived from any tax levied under the provisions of this chapter shall, for any purpose whatsoever, be classified as or constitute income, earnings, or revenue of the public

transportation system for which the tax is levied nor of any other public utility owned or leased and operated by such municipality; nor shall such funds constitute or be classified as any part of the rate structure or rate charged for the public utility. [1965 ex.s. c 111 s 6.]

**RCW 35.95.070 Purchase of leased public transportation system—Purchase price.** In the event the corporate authorities of any municipality during the term of a lease or any renewal thereof of a public transportation system desire to purchase the said system, the purchase price shall be no greater than the fair market value of the said system at the commencement of the lease. [1965 ex.s. c 111 s 7.]

*Authority to acquire and operate transportation facilities: RCW 35.92.060.*

**RCW 35.95.080 Referendum rights not impaired.** Nothing contained in this chapter nor the provisions of any city charter shall prevent a referendum on any ordinance or action adopted or taken by any municipality under the provisions of this chapter. [1965 ex.s. c 111 s 8.]

**RCW 35.95.090 Corporate authorities may refer ordinance levying tax to voters.** The corporate authorities of a municipality adopting an ordinance for the levy and collection of an excise tax or additional tax as provided in RCW 35.95.040 may refer such ordinance to the voters of the municipality before making such ordinance effective. [1967 ex.s. c 145 s 67.]

**RCW 35.95.100 Public transportation systems.** See RCW 35.58.272 through 35.58.2794.



**Chapter 35.95A RCW**  
**CITY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY—MONORAIL TRANSPORTATION**

**Sections**

35.95A.010	Definitions.
35.95A.020	Creation of authority—Vote of the people.
35.95A.030	Creation by ordinance—Proposal by petition.
35.95A.040	Authority subject to standard requirements of governmental entity.
35.95A.050	Powers.
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**RCW 35.95A.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authority" means a city transportation authority created pursuant to chapter 248, Laws of 2002.

(2) "Authority area" means the territory within a city as designated in the ordinance creating the authority.

(3) "Bonds" means bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness.

(4) "Public monorail transportation function" means the transportation of passengers and their incidental baggage by means of public monorail transportation facilities as authorized in this chapter.

(5) "Public monorail transportation facilities" means a transportation system that utilizes train cars running on a guideway, together with the necessary passenger stations, terminals, parking facilities, related facilities or other properties, and facilities necessary and appropriate for passenger and vehicular access to and from people-moving systems, not including fixed guideway light rail systems.

(6) "Qualified elector" means any person registered to vote within the city boundaries. [2002 c 248 s 1.]

**RCW 35.95A.020 Creation of authority—Vote of the people.** (1) A city transportation authority to perform a public monorail transportation function may be created in every city with a population greater than three hundred thousand to perform a public monorail transportation function. The authority shall embrace all the territory in the authority area. A city transportation authority is a municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article 7, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article 7, section 2 of the state Constitution.

(2) Any city transportation authority and proposed taxes established pursuant to this chapter, either by ordinance or petition as provided in this chapter, must be approved by a majority vote of the electors residing within the proposed authority area voting at a regular or special election. [2002 c 248 s 2.]

**RCW 35.95A.030 Creation by ordinance—Proposal by petition. (1)**

A city that undertakes to propose creation of an authority must propose the authority by ordinance of the city legislative body. The ordinance must:

(a) Propose the authority area and the size and method of selection of the governing body of the authority, which governing body may be appointed or elected, provided that officers or employees of any single city government body may not compose a majority of the members of the authority's governing body;

(b) Propose whether all or a specified portion of the public monorail transportation function will be exercised by the authority;

(c) Propose an initial array of taxes to be voted upon by the electors within the proposed authority area; and

(d) Provide for an interim governing body of the authority which will govern the authority upon voter approval of formation of the authority, until a permanent governing body is selected, but in no event longer than fourteen months.

(2) An authority may also be proposed to be created by a petition setting forth the matters described in subsection (1) of this section, and signed by one percent of the qualified electors of the proposed authority area.

(3) Upon approval by the qualified electors of the formation of the city transportation authority and any proposed taxes, either by ordinance or by petition as provided in this chapter, the governing body of an authority, or interim governing body, as applicable, will adopt bylaws determining, among other things, the authority's officers and the method of their selection, and other matters the governing body deems appropriate. [2002 c 248 s 3.]

**RCW 35.95A.040 Authority subject to standard requirements of governmental entity.** The authority is subject to all standard requirements of a governmental entity pursuant to RCW 35.21.759. [2002 c 248 s 4.]

**RCW 35.95A.050 Powers.** Every authority has the following powers:

(1) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate, and regulate the use of public monorail transportation facilities, including passenger terminal and parking facilities and properties, and other facilities and properties as may be necessary for passenger and vehicular access to and from public monorail transportation facilities, together with all lands, rights-of-way, and property within or outside the authority area, and together with equipment and accessories necessary or appropriate for these facilities, except that property, including but not limited to other types of public transportation facilities, that is owned by any city, county, county

transportation authority, public transportation benefit area, metropolitan municipal corporation, or regional transit authority may be acquired or used by an authority only with the consent of the public entity owning the property. The entities are authorized to convey or lease property to an authority or to contract for their joint use on terms fixed by agreement between the entity and the authority;

(2) To fix rates, tolls, fares, and charges for the use of facilities and to establish various routes and classes of service. Rates, tolls, fares, or charges may be adjusted or eliminated for any distinguishable class of users including, but not limited to, senior citizens and persons with disabilities;

(3) To contract with the United States or any of its agencies, any state or any of its agencies, any metropolitan municipal corporation, and other country, city, other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality, or governmental agency, or any private person, firm, or corporation for the purpose of receiving any gifts or grants or securing loans or advances for preliminary planning and feasibility studies, or for the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of public monorail transportation facilities as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary, and in addition to any other authority provided by law, the governing body of a city transportation authority may contract with one or more vendors for the design, construction, operation, or maintenance, or other service related to the development of a monorail public transportation system including, but not limited to, monorail trains, operating systems and control equipment, guideways, and pylons, together with the necessary passenger stations, terminals, parking facilities, and other related facilities necessary and appropriate for passenger and vehicular access to and from the monorail train.

(b) If the governing body of the city transportation authority decides to proceed with the consideration of qualifications or proposals for services from qualified vendors, the authority must publish notice of its requirements and request submission of qualifications statements or proposals. The notice must be published in the official newspaper of the city creating the authority at least once a week for two weeks, not less than sixty days before the final date for the submission of qualifications statements or proposals. The notice must state in summary form: (i) The general scope and nature of the design, construction, operation, maintenance, or other services being sought related to the development of the proposed monorail, tram, or trolley public transportation system; (ii) the name and address of a representative of the city transportation authority who can provide further details; (iii) the final date for the submission of qualifications statements or proposals; (iv) an estimated schedule for the consideration of qualifications statements or proposals, the selection of vendors, and the negotiation of a contract or contracts for services; (v) the location of which a copy of any requests for qualifications statements or requests for proposals will be made available; and (vi) the criteria established by the governing body of the authority to select a vendor or vendors, which may include, but is not limited to, the vendor's prior experience, including design, construction, operation, or maintenance of other similar public transportation facilities, respondent's management capabilities, proposed project schedule, availability and financial resources, costs of the services to be provided, nature of facility design proposed by the vendors, system reliability, performance standards required for

the facilities, compatibility with existing public transportation facilities operated by the authority or any other public body or other providers of similar services to the public, project performance guarantees, penalties, and other enforcement provisions, environmental protection measures to be used by the vendor, consistency with the applicable regional transportation plans, and the proposed allocation of project risks.

(c) If the governing body of the city transportation authority decides to proceed with the consideration of qualifications statements or proposals submitted by vendors, it may designate a representative to evaluate the vendors who submitted qualifications statements or proposals and conduct discussions regarding qualifications or proposals with one or more vendors. The governing body or its representative may request submission of qualifications statements and may later request more detailed proposals from one or more vendors who have submitted qualifications statements, or may request detailed proposals without having first received and evaluated qualifications statements. The governing body or its representative will evaluate the qualifications or proposals, as applicable. If two or more vendors submit qualifications or proposals that meet the criteria established by the governing body of the authority, discussions and interviews must be held with at least two vendors. Any revisions to a request for qualifications or request for proposals must be made available to all vendors then under consideration by the governing body of the authority and must be made available to any other person who has requested receipt of that information.

(d) Based on the criteria established by the governing body of the authority, the representative will recommend to the governing body a vendor or vendors that are initially determined to be the best qualified to provide one or more of the design, construction, operation or maintenance, or other service related to the development of the proposed monorail public transportation system.

(e) The governing body of the authority or its representative may attempt to negotiate a contract with the vendor or vendors selected for one or more of the design, construction, operation or maintenance, or other service related to the development of the proposed monorail public transportation system on terms that the governing body of the authority determines to be fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the authority. If the governing body, or its representative, is unable to negotiate a contract with any one or more of the vendors first selected on terms that it determines to be fair and reasonable and in the best interest of the authority, negotiations with any one or more of the vendors must be terminated or suspended and another qualified vendor or vendors may be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section. If the governing body decides to continue the process of selection, negotiations will continue with a qualified vendor or vendors in accordance with this section at the sole discretion of the governing body of the authority until an agreement is reached with one or more qualified vendors, or the process is terminated by the governing body. The process may be repeated until an agreement is reached.

(f) Prior to entering into a contract with a vendor, the governing body of the authority must make written findings, after holding a public hearing on the proposal, that it is in the public interest to enter into the contract, that the contract is financially sound, and that it is advantageous for the governing body of the authority to use this method for awarding contracts for one or more of

the design, construction, or operation or maintenance of the proposed monorail public transportation system as compared to all other methods of awarding such contracts.

(g) Each contract must include a project performance bond or bonds or other security by the vendor.

(h) The provisions of chapters 39.12 and 39.19 RCW apply to a contract entered into under this section as if the public transportation systems and facilities were owned by a public body.

(i) The vendor selection process permitted by this section is supplemental to and is not construed as a repeal of or limitation on any other authority granted by law.

(j) Contracts for the construction of facilities, other than contracts for facilities to be provided by the selected vendor, with an estimated cost greater than two hundred thousand dollars must be awarded after a competitive bid process consistent with chapter 39.04 RCW or awarded through an alternative public works contracting procedure consistent with chapter 39.10 RCW;

(4) To contract with the United States or any of its agencies, any state or any of its agencies, any metropolitan municipal corporation, any other county, city, other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality, any governmental agency, or any private person, firm, or corporation for the use by either contracting party of all or any part of the facilities, structures, lands, interests in lands, air rights over lands, and rights-of-way of all kinds which are owned, leased, or held by the other party and for the purpose of planning, designing, constructing, operating any public transportation facility, or performing any service related to transportation which the authority is authorized to operate or perform, on terms as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties;

(5) To acquire any existing public transportation facility by conveyance, sale, or lease. In any acquisition from a county, city, or other political subdivision of the state, the authority will receive credit from the county or city or other political subdivision for any federal assistance and state matching assistance used by the county or city or other political subdivision in acquiring any portion of the public transportation facility. Upon acquisition, the authority must assume and observe all existing labor contracts relating to the public transportation facility and, to the extent necessary for operation of the public transportation facility, all of the employees of the public transportation facility whose duties are necessary to efficiently operate the public transportation facility must be appointed to comparable positions to those which they held at the time of the transfer, and no employee or retired or pensioned employee of the public transportation facility will be placed in any worse position with respect to pension seniority, wages, sick leave, vacation, or other benefits than he or she enjoyed as an employee of the public transportation facility prior to the acquisition. Furthermore, the authority must engage in collective bargaining with the duly appointed representatives of any employee labor organization having existing contracts with the acquired facility and may enter into labor contracts with the employee labor organization;

(6) To contract for, participate in, and support research, demonstration, testing, and development of public monorail transportation facilities, equipment, and use incentives, and have all powers necessary to comply with any criteria, standards, and regulations which may be adopted under state and federal law, and to take all actions necessary to meet the requirements of those laws. The

authority has, in addition to these powers, the authority to prepare, adopt, and carry out a comprehensive public monorail plan and to make other plans and studies and to perform programs as the authority deems necessary to implement and comply with those laws;

(7) To establish local improvement districts within the authority area to finance public monorail transportation facilities, to levy special assessments on property specially benefited by those facilities, and to issue local improvement bonds to be repaid by the collection of local improvement assessments. The method of establishment, levying, collection, enforcement, and all other matters relating to the local improvement districts, assessments, collection, and bonds are as provided in the statutes governing local improvement districts of cities and towns. The duties devolving upon the city treasurer in those statutes are imposed on the treasurer of the authority;

(8) To exercise all other powers necessary and appropriate to carry out its responsibilities, including without limitation the power to sue and be sued, to own, construct, purchase, lease, add to, and maintain any real and personal property or property rights necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the authority, to enter into contracts, and to employ the persons as the authority deems appropriate. An authority may also sell, lease, convey, or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property no longer necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the authority. [2020 c 274 s 16; 2002 c 248 s 5.]

**RCW 35.95A.060 Funds and accounts—Designation of treasurer.**

Each authority will establish necessary and appropriate funds and accounts consistent with the uniform system of accounts developed pursuant to RCW 43.09.210. The authority may designate a treasurer or may contract with any city with territory within the authority area for treasury and other financial functions. The city must be reimbursed for the expenses of treasury services. However, no city whose treasurer serves as treasurer of an authority is liable for the obligations of the authority. [2002 c 248 s 6.]

**RCW 35.95A.070 Excess levies—General obligation bonds—Revenue bonds.** Every authority has the power to:

(1) Levy excess levies upon the property included within the authority area, in the manner prescribed by Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution and by RCW 84.52.052 for operating funds, capital outlay funds, and cumulative reserve funds;

(2) Issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter-approved general obligation indebtedness equal to one and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the authority area, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. An authority may additionally issue general obligation bonds, together with outstanding voter-approved and nonvoter-approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the authority area, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when the bonds are approved by three-fifths of the qualified electors of the authority at a general or special election called for that purpose and may provide for the

retirement thereof by levies in excess of dollar rate limitations in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.52.056. These elections will be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050;

(3) Issue revenue bonds payable from any revenues other than taxes levied by the authority, and to pledge those revenues for the repayment of the bonds. Proceeds of revenue bonds may only be expended for the costs of public monorail transportation facilities, for financing costs, and for capitalized interest during construction plus six months thereafter. The bonds and warrants will be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

No bonds issued by an authority are obligations of any city, county, or the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof other than the authority, and the bonds will so state, unless the legislative authority of any city or county or the legislature expressly authorizes particular bonds to be either guaranteed by or obligations of its respective city or county or of the state. [2002 c 248 s 8.]

**RCW 35.95A.080 Special excise tax—Public hearings.** (1) Every authority has the power to levy and collect a special excise tax not exceeding two and one-half percent on the value of every motor vehicle owned by a resident of the authority area for the privilege of using a motor vehicle. Before utilization of any excise tax money collected under this section for acquisition of right-of-way or construction of a public monorail transportation facility on a separate right-of-way, the authority must adopt rules affording the public an opportunity for corridor public hearings and design public hearings, which provide in detail the procedures necessary for public participation in the following instances: (a) Prior to adoption of location and design plans having a substantial social, economic, or environmental effect upon the locality upon which they are to be constructed; or (b) on the public transportation facilities operating on a separate right-of-way whenever a substantial change is proposed relating to location or design in the adopted plan. In adopting rules the authority must adhere to the provisions of the administrative procedure act.

(2) A "corridor public hearing" is a public hearing that: (a) Is held before the authority is committed to a specific route proposal for the public transportation facility, and before a route location is established; (b) is held to afford an opportunity for participation by those interested in the determination of the need for, and the location of, the public transportation facility; and (c) provides a public forum that affords a full opportunity for presenting views on the public transportation facility route location, and the social, economic, and environmental effects on that location and alternate locations. However, the hearing is not deemed to be necessary before adoption of a transportation plan as provided in \*section 7 of this act or a vote of the qualified electors under subsection (5) of this section.

(3) A "design public hearing" is a public hearing that: (a) Is held after the location is established but before the design is adopted; (b) is held to afford an opportunity for participation by those interested in the determination of major design features of the public monorail transportation facility; and (c) provides a public forum to afford a full opportunity for presenting views on the public transportation system design, and the social, economic, and

environmental effects of that design and alternate designs, including people-mover technology.

(4) An authority imposing a tax under subsection (1) of this section may also impose a sales and use tax, in addition to any tax authorized by RCW 82.14.030, upon retail car rentals within the city that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The rate of tax must not exceed 1.944 percent of the base of the tax. The base of the tax will be the selling price in the case of a sales tax or the rental value of the vehicle used in the case of a use tax. The revenue collected under this subsection will be distributed in the same manner as sales and use taxes under chapter 82.14 RCW.

(5) Before any authority may impose any of the taxes authorized under this section, the authorization for imposition of the taxes must be approved by the qualified electors of the authority area. [2002 c 248 s 9.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 7 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

**RCW 35.95A.090 Vehicle license fees—Vote of the people.** (1)

Every authority has the power to fix and impose a fee, not to exceed one hundred dollars per vehicle, for each vehicle that is subject to relicensing tab fees under RCW 46.17.350(1) (a), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), or (n) through (q) and for each vehicle that is subject to RCW 46.17.355 with a scale weight of six thousand pounds or less, and that is determined by the department of licensing to be registered within the boundaries of the authority area. The department of licensing must provide an exemption from the fee for any vehicle the owner of which demonstrates is not operated within the authority area.

(2) The department of licensing will administer and collect the fee. The department will deduct a percentage amount, as provided by contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected, for administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds will be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer for monthly distribution to the authority.

(3) The authority imposing this fee will delay the effective date at least six months from the date the fee is approved by the qualified voters of the authority area to allow the department of licensing to implement administration and collection of the fee.

(4) Before any authority may impose any of the fees authorized under this section, the authorization for imposition of the fees must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the authority area voting. [2010 c 161 s 901; 2002 c 248 s 10.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**RCW 35.95A.100 Property tax levies.** (1) Every authority has the power to impose annual regular property tax levies in an amount equal to one dollar and fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of assessed value of property in the authority area when specifically authorized to do so by a majority of the voters voting on a proposition submitted at a special election or at the regular election of the authority. A proposition authorizing the tax levies will not be submitted by an



authority more than twice in any twelve-month period. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW 29A.36.210. The number of years during which the regular levy will be imposed may be limited as specified in the ballot proposition or may be unlimited in duration. In the event an authority is levying property taxes, which in combination with property taxes levied by other taxing districts subject to the limitations provided in RCW 84.52.043 and 84.52.050, exceed these limitations, the authority's property tax levy shall be reduced or eliminated consistent with RCW 84.52.010.

(2) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first levy imposed under this section following the approval of the levies by the voters under subsection (1) of this section. [2015 c 53 s 46; 2002 c 248 s 11.]

**RCW 35.95A.110 Taxes and fees—Limitation on use.** All taxes and fees levied and collected by an authority must be used solely for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of acquiring, designing, constructing, equipping, maintaining, or operating public monorail transportation facilities or contracting for the services thereof, or to pay or secure the payment of all or part of the principal of or interest on any general obligation bonds or revenue bonds issued for authority purposes. Until expended, money accumulated in the funds and accounts of an authority may be invested in the manner authorized by the governing body of the authority, consistent with state law.

If any of the revenue from any tax or fee authorized to be levied by an authority has been pledged by the authority to secure the payment of any bonds as herein authorized, then as long as that pledge is in effect the legislature will not withdraw from the authority the authorization to levy and collect the tax or fee. [2002 c 248 s 12.]

**RCW 35.95A.120 Dissolution of authority.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the city transportation authority may be dissolved by a vote of the people residing within the boundaries of the authority if the authority is faced with significant financial problems. However, the authority may covenant with holders of its bonds that it may not be dissolved and shall continue to exist solely for the purpose of continuing to levy and collect any taxes or assessments levied by it and pledged to the repayment of debt and to take other actions, including the appointment of a trustee, as necessary to allow it to repay any remaining debt. No such debt may be incurred by the authority on a project until thirty days after a final environmental impact statement on that project has been issued as required by chapter 43.21C RCW. The amount of the authority's initial bond issue is limited to the amount of the project costs in the subsequent two years as documented by a certified engineer or by submitted bids, plus any reimbursable capital expenses already incurred at the time of the bond issue. The authority may size the first bond issue consistent with the internal revenue service five-year spend down schedule if an independent financial advisor recommends such an approach is financially advisable. Any referendum petition to dissolve the city transportation authority must be filed with the city council and contain provisions for dissolution of the authority. Within seven days, the city prosecutor must review the validity of the petition and submit its report to the petitioner and

city council. If the petitioner's claims are deemed valid by the city prosecutor, within ten days of the petitioner's filing, the city council will confer with the petitioner concerning the form and style of the petition, issue an identification number for the petition, and write a ballot title for the measure. The ballot title must be posed as a question and an affirmative vote on the measure results in authority retention and a negative vote on the measure results in the authority's dissolution. The petitioner will be notified of the identification number and ballot title within this ten-day period.

After this notification, the petitioner has ninety days in which to secure on petition forms, the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters in the authority area and to file the signed petitions with the filing officer. Each petition form must contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer will verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petitions. If sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, the filing officer shall submit the initiative to the authority area voters at a general or special election held on one of the dates provided in RCW 29A.04.321 as determined by the city council, which election will not take place later than one hundred twenty days after the signed petition has been filed with the filing officer.

(2) A city transportation authority is dissolved and terminated if all of the following events occur before or after July 22, 2007:

(a) A majority of the qualified electors voting at a regular or special election determine that new public monorail transportation facilities must not be built;

(b) The governing body of the authority adopts a resolution and publishes a notice of the proposed dissolution at least once every week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the authority area. The resolution and notice must:

(i) Describe information that must be included in a notice of claim against the authority including, but not limited to, any claims for refunds of special motor vehicle excise tax levied under RCW 35.95A.080 and collected by or on behalf of the authority;

(ii) Provide a mailing address where a notice of claim may be sent;

(iii) State the deadline, which must be at least ninety days from the date of the third publication, by which the authority must receive a notice of claim; and

(iv) State that a claim will be barred if a notice of claim is not received by the deadline;

(c) The authority resolves all claims timely made under (b) of this subsection; and

(d) The governing body adopts a resolution (i) finding that the conditions of (a) through (c) of this subsection have been met and (ii) dissolving and terminating the authority.

(3) A claim against a city transportation authority is barred if (a) a claimant does not deliver a notice of claim to the authority by the deadline stated in subsection (2)(b)(iii) of this section or (b) a claimant whose claim was rejected by the authority does not commence a proceeding to enforce the claim within sixty days from receipt of the rejection notice. For purposes of this subsection, "claim" includes, but is not limited to, any right to payment, whether liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured, or the right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if the breach gives rise

to a right to payment, whether or not the right to an equitable remedy is fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured, including, but not limited to, any claim for a refund of special motor vehicle excise tax levied under RCW 35.95A.080 and collected by or on behalf of the authority.

(4) The governing body of the authority may transfer any net assets to one or more other political subdivisions with instructions as to their use or disposition. The governing body shall authorize this transfer in the resolution that dissolves and terminates the authority under subsection (2)(d) of this section.

(5) Upon the dissolution and termination of the authority, the former officers, directors, employees, and agents of the authority shall be immune from personal liability in connection with any claims brought against them arising from or relating to their service to the authority, and any claim brought against any of them is barred.

(6) Upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section, the terms of all members of the governing body of the city transportation authority, whether elected or appointed, who are serving as of the date of the adoption of the resolution described in subsection (2)(b) of this section, shall be extended, and incumbent governing body members shall remain in office until dissolution of the authority, notwithstanding any provision of any law to the contrary. [2007 c 516 s 12; 2003 c 147 s 14; 2002 c 248 s 13.]

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 516:** See note following RCW 47.01.011.

**Effective date—2003 c 147:** See note following RCW 47.10.861.

**RCW 35.95A.130 Special excise tax—Collection.** The special excise tax imposed under RCW 35.95A.080(1) will be collected at the same time and in the same manner as relicensing tab fees under RCW 46.17.350(1) (a), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), and (n) through (q) and 35.95A.090. Every year on January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st the department of licensing shall remit special excise taxes collected on behalf of an authority, back to the authority, at no cost to the authority. Valuation of motor vehicles for purposes of the special excise tax imposed under RCW 35.95A.080(1) must be consistent with chapter 82.44 RCW. [2010 c 161 s 902; 2002 c 248 s 14.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**RCW 35.95A.140 Requirements for signage.** Each authority shall incorporate in plans for stations along any monorail project signing that is easily understood by the traveling public, including, but not limited to, persons with disabilities, non-English-speaking persons, and visitors from other nations. The signage must employ graphics consistent with international symbols for transportation facilities and signage that are consistent with department of transportation guidelines and programs. The signage must also use distinguishing pictograms as a means to identify stations and points of interest

along the monorail corridor for persons who use languages that are not Roman-alphabet based. These requirements are intended to apply to new sign installation and not to existing signs. The authority may replace existing signs as it chooses; however, it shall use the new signing designs when existing signs are replaced. All signage must comply with requirements of applicable federal law and may include recommendations contained in federal publications providing directions on way-finding for persons with disabilities. [2005 c 19 s 2.]

**Intent—Findings—2005 c 19:** "It is the intent of the legislature to promote the use of icons and pictograms that incorporate the use of commonly accepted symbols that can be understood and interpreted by a variety of people from all walks of life and different nations in order to assist them in the navigation of this state. These signs can be used on roadways and for other transportation-related facilities such as transit stations, airports, bus and train stations, and ferry terminals. Pictograms are signs that depict services, facilities, or destinations in picture form and are used throughout the world. Pictograms are useful for traveling within a transit system as well as for locating transit system stations and stops.

The legislature finds that many signing methods such as icons, already in use by the Washington state department of transportation and other agencies, facilitate use of the transportation systems in the state and connections between modes. The legislature also finds that the development of pictograms for use within transit systems will assist system users, complement other signing methods, and increase transit system ridership through easier way-finding. The pictograms may reflect the unique characteristics of the facility, and those characteristics should be considered and are acceptable in icon and pictogram design. It is the intent of the legislature to have icons and pictograms in use as new systems are put into service to promote tourism and be in place by 2010 to assist international visitors coming to Washington during the Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada." [2005 c 19 s 1.]

**Chapter 35.96 RCW**  
**ELECTRIC AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES—CONVERSION TO UNDERGROUND**

**Sections**

- 35.96.010 Declaration of public interest and purpose.  
35.96.020 Definitions.  
35.96.030 Conversion of electric and communication facilities to underground facilities authorized—Local improvement districts—Special assessments.  
35.96.040 Contracts for conversion—Authorized—Provisions.  
35.96.050 Notice to owners to convert service lines to underground—Objections—Hearing—Time limitation for conversion.  
35.96.060 Application of provisions relating to local improvements in cities and towns to chapter.  
35.96.070 Validation of preexisting debts, contracts, obligations, etc., made or incurred incidental to conversion of electric and communication facilities to underground facilities.  
35.96.080 Authority granted deemed alternative and additional.

*Counties, conversion of overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities: RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.480.*

*Local improvements for underground utilities transmission lines: RCW 35.43.040 (12).*

**RCW 35.96.010 Declaration of public interest and purpose.** It is hereby found and declared that the conversion of overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities is substantially beneficial to the public safety and welfare, is in the public interest and is a public purpose, notwithstanding any resulting incidental private benefit to any electric or communication utility affected by such conversion. [1967 c 119 s 2.]

**RCW 35.96.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless specifically defined otherwise, or unless the context indicates otherwise:

"Conversion area" means that area in which existing overhead electric and communication facilities are to be converted to underground facilities pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

"Electric utility" means any publicly or privately owned utility engaged in the business of furnishing electric energy to the public in all or part of the conversion area and includes electrical companies as defined by RCW 80.04.010 and public utility districts.

"Communication utility" means any utility engaged in the business of affording telephonic, telegraphic, cable television or other communication service to the public in all or part of the conversion area and includes telephone companies and telegraph companies as defined by RCW 80.04.010. [1967 c 119 s 3.]

**RCW 35.96.030 Conversion of electric and communication facilities to underground facilities authorized—Local improvement**

**districts—Special assessments.** Every city or town shall have the power to convert existing overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities pursuant to RCW 35.43.190 where such facilities are owned or operated by the city or town. Where such facilities are not so owned or operated, every city or town shall have the power to contract with electric and communication utilities, as hereinafter provided, for the conversion of existing overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities. To provide funds to pay the whole or any part of the cost of any such conversion, either where the existing overhead electric and communication facilities are owned or operated by the city or town or where they are not so owned or operated, every city or town shall have the power to create local improvement districts and to levy and collect special assessments against the real property specially benefited by such conversion. For the purpose of ascertaining the amount to be assessed against each lot or parcel of land within any local improvement district established pursuant to this chapter, in addition to other methods provided by law for apportioning special benefits, the legislative authority of any city or town may apportion all or part of the special benefits accruing on a square footage basis or on a per lot basis. [1967 c 119 s 4.]

**RCW 35.96.040 Contracts for conversion—Authorized—Provisions.**

Every city or town shall have the power to contract with electric and communication utilities for the conversion of existing overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities including all work incidental to such conversion. Such contracts may include, among other provisions, any of the following:

(1) For the supplying and approval by electric and communication utilities of plans and specifications for such conversion;

(2) For the payment to the electric and communication utilities for any work performed or services rendered by it in connection with the conversion project;

(3) For the payment to the electric and communication utilities for the value of the overhead facilities removed pursuant to the conversion;

(4) For ownership of the underground facilities by the electric and communication utilities. [1967 c 119 s 5.]

**RCW 35.96.050 Notice to owners to convert service lines to underground—Objections—Hearing—Time limitation for conversion.** When service from the underground electric and communication facilities is available in all or part of a conversion area, the city or town shall mail a notice to the owners of all structures or improvements served from the existing overhead facilities in the area, which notice shall state that:

(1) Service from the underground facilities is available;

(2) All electric and communication service lines from the existing overhead facilities within the area to any structure or improvement must be disconnected and removed within ninety days after the date of the mailing of the notice;

(3) Should such owner fail to convert such service lines from overhead to underground within ninety days after the date of the

mailing of the notice, the city or town will order the electric and communication utilities to disconnect and remove the service lines;

(4) Should the owner object to the disconnection and removal of the service lines he or she may file his or her written objections thereto with the city or town clerk within thirty days after the date of the mailing of the notice and failure to so object within such time will constitute a waiver of his or her right thereafter to object to such disconnection and removal.

If the owner of any structure or improvement served from the existing overhead electric and communication facilities within a conversion area shall fail to convert to underground the service lines from such overhead facilities to such structure or improvement within ninety days after the mailing to him or her of the notice, the city or town shall order the electric and communication utilities to disconnect and remove all such service lines: PROVIDED, That if the owner has filed his or her written objections to such disconnection and removal with the city or town clerk within thirty days after the mailing of the notice then the city or town shall not order such disconnection and removal until after the hearing on such objections.

Upon the timely filing by the owner of objections to the disconnection and removal of the service lines, the legislative authority of such city or town, or a committee thereof, shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the removal of all or any part of the service lines is in the public benefit. The hearing shall be held at such time as the legislative authority of such city or town may establish for hearings on the objections and shall be held in accordance with the regularly established procedure set by the legislative authority of the city or town. If the hearing is before a committee, the committee shall following the hearing report its recommendation to the legislative authority of the city or town for final action. The determination reached by the legislative authority shall be final in the absence of an abuse of discretion. [2009 c 549 s 2135; 1967 c 119 s 6.]

**RCW 35.96.060 Application of provisions relating to local improvements in cities and towns to chapter.** Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, the general provisions relating to local improvements in cities and towns including but not limited to chapters 35.43, 35.44, 35.45, 35.48, 35.49, 35.50, 35.53 and 35.54 RCW shall apply to local improvements authorized by this chapter. [1967 c 119 s 7.]

**RCW 35.96.070 Validation of preexisting debts, contracts, obligations, etc., made or incurred incidental to conversion of electric and communication facilities to underground facilities.** All debts, contracts and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any city or town incident to the conversion of overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities and all bonds, warrants, or other obligations issued by any such city or town, or by any local improvement district created to effect such conversion and any and all assessments heretofore levied in any such local improvement district, and all other things and proceedings relating thereto are hereby declared to be legal and valid and of full force and effect from the date thereof. [1967 c 119 s 8.]

**RCW 35.96.080 Authority granted deemed alternative and additional.** The authority granted by this chapter shall be considered an alternative and additional method for converting existing overhead electric and communication facilities to underground facilities, and for paying all or part of the cost thereof, and shall not be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any other authority for or method of converting any such facilities or placing such facilities underground or paying all or part of the cost thereof, including, but not limited to, existing authority or methods under chapter 35.43 RCW and chapter 35.44 RCW. [1967 c 119 s 10.]



**Chapter 35.97 RCW**  
**HEATING SYSTEMS**

**Sections**

- 35.97.010 Definitions.
- 35.97.020 Heating systems authorized.
- 35.97.030 Heating systems—General powers of municipalities.
- 35.97.040 Heating systems—Specific powers of municipalities.
- 35.97.050 Heating systems—Authorized by legislative authority of municipality—Competitive bidding.
- 35.97.060 Municipality may impose rates and charges—Classification of customers.
- 35.97.070 Municipality may shut off heat for nonpayment—Late payment charges authorized.
- 35.97.080 Connection charges authorized.
- 35.97.090 Local improvement district—Assessments—Bonds and warrants.
- 35.97.100 Special funds authorized.
- 35.97.110 Revenue bonds—Form, terms, etc.
- 35.97.120 Revenue warrants.
- 35.97.130 Revenue bonds and warrants—Holder may enforce.

**RCW 35.97.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Biomass energy system" means a system that provides for the production or collection of organic materials such as wood and agricultural residues and municipal solid waste that are primarily organic materials and the conversion or use of that material for the production of heat or substitute fuels through several processes including, but not limited to, burning, pyrolysis, or anaerobic digestion.

(2) "Cogeneration" means the sequential generation of two or more forms of energy from a common fuel or energy source.

(3) "Cogeneration facility" means any machinery, equipment, structure, process, or property or any part thereof, installed or acquired for the primary purpose of cogeneration by a person or corporation.

(4) "Geothermal heat" means the natural thermal energy of the earth.

(5) "Waste heat" means the thermal energy which otherwise would be released to the environment from an industrial process, electric generation, or other process.

(6) "Heat" means thermal energy.

(7) "Heat source" includes but is not limited to (a) any integral part of a heat production or heat rejection system of an industrial facility, cogeneration facility, or electric power generation facility, (b) geothermal well or spring, (c) biomass energy system, (d) solar collection facility, and (e) hydrothermal resource or heat extraction process.

(8) "Municipality" means a county, city, town, irrigation district which distributes electricity, water-sewer district, port district, or metropolitan municipal corporation.

(9) "Heating facilities or heating systems" means all real and personal property, or interests therein, necessary or useful for: (a) The acquisition, production, or extraction of heat; (b) the storage of heat; (c) the distribution of heat from its source to the place of utilization; (d) the extraction of heat at the place of utilization from the medium by which the heat is distributed; (e) the distribution of heat at the place of utilization; and (f) the conservation of heat.

(10) "Hydrothermal resource" means the thermal energy available in wastewater, sewage effluent, wells, or other water sources, natural or man-made. [1999 c 153 s 41; 1987 c 522 s 4; 1983 c 216 s 2.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**RCW 35.97.020 Heating systems authorized.** (1) Counties, cities, towns, irrigation districts which distribute electricity, sewer districts, water districts, port districts, and metropolitan municipal corporations are authorized pursuant to this chapter to establish heating systems and supply heating services from Washington's heat sources.

(2) Nothing in this chapter authorizes any municipality to generate, transmit, distribute, or sell electricity. [1989 c 11 s 7; 1987 c 522 s 3; 1983 c 216 s 1.]

**Severability—1989 c 11:** See note following RCW 9A.56.220.

**RCW 35.97.030 Heating systems—General powers of municipalities.** A municipality may construct, purchase, acquire, add to, extend, maintain, and operate a system of heating facilities, within or without its limits, for the purpose of supplying its inhabitants and other persons with heat, with full power to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of supplying heat, and to enter into agreements for the maintenance and operation of heating facilities under terms and conditions determined by the legislative authority of the municipality. The provision of heat and heating facilities and the establishment and operation of heating systems by a municipality under this chapter are hereby declared to be a public use and a public and strictly municipal purpose. However, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrain or limit the authority of any individual, partnership, corporation, or private utility from establishing and operating heating systems. [1983 c 216 s 3.]

**RCW 35.97.040 Heating systems—Specific powers of municipalities.** In addition to the general powers under RCW 35.97.030, and not by way of limitation, municipalities have the following specific powers:

(1) The usual powers of a corporation, to be exercised for public purposes;

(2) To acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation property or interests in property within and without the municipality, necessary for the construction and operation of heating systems, including additions and extensions of heating systems. No municipality may acquire any heat source by condemnation. To the extent judged

economically feasible by the municipality, public property and rights-of-way shall be utilized in lieu of private property acquired by condemnation. The municipality shall determine in cooperation with existing users that addition of district heating facilities to any public property or rights-of-way shall not be a hazard or interference with existing uses or, if so, that the cost for any relocation of facilities of existing users shall be a cost and expense of installing the heating facility;

(3) To acquire, install, add to, maintain, and operate heating facilities at a heat source or to serve particular consumers of heat, whether such facilities are located on property owned by the municipality, by the consumer of heat, or otherwise;

(4) To sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of heating facilities;

(5) To contract for the operation of heating facilities;

(6) To apply and qualify for and receive any private or federal grants, loans, or other funds available for carrying out the objects of the municipality under this chapter;

(7) Full and exclusive authority to sell and regulate and control the use, distribution, rates, service, charges, and price of all heat supplied by the municipality and to carry out any other powers and duties under this chapter free from the jurisdiction and control of the utilities and transportation commission;

(8) To utilize fuels other than the heat sources described in RCW 35.97.020 on a standby basis, to meet start-up and emergency requirements, to meet peak demands, or to supplement those heat sources as necessary to provide a reliable and economically feasible supply of heat;

(9) To the extent permitted by the state Constitution, to make loans for the purpose of enabling suppliers or consumers of heat to finance heating facilities;

(10) To enter into cooperative agreements providing for the acquisition, construction, ownership, financing, use, control, and regulation of heating systems and heating facilities by more than one municipality or by one or more municipalities on behalf of other municipalities. [1983 c 216 s 4.]

**RCW 35.97.050 Heating systems—Authorized by legislative authority of municipality—Competitive bidding.** If the legislative authority of a municipality deems it advisable that the municipality purchase, acquire, or construct a heating system, or make any additions or extensions to a heating system, the legislative authority shall so provide by an ordinance or a resolution specifying and adopting the system or plan proposed, declaring the estimated cost thereof, as near as may be, and specifying the method of financing and source of funds. Any construction, alteration, or improvement of a heating system by any municipality shall be in compliance with the appropriate competitive bidding requirements in Titles 35, 36, 53, 57, or 87 RCW. [1999 c 153 s 42; 1996 c 230 s 1603; 1983 c 216 s 5.]

**Part headings not law—1999 c 153:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**RCW 35.97.060 Municipality may impose rates and charges—**

**Classification of customers.** A municipality may impose rates, charges, or rentals for heat, service, and facilities provided to customers of the system if the rates charged are uniform for the same class of customers or service. In classifying customers served or service furnished, the legislative authority may consider: The difference in cost of service to the various customers; location of the various customers within or without the municipality; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system; the different character of the service furnished various customers; the quantity and quality of the heat furnished; the time heat is used; the demand on the system; capital contributions made to the system including, but not limited to, assessments or the amount of capital facilities provided for use by the customer; and any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction. [1983 c 216 s 6.]

**RCW 35.97.070 Municipality may shut off heat for nonpayment—**

**Late payment charges authorized.** If prompt payment of a heating rate, charge, or rental is not made, a municipality after reasonable notice may shut off the heating supply to the building, place, or premises to which the municipality supplied the heating. A municipality may also make an additional charge for late payment. [1983 c 216 s 7.]

**RCW 35.97.080 Connection charges authorized.**

A municipality may charge property owners seeking to connect to the heating system, as a condition to granting the right to connect and in addition to the cost of the connection, such reasonable connection charge as the legislative authority determines to be proper in order that the property owners bear their pro rata share of the cost of the system. Potential customers shall not be compelled to subscribe or connect to the heating system. The cost of connection to the system shall include the cost of acquisition and installation of heating facilities necessary or useful for the connection, including any heating facilities located or installed on the property being served. Connection charges may, in the discretion of the municipality, be made payable in installments over a period of not more than thirty years or the estimated life of the facilities installed, whichever is less. Installments, if any, shall bear interest and penalties at such rates and be payable at such times and in such manner as the legislative authority of the municipality may provide. [1983 c 216 s 8.]

**RCW 35.97.090 Local improvement district—Assessments—Bonds and**

**warrants.** For the purpose of paying all or a portion of the cost of heating facilities, a municipality may form local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, foreclose on, levy, and collect assessments, reassessments, and supplemental assessments; and issue local improvement district bonds and warrants in the manner provided by law for cities or towns. [1983 c 216 s 9.]

**RCW 35.97.100 Special funds authorized.**

For the purpose of providing funds for defraying all or a portion of the costs of

planning, purchase, leasing, condemnation, or other acquisition, construction, reconstruction, development, improvement, extension, repair, maintenance, or operation of a heating system, and the implementation of the powers in RCW 35.97.030 and 35.97.040, a municipality may authorize, by ordinance or resolution, the creation of a special fund or funds into which the municipality shall be obligated to set aside and pay all or any designated proportion or amount of any or all revenues derived from the heating system, including any utility local improvement district assessments, any grants received to pay the cost of the heating system, and any municipal license fees specified in the ordinance or resolution creating such special fund. [1983 c 216 s 10.]

**RCW 35.97.110 Revenue bonds—Form, terms, etc.** If the legislative authority of a municipality deems it advisable to finance all or a portion of the costs of planning, purchase, leasing, condemnation, or other acquisition, construction, reconstruction, development, improvement, and extension of a heating system, or for the implementation of the powers in RCW 35.97.030 and 35.97.040, or for working capital, interest during construction and for a period of up to one year thereafter, debt service and other reserves, and the costs of issuing revenue obligations, a municipality may issue revenue bonds against the special fund or fund created from revenues or assessments. The revenue bonds so issued may be issued in one or more series and shall be dated, shall bear interest at such rate or rates, and shall mature at such time or times as may be determined by the legislative authority of the municipality, and may be made redeemable before maturity at such price or prices and under such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the legislative authority of the municipality prior to the issuance of the bonds. The legislative authority of the municipality shall determine the form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to be attached thereto, and shall fix the denomination or denominations of the bonds and the place or places of payment of principal and interest. If an officer whose signature or a facsimile of whose signature appears on any bonds or coupons ceases to be such officer before the delivery of the bonds, the signature shall for all purposes have the same effect as if the officer had remained in office until the delivery. The bonds may be issued in coupon or in registered form or both, and provisions may be made for the registration of any coupon bonds as to the principal alone and also as to both principal and interest and for the reconversion into coupon bonds of any bonds registered as to both principal and interest. Bonds may be sold at public or private sale for such price and bearing interest at such fixed or variable rate as may be determined by the legislative authority of the municipality.

The principal of and interest on any revenue bonds shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues and receipts derived from the heating system, including any amounts pledged to be paid into a special fund under RCW 35.97.100, and may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the system, including any enlargements of and additions to such system thereafter made. The revenue bonds shall state upon their face that they are payable from a special fund, naming it and the ordinance creating it, and that they do not constitute a general indebtedness of the municipality. The ordinance or resolution under which the bonds are authorized to be issued and

any such mortgage may contain agreements and provisions respecting the maintenance of the system, the fixing and collection of rates and charges, the creation and maintenance of special funds from such revenues, the rights and remedies available in the event of default, and other matters improving the marketability of the revenue bonds, all as the legislative authority of the municipality deems advisable. Any revenue bonds issued under this chapter may be secured by a trust agreement by and between the municipality and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within the state. Any such trust agreement or ordinance or resolution providing for the issuance of such bonds may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bond owners as may be reasonable and proper and not in violation of law. Any such trust agreement may set forth the rights and remedies of the bond owners and of the trustee and may restrict the individual right of action by bond owners as is customary in trust agreements or trust indentures. [1983 c 216 s 11.]

**RCW 35.97.120 Revenue warrants.** Revenue warrants may be issued and such warrants and interest thereon may be payable out of the special fund or refunded through the proceeds of the sale of refunding revenue warrants or revenue bonds. Every revenue warrant and the interest thereon issued against the special fund is a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against that fund and the amount of revenue pledged to the fund, and does not constitute an indebtedness of the authorized municipality. Every revenue warrant shall state on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming it and the ordinance or resolution creating it. [1983 c 216 s 12.]

**RCW 35.97.130 Revenue bonds and warrants—Holder may enforce.** If a municipality fails to set aside and pay into the special fund created for the payment of revenue bonds and warrants the amount which it has obligated itself in the ordinance or resolution creating the fund to set aside and pay therein, the holder of any bond or warrant issued against the bond may bring suit against the municipality to compel it to do so. [1983 c 216 s 13.]

**Chapter 35.98 RCW  
CONSTRUCTION**

**Sections**

- 35.98.010 Continuation of existing law.
- 35.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
- 35.98.040 Repeals and saving.

**RCW 35.98.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1965 c 7 s 35.98.010.]

**RCW 35.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any provision, section, or chapter of this title or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the provision, section, chapter, or title, or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1965 c 7 s 35.98.030.]

**RCW 35.98.040 Repeals and saving.** See 1965 c 7 s 35.98.040.

**Chapter 35.99 RCW**  
**TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE—USE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY**

**Sections**

- 35.99.010 Definitions.
- 35.99.020 Permits for use of right-of-way.
- 35.99.030 Master, use permits—Injunctive relief—Notice—Service providers' duties.
- 35.99.040 Local regulations, ordinances—Limitations.
- 35.99.050 Personal wireless services—Limitations on moratoria—Dispute resolution.
- 35.99.060 Relocation of facilities—Notice—Reimbursement.
- 35.99.070 Additional ducts or conduits—City or town may require.
- 35.99.080 Existing franchises or contracts not preempted.

**RCW 35.99.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Cable television service" means the one-way transmission to subscribers of video programming and other programming service and subscriber interaction, if any, that is required for the selection or use of the video programming or other programming service.

(2) "Facilities" means all of the plant, equipment, fixtures, appurtenances, antennas, and other facilities necessary to furnish and deliver telecommunications services and cable television services, including but not limited to poles with crossarms, poles without crossarms, wires, lines, conduits, cables, communication and signal lines and equipment, braces, guys, anchors, vaults, and all attachments, appurtenances, and appliances necessary or incidental to the distribution and use of telecommunications services and cable television services.

(3) "Master permit" means the agreement in whatever form whereby a city or town may grant general permission to a service provider to enter, use, and occupy the right-of-way for the purpose of locating facilities. This definition is not intended to limit, alter, or change the extent of the existing authority of a city or town to require a franchise nor does it change the status of a service provider asserting an existing statewide grant based on a predecessor telephone or telegraph company's existence at the time of the adoption of the Washington state Constitution to occupy the right-of-way. For the purposes of this subsection, a franchise, except for a cable television franchise, is a master permit. A master permit does not include cable television franchises.

(4) "Personal wireless services" means commercial mobile services, unlicensed wireless services, and common carrier wireless exchange access services, as defined by federal laws and regulations.

(5) "Right-of-way" means land acquired or dedicated for public roads and streets, but does not include:

- (a) State highways;
- (b) Land dedicated for roads, streets, and highways not opened and not improved for motor vehicle use by the public;
- (c) Structures, including poles and conduits, located within the right-of-way;
- (d) Federally granted trust lands or forest board trust lands;



(e) Lands owned or managed by the state parks and recreation commission; or

(f) Federally granted railroad rights-of-way acquired under 43 U.S.C. Sec. 912 and related provisions of federal law that are not open for motor vehicle use.

(6) "Service provider" means every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, firm, partnership, person, city, or town owning, operating, or managing any facilities used to provide and providing telecommunications or cable television service for hire, sale, or resale to the general public. Service provider includes the legal successor to any such corporation, company, association, joint stock association, firm, partnership, person, city, or town.

(7) "Telecommunications service" means the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means for hire, sale, or resale to the general public. For the purpose of this subsection, "information" means knowledge or intelligence represented by any form of writing, signs, signals, pictures, sounds, or any other symbols. For the purpose of this chapter, telecommunications service excludes the over-the-air transmission of broadcast television or broadcast radio signals.

(8) "Use permit" means the authorization in whatever form whereby a city or town may grant permission to a service provider to enter and use the specified right-of-way for the purpose of installing, maintaining, repairing, or removing identified facilities. [2000 c 83 s 1.]

**RCW 35.99.020 Permits for use of right-of-way.** A city or town may grant, issue, or deny permits for the use of the right-of-way by a service provider for installing, maintaining, repairing, or removing facilities for telecommunications services or cable television services pursuant to ordinances, consistent with chapter 83, Laws of 2000. [2000 c 83 s 2.]

**RCW 35.99.030 Master, use permits—Injunctive relief—Notice—Service providers' duties.** (1) Cities and towns may require a service provider to obtain a master permit. A city or town may request, but not require, that a service provider with an existing statewide grant to occupy the right-of-way obtain a master permit for wireline facilities.

(a) The procedures for the approval of a master permit and the requirements for a complete application for a master permit shall be available in written form.

(b) Where a city or town requires a master permit, the city or town shall act upon a complete application within one hundred twenty days from the date a service provider files the complete application for the master permit to use the right-of-way, except:

(i) With the agreement of the applicant; or

(ii) Where the master permit requires action of the legislative body of the city or town and such action cannot reasonably be obtained within the one hundred twenty day period.

(2) A city or town may require that a service provider obtain a use permit. A city or town must act on a request for a use permit by a service provider within thirty days of receipt of a completed application, unless a service provider consents to a different time

period or the service provider has not obtained a master permit requested by the city or town.

(a) For the purpose of this section, "act" means that the city makes the decision to grant, condition, or deny the use permit, which may be subject to administrative appeal, or notifies the applicant in writing of the amount of time that will be required to make the decision and the reasons for this time period.

(b) Requirements otherwise applicable to holders of master permits shall be deemed satisfied by a holder of a cable franchise in good standing.

(c) Where the master permit does not contain procedures to expedite approvals and the service provider requires action in less than thirty days, the service provider shall advise the city or town in writing of the reasons why a shortened time period is necessary and the time period within which action by the city or town is requested. The city or town shall reasonably cooperate to meet the request where practicable.

(d) A city or town may not deny a use permit to a service provider with an existing statewide grant to occupy the right-of-way for wireline facilities on the basis of failure to obtain a master permit.

(3) The reasons for a denial of a master permit shall be supported by substantial evidence contained in a written record. A service provider adversely affected by the final action denying a master permit, or by an unreasonable failure to act on a master permit as set forth in subsection (1) of this section, may commence an action within thirty days to seek relief, which shall be limited to injunctive relief.

(4) A service provider adversely affected by the final action denying a use permit may commence an action within thirty days to seek relief, which shall be limited to injunctive relief. In any appeal of the final action denying a use permit, the standard for review and burden of proof shall be as set forth in RCW 36.70C.130.

(5) A city or town shall:

(a) In order to facilitate the scheduling and coordination of work in the right-of-way, provide as much advance notice as reasonable of plans to open the right-of-way to those service providers who are current users of the right-of-way or who have filed notice with the clerk of the city or town within the past twelve months of their intent to place facilities in the city or town. A city is not liable for damages for failure to provide this notice. Where the city has failed to provide notice of plans to open the right-of-way consistent with this subsection, a city may not deny a use permit to a service provider on the basis that the service provider failed to coordinate with another project.

(b) Have the authority to require that facilities are installed and maintained within the right-of-way in such a manner and at such points so as not to inconvenience the public use of the right-of-way or to adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare.

(6) A service provider shall:

(a) Obtain all permits required by the city or town for the installation, maintenance, repair, or removal of facilities in the right-of-way;

(b) Comply with applicable ordinances, construction codes, regulations, and standards subject to verification by the city or town of such compliance;

(c) Cooperate with the city or town in ensuring that facilities are installed, maintained, repaired, and removed within the right-of-way in such a manner and at such points so as not to inconvenience the public use of the right-of-way or to adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare;

(d) Provide information and plans as reasonably necessary to enable a city or town to comply with subsection (5) of this section, including, when notified by the city or town, the provision of advance planning information pursuant to the procedures established by the city or town;

(e) Obtain the written approval of the facility or structure owner, if the service provider does not own it, prior to attaching to or otherwise using a facility or structure in the right-of-way;

(f) Construct, install, operate, and maintain its facilities at its expense; and

(g) Comply with applicable federal and state safety laws and standards.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed as:

(a) Creating a new duty upon city [cities] or towns to be responsible for construction of facilities for service providers or to modify the right-of-way to accommodate such facilities;

(b) Creating, expanding, or extending any liability of a city or town to any third-party user of facilities or third-party beneficiary; or

(c) Limiting the right of a city or town to require an indemnification agreement as a condition of a service provider's facilities occupying the right-of-way.

(8) Nothing in this section creates, modifies, expands, or diminishes a priority of use of the right-of-way by a service provider or other utility, either in relation to other service providers or in relation to other users of the right-of-way for other purposes. [2000 c 83 s 3.]

**RCW 35.99.040 Local regulations, ordinances—Limitations.** (1) A city or town shall not adopt or enforce regulations or ordinances specifically relating to use of the right-of-way by a service provider that:

(a) Impose requirements that regulate the services or business operations of the service provider, except where otherwise authorized in state or federal law;

(b) Conflict with federal or state laws, rules, or regulations that specifically apply to the design, construction, and operation of facilities or with federal or state worker safety or public safety laws, rules, or regulations;

(c) Regulate the services provided based upon the content or kind of signals that are carried or are capable of being carried over the facilities, except where otherwise authorized in state or federal law; or

(d) Unreasonably deny the use of the right-of-way by a service provider for installing, maintaining, repairing, or removing facilities for telecommunications services or cable television services.

(2) Nothing in this chapter, including but not limited to the provisions of subsection (1)(d) of this section, limits the authority

of a city or town to regulate the placement of facilities through its local zoning or police power, if the regulations do not otherwise:

(a) Prohibit the placement of all wireless or of all wireline facilities within the city or town;

(b) Prohibit the placement of all wireless or of all wireline facilities within city or town rights-of-way, unless the city or town is less than five square miles in size and has no commercial areas, in which case the city or town may make available land other than city or town rights-of-way for the placement of wireless facilities; or

(c) Violate section 253 of the telecommunications act of 1996, P.L. 104-104 (110 Stat. 56).

(3) This section does not amend, limit, repeal, or otherwise modify the authority of cities or towns to regulate cable television services pursuant to federal law. [2000 c 83 s 4.]

**RCW 35.99.050 Personal wireless services—Limitations on moratoria—Dispute resolution.** A city or town shall not place or extend a moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications, permitting, construction, maintenance, repair, replacement, extension, operation, or use of any facilities for personal wireless services, except as consistent with the guidelines for facilities siting implementation, as agreed to on August 5, 1998, by the federal communications commission's local and state government advisory committee, the cellular telecommunications industry association, the personal communications industry association, and the American mobile telecommunications association. Any city or town implementing such a moratorium shall, at the request of a service provider impacted by the moratorium, participate with the service provider in the informal dispute resolution process included with the guidelines for facilities siting implementation. [2000 c 83 s 5.]

**RCW 35.99.060 Relocation of facilities—Notice—Reimbursement.**

(1) Cities and towns may require service providers to relocate authorized facilities within the right-of-way when reasonably necessary for construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of the right-of-way for purposes of public welfare, health, or safety.

(2) Cities shall notify service providers as soon as practicable of the need for relocation and shall specify the date by which relocation shall be completed. In calculating the date that relocation must be completed, cities shall consult with affected service providers and consider the extent of facilities to be relocated, the services requirements, and the construction sequence for the relocation, within the city's overall project construction sequence and constraints, to safely complete the relocation. Service providers shall complete the relocation by the date specified, unless the city, or a reviewing court, establishes a later date for completion, after a showing by the service provider that the relocation cannot be completed by the date specified using best efforts and meeting safety and service requirements.

(3) Service providers may not seek reimbursement for their relocation expenses from the city or town requesting relocation under subsection (1) of this section except:

(a) Where the service provider had paid for the relocation cost of the same facilities at the request of the city or town within the

past five years, the service provider's share of the cost of relocation will be paid by the city or town requesting relocation;

(b) Where aerial to underground relocation of authorized facilities is required by the city or town under subsection (1) of this section, for service providers with an ownership share of the aerial supporting structures, the additional incremental cost of underground compared to aerial relocation, or as provided for in the approved tariff if less, will be paid by the city or town requiring relocation; and

(c) Where the city or town requests relocation under subsection (1) of this section solely for aesthetic purposes, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties.

(4) Where a project in subsection (1) of this section is primarily for private benefit, the private party or parties shall reimburse the cost of relocation in the same proportion to their contribution to the costs of the project. Service providers will not be precluded from recovering their costs associated with relocation required under subsection (1) of this section, provided that the recovery is consistent with subsection (3) of this section and other applicable laws.

(5) A city or town may require the relocation of facilities at the service provider's expense in the event of an unforeseen emergency that creates an immediate threat to the public safety, health, or welfare. [2000 c 83 s 6.]

**RCW 35.99.070 Additional ducts or conduits—City or town may require.** A city or town may require that a service provider that is constructing, relocating, or placing ducts or conduits in public rights-of-way provide the city or town with additional duct or conduit and related structures necessary to access the conduit, provided that:

(1) The city or town enters into a contract with the service provider consistent with RCW 80.36.150. The contract rates to be charged should recover the incremental costs of the service provider. If the city or town makes the additional duct or conduit and related access structures available to any other entity for the purposes of providing telecommunications or cable television service for hire, sale, or resale to the general public, the rates to be charged, as set forth in the contract with the entity that constructed the conduit or duct, shall recover at least the fully allocated costs of the service provider. The service provider shall state both contract rates in the contract. The city or town shall inform the service provider of the use, and any change in use, of the requested duct or conduit and related access structures to determine the applicable rate to be paid by the city or town.

(2) Except as otherwise agreed by the service provider and the city or town, the city or town shall agree that the requested additional duct or conduit space and related access structures will not be used by the city or town to provide telecommunications or cable television service for hire, sale, or resale to the general public.

(3) The city or town shall not require that the additional duct or conduit space be connected to the access structures and vaults of the service provider.

(4) The value of the additional duct or conduit requested by a city or town shall not be considered a public works construction contract.

(5) This section shall not affect the provision of an institutional network by a cable television provider under federal law. [2000 c 83 s 7.]

**RCW 35.99.080 Existing franchises or contracts not preempted.**  
Chapter 83, Laws of 2000 shall not preempt specific provisions in existing franchises or contracts between cities or towns and service providers. [2000 c 83 s 9.]

**Chapter 35.100 RCW**  
**DOWNTOWN AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS**

**Sections**

- 35.100.010 Findings—Intent.
- 35.100.020 Definitions.
- 35.100.030 Local retail sales and use tax increment revenue—  
Applications.
- 35.100.040 Local sales and use tax increment revenue—Authorization  
of use by legislative authority.
- 35.100.050 Determination of amount of revenue.

**RCW 35.100.010 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds:

(a) The continued economic vitality of downtown and neighborhood commercial districts in our state's cities is essential to community preservation, social cohesion, and economic growth;

(b) In recent years there has been a deterioration of downtown and neighborhood commercial districts in both rural and urban communities due to a shifting population base, changes in the marketplace, and greater competition from suburban shopping malls, discount centers, and through the internet;

(c) This decline has eroded the ability of businesses and property owners to renovate and enhance their commercial and residential properties;

(d) In many areas of the state, downtown and neighborhood commercial areas are burdened further by deteriorating buildings, vacant building that cannot be legally occupied, and vacant brownfield infill sites which pose significant health and safety problems to tenants and pedestrians, and constitute a significant blight and detrimental impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the community, as well as its economic health;

(e) Business owners in these districts need to maintain their local economies in order to provide goods and services to adjacent residents, to provide employment opportunities, to restore blighted properties, and to avoid disinvestment and economic dislocations, and have developed downtown and neighborhood commercial district revitalization programs to address these problems; and

(f) It is in the best interest of the state of Washington to stop the decay of community areas and to promote and facilitate the orderly redevelopment of these areas.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to establish a program to:

(a) Provide for the allocation of a portion of locally imposed excise taxes to assist local governments in the financing of needed health and safety improvements, public improvements, and other public investments, to encourage private development and to enhance and revitalize neighborhood business districts and downtown areas; and

(b) Provide technical assistance and training to local governments, business organizations, downtown and neighborhood commercial district organizations, and business and property owners to accomplish community and economic revitalization and development of business districts. [2002 c 79 s 1.]

**RCW 35.100.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Community revitalization project" means:

(a) Health and safety improvements authorized to be publicly financed under chapter 35.80 or 35.81 RCW;

(b) Publicly owned or leased facilities within the jurisdiction of a local government which the sponsor has authority to provide; and

(c) Expenditure for any of the following purposes:

(i) Providing environmental analysis, professional management, planning, and promotion within a downtown or neighborhood commercial district including the management and promotion of retail trade activities in the district;

(ii) Providing maintenance and security for common or public areas in the downtown or neighborhood commercial district;

(iii) Historic preservation activities authorized under RCW 35.21.395; or

(iv) Project design and planning, land acquisition, site preparation, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, operation, and installation of a public facility; the costs of financing, including interest during construction, legal and other professional services, taxes, and insurance; the costs of complying with this chapter and other applicable law; and the administrative costs reasonably necessary and related to these costs.

(2) "Downtown or neighborhood commercial district" means (a) an area or areas designated by the legislative authority of a city or town with a population over one hundred thousand and that are typically limited to the pedestrian core area or the central commercial district and compact business districts that serve specific neighborhoods within the city or town; or (b) commercial areas designated as main street areas by the department of archaeology and historic preservation.

(3) "Local retail sales and use tax" means the tax levied by a city or town under RCW 82.14.030, excluding that portion which a county is entitled to receive under RCW 82.14.030.

(4) "Local retail sales and use tax increment revenue" means that portion of the local retail sales and use tax collected in each year upon any retail sale or any use of an article of tangible personal property within a downtown or neighborhood commercial district that is in excess of the amount of local retail sales and use tax collected on sales or uses within the downtown or neighborhood commercial district in the year preceding. [2010 c 30 s 2; 2002 c 79 s 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Finding—Effective date—2010 c 30:** See notes following RCW 43.360.010.

**RCW 35.100.030 Local retail sales and use tax increment revenue—Applications.** Local retail sales and use tax increment revenue, or any portion thereof, may be applied as follows:

(1) To pay downtown or neighborhood commercial district community revitalization costs;

(2) To pay into bond redemption funds established to pay the principal and interest on general obligation or revenue bonds issued



to finance a downtown or neighborhood commercial district community revitalization project;

(3) In combination with any other public or private funds available to the city or town for the purposes provided in this section; or

(4) To pay any combination of costs under subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section. [2002 c 79 s 3.]

**RCW 35.100.040 Local sales and use tax increment revenue—**

**Authorization of use by legislative authority.** (1) The legislative authority of a city or town may authorize the use of local sales and use tax increment revenue for any purpose authorized in this chapter within the boundaries of a downtown or one or more neighborhood commercial districts.

(2) Prior to authorizing the use of local sales and use tax increment revenue, the legislative authority must designate the boundaries of each downtown or neighborhood commercial district.

(3) The legislative authority of a city or town may choose to pool the local sales and use tax increment revenue collected in the various downtown and neighborhood commercial districts within the city or town for the purposes authorized in this chapter. [2002 c 79 s 4.]

**RCW 35.100.050 Determination of amount of revenue.**

A city or town shall determine at its own cost the amount of local sales and use tax increment revenue that may be generated in the downtown and neighborhood commercial districts it designates. The department of revenue may, at its discretion, provide advice or other assistance to cities and towns to assist in determining local sales and use tax increment revenue. [2002 c 79 s 5.]

**Chapter 35.101 RCW**  
**TOURISM PROMOTION AREAS**

**Sections**

- 35.101.010 Definitions.
- 35.101.020 Establishment—Petition.
- 35.101.030 Resolution of intention to establish area—Hearing.
- 35.101.040 Limitations on area included—Interlocal agreements.
- 35.101.050 Lodging charge—Limitations.
- 35.101.052 Lodging charge—Contract for administration and collection of by department of revenue.
- 35.101.055 Lodging charge—Exemption for temporary medical housing.
- 35.101.057 Lodging charge—Additional charge.
- 35.101.058 Lodging charge—Additional charge—Program review.
- 35.101.060 Notice of hearing.
- 35.101.070 Conduct of hearing—Termination of proceedings.
- 35.101.080 Establishment of area—Ordinance.
- 35.101.090 Administration, collection of lodging charge.
- 35.101.100 Local tourism promotion account created.
- 35.101.110 Charges are in addition to special assessments.
- 35.101.120 Charges are not a tax on sale of lodging.
- 35.101.130 Legislative authority has sole discretion concerning use for tourism promotion—Contracts for operation of area—Lodging charge removal.
- 35.101.140 Disestablishment of area—Hearing—Resolution.

**RCW 35.101.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Area" means a tourism promotion area.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, "legislative authority" means the legislative authority of any county, or of any city or town within such a county, including unclassified cities or towns operating under special charters.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, in any county with a population of one million or more, "legislative authority" means two or more jurisdictions acting jointly as the legislative authority under an interlocal agreement created under chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint establishment and operation of a tourism promotion area.

(c) For a city incorporated after January 1990, with a population greater than eighty-nine thousand, and located in a county described in (b) of this subsection, "legislative authority" means the city's legislative authority.

(3) "Lodging business" means a person that furnishes lodging taxable by the state under chapter 82.08 RCW that has forty or more lodging units.

(4) "Tourism promotion" means activities and expenditures designed to increase tourism and convention business, including but not limited to advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information for the purpose of attracting and welcoming tourists, and operating tourism destination marketing organizations.

(5) "Tourist" means a person who travels for business or pleasure on a trip:

(a) Away from the person's place of residence or business and stays overnight in paid accommodations;

(b) To a place at least fifty miles away one way by driving distance from the person's place of residence or business for the day or stays overnight. However, island communities without land access are exempt from the mileage requirement under this subsection (5)(b); or

(c) To another country or state outside of the person's place of residence or business. [2020 c 215 s 1; 2015 c 131 s 1; 2009 c 442 s 1; 2003 c 148 s 1.]

**RCW 35.101.020 Establishment—Petition.** For the purpose of establishing a tourism promotion area, an initiation petition must be presented to the legislative authority having jurisdiction of the area in which the proposed tourism promotion area is to be located. The initiation petition must include the following:

(1) A description of the boundaries of the proposed area;

(2) The proposed uses and projects to which the proposed revenue from the charge shall be put and the total estimated costs;

(3) The estimated rate for the charge with a proposed breakdown by class of lodging business if such classification is to be used; and

(4) The signatures of the persons who operate lodging businesses in the proposed area who would pay sixty percent or more of the proposed charges. [2003 c 148 s 2.]

**RCW 35.101.030 Resolution of intention to establish area—Hearing.** A legislative authority shall, after receiving a valid initiation petition under RCW 35.101.020, adopt a resolution of intention to establish an area. The resolution must state:

(1) The time and place of a hearing to be held by the legislative authority to consider the establishment of an area;

(2) A description of boundaries in the proposed area;

(3) The proposed area uses and projects to which the proposed revenues from the charge shall be dedicated and the total estimated cost of projects; and

(4) The estimated rate or rates of the charge with a proposed breakdown of classifications as described in RCW 35.101.050. [2003 c 148 s 3.]

**RCW 35.101.040 Limitations on area included—Interlocal agreements.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no legislative authority may establish a tourism promotion area that includes within the boundaries of the area:

(a) Any portion of an incorporated city or town, if the legislative authority is that of the county; and

(b) Any portion of the county outside of an incorporated city or town, if the legislative authority is that of the city or town.

(2) By interlocal agreement adopted pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, a county, city, or town may establish a tourism promotion area that includes within the boundaries of the area portions of its own jurisdiction and another jurisdiction, if the other jurisdiction is party to the agreement. [2003 c 148 s 4.]

**RCW 35.101.050 Lodging charge—Limitations.** A legislative authority may impose a charge on the furnishing of lodging by a lodging business located in the area.

(1) There shall not be more than six classifications upon which a charge can be imposed.

(2) Classifications can be based upon the number of rooms, room revenue, or location within the area.

(3) Each classification may have its own rate, which shall be expressed in terms of nights of stay.

(4) In no case may the rate under this section be in excess of two dollars per night of stay. [2003 c 148 s 5.]

**RCW 35.101.052 Lodging charge—Contract for administration and collection of by department of revenue.** (1) A legislative authority shall contract, prior to the effective date of an ordinance imposing a lodging charge under RCW 35.101.050, for the administration and collection of the charge by the state department of revenue. The department may deduct a percentage amount, as provided by contract, for the administration and collection expenses incurred by the department.

(2) This section only applies to a legislative authority consisting of a county with a population of one million or more or a city or town within such a county. [2009 c 442 s 2.]

**RCW 35.101.055 Lodging charge—Exemption for temporary medical housing.** The lodging charge authorized in RCW 35.101.050 does not apply to temporary medical housing exempt under RCW 82.08.997, or any lodging business, lodging unit, or lodging guest so designated by the legislative authority. [2024 c 68 s 1; 2008 c 137 s 6.]

**Application—2024 c 68:** "This act applies to any tourism promotion area established before, on, or after June 6, 2024." [2024 c 68 s 2.]

**Effective date—2008 c 137:** See note following RCW 82.08.997.

**RCW 35.101.057 Lodging charge—Additional charge. (Expires July 1, 2027.)** (1) In addition to the two dollar charge authorized by RCW 35.101.050, a legislative authority may impose an additional charge of up to three dollars per night of stay on the furnishing of lodging by a lodging business located in the area. To impose the additional charge, signatures of the persons who operate lodging businesses who would pay sixty percent or more of the proposed charges must be provided together with the proposed uses and projects to which the proposed revenue from the additional charge shall be put, the total estimate costs, and the estimated rate for the charge with a proposed breakdown by class of lodging business if such classification is to be used.

(2) This section expires July 1, 2027. [2020 c 215 s 2.]

**RCW 35.101.058 Lodging charge—Additional charge—Program review.** Each tourism promotion area must conduct a program review of the

additional tourism promotion area charge established in RCW 35.101.057. The review must be completed and submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature by January 1, 2026. The review must:

(1) Analyze how tourism promotion area charge funds were used during the period when the additional charge was imposed;

(2) Identify additional marketing and promotional measures conducted or purchased with additional funds beyond the current two dollar charge;

(3) Assess whether additional tourism promotion area charges above two dollars contributed to an actual increase in the number of tourists, as defined in RCW 35.101.010; and

(4) Assess the average additional cost per visit per tourist due to additional tourism promotion area charges above two dollars. [2020 c 215 s 4.]

**RCW 35.101.060 Notice of hearing.** Notice of a hearing held under RCW 35.101.030 shall be given by:

(1) One publication of the resolution of intention in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or county in which the area is to be established; and

(2) Mailing a complete copy of the resolution of intention to each lodging business in the proposed area.

Publication and mailing shall be completed at least ten days prior to the date and time of the hearing. [2003 c 148 s 6.]

**RCW 35.101.070 Conduct of hearing—Termination of proceedings.**

Whenever a hearing is held under RCW 35.101.030, the legislative authority shall hear all protests and receive evidence for or against the proposed action. The legislative authority may continue the hearing from time to time. Proceedings shall terminate if protest is made by the lodging businesses in the area which would pay a majority of the proposed charges. [2003 c 148 s 7.]

**RCW 35.101.080 Establishment of area—Ordinance.** Only after an initiation petition has been presented to the legislative authority under RCW 35.101.020 and only after the legislative authority has conducted a hearing under RCW 35.101.030, may the legislative authority adopt an ordinance to establish an area. If the legislative authority adopts an ordinance to establish an area, the ordinance shall contain the following information:

(1) The number, date, and title of the resolution of intention pursuant to which it was adopted;

(2) The time and place the hearing was held concerning the formation of the area;

(3) The description of the boundaries of the area;

(4) The initial or additional rate of charges to be imposed with a breakdown by classification, if such classification is used;

(5) A statement that an area has been established; and

(6) The uses to which the charge revenue shall be put. Uses shall conform to the uses declared in the initiation petition under RCW 35.101.020. [2003 c 148 s 8.]

**RCW 35.101.090 Administration, collection of lodging charge.**

(1) The charge authorized by this chapter shall be administered by the department of revenue and shall be collected by lodging businesses from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapter 82.08 RCW. Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the charge imposed under this chapter.

(2) At least seventy-five days prior to the effective date of the resolution or ordinance imposing the charge, the legislative authority shall contract for the administration and collection by the department of revenue.

(3) The charges authorized by this chapter that are collected by the department of revenue shall be deposited by the department in the local tourism promotion account created in RCW 35.101.100. [2003 c 148 s 9.]

**RCW 35.101.100 Local tourism promotion account created.** The local tourism promotion account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from the charges for tourism promotion must be deposited into this account. Expenditures from the account may only be used for tourism promotion. The state treasurer shall distribute the money in the account on a monthly basis to the legislative authority on whose behalf the money was collected. [2003 c 148 s 10.]

**RCW 35.101.110 Charges are in addition to special assessments.** The charges imposed under this chapter are in addition to the special assessments that may be levied under chapter 35.87A RCW. [2003 c 148 s 11.]

**RCW 35.101.120 Charges are not a tax on sale of lodging.** The charges imposed under this chapter are not a tax on the "sale of lodging" for the purposes of RCW 82.14.410. [2003 c 148 s 12.]

**RCW 35.101.130 Legislative authority has sole discretion concerning use for tourism promotion—Contracts for operation of area—Lodging charge removal.**

(1) The legislative authority imposing the charge shall have sole discretion as to how the revenue derived from the charge is to be used to promote tourism that increases the number of tourists to the area. However, the legislative authority may appoint existing advisory boards or commissions to make recommendations as to its use, or the legislative authority may create a new advisory board or commission for that purpose.

(2) The legislative authority may contract with tourism destination marketing organizations or other similar organizations to administer the operation of the area, so long as the administration complies with all applicable provisions of law, including this chapter, and with all county, city, or town resolutions and ordinances, and with all regulations lawfully imposed by the state auditor or other state agencies.

(3) If a majority of those lodging businesses assessed the charges imposed under RCW 35.101.050 or 35.101.057 petition in writing to the legislative authority that the charge be removed, the legislative authority must remove the charge. The legislative

authority may determine the timing of when to remove the charge so that the effective date of the expiration of the charge will not adversely impact existing contractual obligations not to exceed twelve months. The legislative authority may not be held liable for any financial obligations, contractual obligations, or damages for removing the charge.

(4) Any legislative authority with a charge in place under RCW 35.101.050 as of January 1, 2020, shall not have the charge be amended as provided under subsection (3) of this section unless the legislative authority has adopted an increase to the charge as authorized in RCW 35.101.057. [2020 c 215 s 3; 2003 c 148 s 13.]

**RCW 35.101.140 Disestablishment of area—Hearing—Resolution.**

The legislative authority may disestablish an area by ordinance after a hearing before the legislative authority. The legislative authority shall adopt a resolution of intention to disestablish the area at least fifteen days prior to the hearing required by this section. The resolution shall give the time and place of the hearing. [2003 c 148 s 14.]

**Chapter 35.102 RCW**  
**MUNICIPAL BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX**

**Sections**

35.102.010	Findings—Intent.
35.102.020	Limited scope—Utility businesses.
35.102.030	Definitions.
35.102.040	Model ordinance—Mandatory provisions.
35.102.050	Nexus required.
35.102.060	Multiple taxation—Credit system.
35.102.070	Reporting frequency.
35.102.080	Computation of interest.
35.102.090	Penalties.
35.102.100	Claim period.
35.102.110	Refund period.
35.102.120	Definitions—Tax classifications.
35.102.130	Allocation and apportionment of income.
35.102.1301	Municipal business and occupation tax—Study of potential net fiscal impacts.
35.102.140	Municipal business and occupation tax—Implementation by cities—Contingent authority.
35.102.145	Municipal business and occupation tax—Confidentiality, privilege, and disclosure.
35.102.150	Allocation of income—Printing and publishing activities.
35.102.160	Professional employer organizations—Tax deduction.

**RCW 35.102.010 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that businesses in Washington are concerned about the potential for multiple taxation that arises due to the various city business and occupation taxes and are concerned about the lack of uniformity among city jurisdictions. The current system has a negative impact on Washington's business climate. The legislature further finds that local business and occupation tax revenue provides a sizable portion of city revenue that is used for essential services. The legislature recognizes that local government services contribute to a healthy business climate.

The legislature intends to provide for a more uniform system of city business and occupation taxes that eliminates multiple taxation, while allowing for some continued local control and flexibility to cities. [2003 c 79 s 1.]

**RCW 35.102.020 Limited scope—Utility businesses.** Chapter 79, Laws of 2003 does not apply to taxes on any service that historically or traditionally has been taxed as a utility business for municipal tax purposes, such as:

- (1) A light and power business or a natural gas distribution business, as defined in RCW 82.16.010;
- (2) A telephone business, as defined in RCW 82.16.010;
- (3) Cable television services;
- (4) Sewer or water services;
- (5) Drainage services;
- (6) Solid waste services; or



(7) Steam services. [2007 c 6 s 1021; 2003 c 79 s 2.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.390.

**RCW 35.102.030 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout chapter 79, Laws of 2003, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Business" has the same meaning as given in chapter 82.04 RCW.

(2) "City" means a city, town, or code city.

(3) "Business and occupation tax" or "gross receipts tax" means a tax imposed on or measured by the value of products, the gross income of the business, or the gross proceeds of sales, as the case may be, and that is the legal liability of the business.

(4) "Value of products" has the same meaning as given in chapter 82.04 RCW.

(5) "Gross income of the business" has the same meaning as given in chapter 82.04 RCW.

(6) "Gross proceeds of sales" has the same meaning as given in chapter 82.04 RCW. [2003 c 79 s 3.]

**RCW 35.102.040 Model ordinance—Mandatory provisions.** (1) (a) The cities, working through the association of Washington cities, shall form a model ordinance development committee made up of a representative sampling of cities that as of July 27, 2003, impose a business and occupation tax. This committee shall work through the association of Washington cities to adopt a model ordinance on municipal gross receipts business and occupation tax. The model ordinance and subsequent amendments shall be adopted using a process that includes opportunity for substantial input from business stakeholders and other members of the public. Input shall be solicited from statewide business associations and from local chambers of commerce and downtown business associations in cities that levy a business and occupation tax.

(b) The department of commerce shall contract to post the model ordinance on an internet website and to make paper copies available for inspection upon request. The department of revenue and the department of licensing shall post copies of or links to the model ordinance on their internet websites. Additionally, a city that imposes a business and occupation tax must make copies of its ordinance available for inspection and copying as provided in chapter 42.56 RCW.

(c) The definitions and tax classifications in the model ordinance may not be amended more frequently than once every four years, however the model ordinance may be amended at any time to comply with changes in state law. Any amendment to a mandatory provision of the model ordinance must be adopted with the same effective date by all cities.

(2) A city that imposes a business and occupation tax must adopt the mandatory provisions of the model ordinance. The following provisions are mandatory:

(a) A system of credits that meets the requirements of RCW 35.102.060 and a form for such use;

(b) A uniform, minimum small business tax threshold of at least the equivalent of twenty thousand dollars in gross income annually. A city may elect to deviate from this requirement by creating a higher threshold or exemption but it shall not deviate lower than the level required in this subsection. If a city has a small business threshold or exemption in excess of that provided in this subsection as of January 1, 2003, and chooses to deviate below the threshold or exemption level that was in place as of January 1, 2003, the city must notify all businesses licensed to do business within the city at least one hundred twenty days prior to the potential implementation of a lower threshold or exemption amount;

(c) Tax reporting frequencies that meet the requirements of RCW 35.102.070;

(d) Penalty and interest provisions that meet the requirements of RCW 35.102.080 and 35.102.090;

(e) Claim periods that meet the requirements of RCW 35.102.100;

(f) Refund provisions that meet the requirements of RCW 35.102.110; and

(g) Definitions, which at a minimum, must include the definitions enumerated in RCW 35.102.030 and 35.102.120. The definitions in chapter 82.04 RCW shall be used as the baseline for all definitions in the model ordinance, and any deviation in the model ordinance from these definitions must be described by a comment in the model ordinance.

(3) Except for the deduction required by RCW 35.102.160 and the system of credits developed to address multiple taxation under subsection (2)(a) of this section, a city may adopt its own provisions for tax exemptions, tax credits, and tax deductions.

(4) Any city that adopts an ordinance that deviates from the nonmandatory provisions of the model ordinance shall make a description of such differences available to the public, in written and electronic form. [2010 c 271 s 706; 2006 c 301 s 7; 2005 c 274 s 266; 2003 c 79 s 4.]

**Purpose—Effective date—2010 c 271:** See notes following RCW 43.330.005.

**Effective date—Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.32.710.

**RCW 35.102.050 Nexus required.** A city may not impose a business and occupation tax on a person unless that person has nexus with the city. For the purposes of this section, the term "nexus" means business activities conducted by a person sufficient to subject that person to the taxing jurisdiction of a city under the standards established for interstate commerce under the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. Mere registration under or compliance with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement does not constitute nexus for the purposes of this section. [2008 c 129 s 4; 2003 c 79 s 5.]

**RCW 35.102.060 Multiple taxation—Credit system.** (1) A city that imposes a business and occupation tax shall provide for a system of credits to avoid multiple taxation as follows:

(a) Persons who engage in business activities that are within the purview of more than one classification of the tax shall be taxable under each applicable classification.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, if imposition of the tax would place an undue burden upon interstate commerce or violate constitutional requirements, a taxpayer shall be allowed a credit only to the extent necessary to preserve the validity of the tax.

(c) Persons taxable under the retailing or wholesaling classification with respect to selling products in a city shall be allowed a credit against those taxes for any eligible gross receipts taxes paid by the person (i) with respect to the manufacturing of the products sold in the city, and (ii) with respect to the extracting of the products, or the ingredients used in the products, sold in the city. The amount of the credit shall not exceed the tax liability arising with respect to the sale of those products.

(d) Persons taxable under the manufacturing classification with respect to manufacturing products in a city shall be allowed a credit against that tax for any eligible gross receipts tax paid by the person with respect to extracting the ingredients of the products manufactured in the city and with respect to manufacturing the products other than in the city. The amount of the credit shall not exceed the tax liability arising with respect to the manufacturing of those products.

(e) Persons taxable under the retailing or wholesaling classification with respect to selling products in a city shall be allowed a credit against those taxes for any eligible gross receipts taxes paid by the person with respect to the printing, or the printing and publishing, of the products sold within the city. The amount of the credit shall not exceed the tax liability arising with respect to the sale of those products.

(2) The model ordinance shall be drafted to address the issue of multiple taxation for those tax classifications that are in addition to those enumerated in subsection (1)(c) through (e) of this section. The objective of any such provisions shall be to eliminate multiple taxation of the same income by two or more cities. [2003 c 79 s 6.]

**RCW 35.102.070 Reporting frequency.** A city that imposes a business and occupation tax must allow reporting and payment of tax on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. The frequency for any particular person may be assigned at the discretion of the city, except that monthly reporting may be assigned only if it can be demonstrated that the taxpayer is remitting excise tax to the state on a monthly basis. For persons assigned a monthly frequency, payment is due within the same time period provided for monthly taxpayers under RCW 82.32.045. For persons assigned a quarterly or annual frequency, payment is due within the same time period as provided for quarterly or annual frequency under RCW 82.32.045. Until December 31, 2020, for persons assigned annual frequency, payment is due on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the end of the period covered by the return. Beginning January 1, 2021, and thereafter, for persons assigned annual frequency, payment is due within the same time period

as provided for annual frequency under RCW 82.32.045. [2019 c 63 s 3; 2003 c 79 s 7.]

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 63:** See note following RCW 82.32.045.

**RCW 35.102.080 Computation of interest.** (1) A city that imposes a business and occupation tax shall compute interest charged a taxpayer on an underpaid tax or penalty in accordance with RCW 82.32.050.

(2) A city that imposes a business and occupation tax shall compute interest paid on refunds or credits of amounts paid or other recovery allowed a taxpayer in accordance with RCW 82.32.060. [2003 c 79 s 8.]

**RCW 35.102.090 Penalties.** A city that imposes a business and occupation tax shall provide for the imposition of penalties in accordance with chapter 82.32 RCW. [2003 c 79 s 9.]

**RCW 35.102.100 Claim period.** The provisions relating to the time period allowed for an assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest shall be in accordance with chapter 82.32 RCW. [2003 c 79 s 10.]

**RCW 35.102.110 Refund period.** The provisions relating to the time period allowed for a refund of taxes paid shall be in accordance with chapter 82.32 RCW. [2003 c 79 s 11.]

**RCW 35.102.120 Definitions—Tax classifications.** (1) In addition to the definitions in RCW 35.102.030, the following terms and phrases must be defined in the model ordinance under RCW 35.102.040, and such definitions shall include any specific requirements as noted in this subsection:

- (a) Eligible gross receipts tax.
  - (b) Extracting.
  - (c) Manufacturing. Software development may not be defined as a manufacturing activity.
  - (d) Retailing.
  - (e) Retail sale.
  - (f) Services. The term "services" excludes retail or wholesale services.
  - (g) Wholesale sale.
  - (h) Wholesaling.
  - (i) To manufacture.
  - (j) Commercial and industrial use.
  - (k) Engaging in business.
  - (l) Person.
- (2) Any tax classifications in addition to those enumerated in subsection (1) of this section that are included in the model ordinance must be uniform among all cities. [2003 c 79 s 12.]

**RCW 35.102.130 Allocation and apportionment of income.** A city that imposes a business and occupation tax must provide for the allocation and apportionment of a person's gross income, other than persons subject to the provisions of chapter 82.14A RCW, as follows:

(1) Gross income derived from all activities other than those taxed as service or royalties must be allocated to the location where the activity takes place.

(a) In the case of sales of tangible personal property, the activity takes place where delivery to the buyer occurs.

(b) (i) In the case of sales of digital products, the activity takes place where delivery to the buyer occurs. The delivery of digital products will be deemed to occur at:

(A) The seller's place of business if the purchaser receives the digital product at the seller's place of business;

(B) If not received at the seller's place of business, the location where the purchaser or the purchaser's donee, designated as such by the purchaser, receives the digital product, including the location indicated by instructions for delivery to the purchaser or donee, known to the seller;

(C) If the location where the purchaser or the purchaser's donee receives the digital product is not known, the purchaser's address maintained in the ordinary course of the seller's business when use of this address does not constitute bad faith;

(D) If no address for the purchaser is maintained in the ordinary course of the seller's business, the purchaser's address obtained during the consummation of the sale, including the address of a purchaser's payment instrument, if no other address is available, when use of this address does not constitute bad faith; and

(E) If no address for the purchaser is obtained during the consummation of the sale, the address where the digital good or digital code is first made available for transmission by the seller or the address from which the digital automated service or service described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(c) was provided, disregarding for these purposes any location that merely provided the digital transfer of the product sold.

(ii) If none of the methods in (b)(i) of this subsection (1) for determining where the delivery of digital products occurs are available after a good faith effort by the taxpayer to apply the methods provided in (b)(i)(A) through (E) of this subsection (1), then the city and the taxpayer may mutually agree to employ any other method to effectuate an equitable allocation of income from the sale of digital products. The taxpayer will be responsible for petitioning the city to use an alternative method under this subsection

(1)(b)(ii). The city may employ an alternative method for allocating the income from the sale of digital products if the methods provided in (b)(i)(A) through (E) of this subsection (1) are not available and the taxpayer and the city are unable to mutually agree on an alternative method to effectuate an equitable allocation of income from the sale of digital products.

(iii) For purposes of this subsection (1)(b), the following definitions apply:

(A) "Digital automated services," "digital codes," and "digital goods" have the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.192;

(B) "Digital products" means digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, and the services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) and (6)(c); and

(C) "Receive" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.32.730.

(c) If a business activity allocated under this subsection (1) takes place in more than one city and all cities impose a gross receipts tax, a credit must be allowed as provided in RCW 35.102.060; if not all of the cities impose a gross receipts tax, the affected cities must allow another credit or allocation system as they and the taxpayer agree.

(2) Gross income derived as royalties from the granting of intangible rights must be allocated to the commercial domicile of the taxpayer.

(3) Gross income derived from activities taxed as services shall be apportioned to a city by multiplying apportionable income by a fraction, the numerator of which is the payroll factor plus the service-income factor and the denominator of which is two.

(a) The payroll factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total amount paid in the city during the tax period by the taxpayer for compensation and the denominator of which is the total compensation paid everywhere during the tax period. Compensation is paid in the city if:

(i) The individual is primarily assigned within the city;

(ii) The individual is not primarily assigned to any place of business for the tax period and the employee performs fifty percent or more of his or her service for the tax period in the city; or

(iii) The individual is not primarily assigned to any place of business for the tax period, the individual does not perform fifty percent or more of his or her service in any city, and the employee resides in the city.

(b) The service income factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total service income of the taxpayer in the city during the tax period, and the denominator of which is the total service income of the taxpayer everywhere during the tax period. Service income is in the city if the customer location is in the city.

(c) Gross income of the business from engaging in an apportionable activity must be excluded from the denominator of the service income factor if, in respect to such activity, at least some of the activity is performed in the city, and the gross income is attributable under (b) of this subsection (3) to a city or unincorporated area of a county within the United States or to a foreign country in which the taxpayer is not taxable. For purposes of this subsection (3)(c), "not taxable" means that the taxpayer is not subject to a business activities tax by that city or county within the United States or by that foreign country, except that a taxpayer is taxable in a city or county within the United States or in a foreign country in which it would be deemed to have a substantial nexus with the city or county within the United States or with the foreign country under the standards in RCW 35.102.050 regardless of whether that city or county within the United States or that foreign country imposes such a tax.

(d) If the allocation and apportionment provisions of this subsection (3) do not fairly represent the extent of the taxpayer's business activity in the city, the taxpayer may petition for or the tax administrator may require, in respect to all or any part of the taxpayer's business activity, if reasonable:

(i) Separate accounting;

(ii) The exclusion of any one or more of the factors;

(iii) The inclusion of one or more additional factors that will fairly represent the taxpayer's business activity in the city; or

(iv) The employment of any other method to effectuate an equitable allocation and apportionment of the taxpayer's income.

(e) The party petitioning for, or the tax administrator requiring, the use of any method to effectuate an equitable allocation and apportionment of the taxpayer's income pursuant to subsection (d) of this subsection (3) must prove by a preponderance of the evidence:

(i) That the allocation and apportionment provisions of this subsection (3) do not fairly represent the extent of the taxpayer's business activity in the city; and

(ii) That the alternative to such provisions is reasonable.

The same burden of proof shall apply whether the taxpayer is petitioning for, or the tax administrator is requiring, the use of an alternative, reasonable method to effectuate an equitable allocation and apportionment of the taxpayer's income.

(f) If the tax administrator requires any method to effectuate an equitable allocation and apportionment of the taxpayer's income, the tax administrator cannot impose any civil or criminal penalty with reference to the tax due that is attributable to the taxpayer's reasonable reliance solely on the allocation and apportionment provisions of this subsection (3).

(g) A taxpayer that has received written permission from the tax administrator to use a reasonable method to effectuate an equitable allocation and apportionment of the taxpayer's income shall not have that permission revoked with respect to transactions and activities that have already occurred unless there has been a material change in, or a material misrepresentation of, the facts provided by the taxpayer upon which the tax administrator reasonably relied in approving a reasonable alternative method.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Apportionable income" means the gross income of the business taxable under the service classifications of a city's gross receipts tax, including income received from activities outside the city if the income would be taxable under the service classification if received from activities within the city, less any exemptions or deductions available.

(b) "Business activities tax" means a tax measured by the amount of, or economic results of, business activity conducted in a city or county within the United States or within a foreign country. The term includes taxes measured in whole or in part on net income or gross income or receipts. "Business activities tax" does not include a sales tax, use tax, or a similar transaction tax, imposed on the sale or acquisition of goods or services, whether or not denominated a gross receipts tax or a tax imposed on the privilege of doing business.

(c) "Compensation" means wages, salaries, commissions, and any other form of remuneration paid to individuals for personal services that are or would be included in the individual's gross income under the federal internal revenue code.

(d) "Customer" means a person or entity to whom the taxpayer makes a sale or renders services or from whom the taxpayer otherwise receives gross income of the business.

(e) "Individual" means any individual who, under the usual common law rules applicable in determining the employer-employee relationship, has the status of an employee of that taxpayer.

(f) "Customer location" means the following:

(i) For a customer not engaged in business, if the service requires the customer to be physically present, where the service is performed.

(ii) For a customer not engaged in business, if the service does not require the customer to be physically present:

(A) The customer's residence; or

(B) If the customer's residence is not known, the customer's billing/ mailing address.

(iii) For a customer engaged in business:

(A) Where the services are ordered from;

(B) At the customer's billing/ mailing address if the location from which the services are ordered is not known; or

(C) At the customer's commercial domicile if none of the above are known.

(g) "Primarily assigned" means the business location of the taxpayer where the individual performs his or her duties.

(h) "Service-taxable income" or "service income" means gross income of the business subject to tax under either the service or royalty classification.

(i) "Tax period" means the calendar year during which tax liability is accrued. If taxes are reported by a taxpayer on a basis more frequent than once per year, taxpayers shall calculate the factors for the previous calendar year for reporting in the current calendar year and correct the reporting for the previous year when the factors are calculated for that year, but not later than the end of the first quarter of the following year. [2019 c 101 s 1; 2017 c 323 s 511; 2010 c 111 s 305; 2003 c 79 s 13.]

**Effective date—2019 c 101:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2020." [2019 c 101 s 2.]

**Tax preference performance statement exemption—Automatic expiration date exemption—2017 c 323:** See note following RCW 82.04.040.

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective date—2003 c 79 s 13:** "Section 13 of this act takes effect January 1, 2008." [2003 c 79 s 19.]

**RCW 35.102.1301 Municipal business and occupation tax—Study of potential net fiscal impacts.** (1) The department of revenue shall conduct a study of the net fiscal impacts of chapter 79, Laws of 2003, with particular emphasis on the revenue impacts of the apportionment and allocation method contained in RCW 35.102.130 and any revenue impact resulting from the increased uniformity and consistency provided through the model ordinance. In conducting the study, the department shall use, and regularly consult with, a committee composed of an equal representation from interested business representatives and from a representative sampling of cities imposing business and occupation taxes. The department shall report the final results of the study to the governor and the fiscal committees of the legislature by November 30, 2005. In addition, the department shall provide progress reports to the governor and the fiscal committees of the legislature



on November 30, 2003, and November 30, 2004. As part of its report, the department shall examine and recommend options to address any adverse revenue impacts to local jurisdictions.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "net fiscal impacts" means accounting for the potential of both positive and negative fiscal impacts on local jurisdictions that may result from chapter 79, Laws of 2003.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature through this study to provide accurate fiscal impact analysis and recommended options to alleviate revenue impacts from chapter 79, Laws of 2003 so as to allow local jurisdictions to anticipate and appropriately address any potential adverse revenue impacts from chapter 79, Laws of 2003. [2003 c 79 s 15.]

**RCW 35.102.140 Municipal business and occupation tax—Implementation by cities—Contingent authority.** Cities imposing business and occupation taxes must comply with all requirements of RCW 35.102.020 through 35.102.130 by December 31, 2004. A city that has not complied with the requirements of RCW 35.102.020 through 35.102.130 by December 31, 2004, may not impose a tax that is imposed by a city on the privilege of engaging in business activities. Cities imposing business and occupation taxes after December 31, 2004, must comply with RCW 35.102.020 through 35.102.130. [2003 c 79 s 14.]

**RCW 35.102.145 Municipal business and occupation tax—Confidentiality, privilege, and disclosure.** A city that imposes a business and occupation tax may by ordinance provide that return or tax information is confidential, privileged, and subject to disclosure in the manner provided by RCW 82.32.330. [2010 c 106 s 101.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** "Except as otherwise provided in sections 401, 409, and 412 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2010." [2010 c 106 s 407.]

**RCW 35.102.150 Allocation of income—Printing and publishing activities. (Effective until January 1, 2034.)** Notwithstanding RCW 35.102.130, a city that imposes a business and occupation tax must allocate a person's gross income from the activities of printing, and of publishing newspapers, periodicals, or magazines, to the principal place in this state from which the taxpayer's business is directed or managed. As used in this section, the activities of printing, and of publishing newspapers, periodicals, or magazines are those activities to which the exemption in RCW 82.04.759 and the tax rate in RCW 82.04.280(1)(a) apply. [2023 c 286 s 4; 2011 c 174 s 201; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 s 519; 2009 c 461 s 4; 2006 c 272 s 1.]

**Findings—Effective date—Expiration date—2023 c 286:** See notes following RCW 82.04.759.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Effective date—2006 c 272:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2008." [2006 c 272 s 2.]

**RCW 35.102.150 Allocation of income—Printing and publishing activities. (Effective January 1, 2034.)** Notwithstanding RCW 35.102.130, a city that imposes a business and occupation tax must allocate a person's gross income from the activities of printing, and of publishing newspapers, periodicals, or magazines, to the principal place in this state from which the taxpayer's business is directed or managed. As used in this section, the activities of printing, and of publishing newspapers, periodicals, or magazines are those activities to which the tax rates in RCW \*82.04.260(13) and 82.04.280(1)(a) apply. [2011 c 174 s 201; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 s 519; 2009 c 461 s 4; 2006 c 272 s 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 s 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsection (13) to subsection (14).

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Effective date—2006 c 272:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2008." [2006 c 272 s 2.]

**RCW 35.102.160 Professional employer organizations—Tax deduction.** (1) A city that imposes its business and occupation tax on professional employer services performed by a professional employer organization, regardless of the tax classification applicable to such services, shall provide a deduction identical to the deduction in RCW 82.04.540(2).

(2) For the purposes of this section, "professional employer organization" and "professional employer services" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.04.540. [2006 c 301 s 6.]

**Effective date—Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.32.710.

**Chapter 35.103 RCW**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENTS—PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**Sections**

- 35.103.010 Intent.
- 35.103.020 Definitions.
- 35.103.030 Policy statement—Service delivery objectives.
- 35.103.040 Annual evaluations—Annual report.
- 35.103.050 Maintenance of response times in newly annexed areas—  
Firefighter transfers.
- 35.103.060 Hazardous material cleanup or removal—Cost recovery.

**RCW 35.103.010 Intent.** The legislature intends for city fire departments to set standards for addressing the reporting and accountability of substantially career fire departments, and to specify performance measures applicable to response time objectives for certain major services. The legislature acknowledges the efforts of the international city/county management association, the international association of fire chiefs, and the national fire protection association for the organization and deployment of resources for fire departments. The arrival of first responders with automatic external defibrillator capability before the onset of brain death, and the arrival of adequate fire suppression resources before flash-over is a critical event during the mitigation of an emergency, and is in the public's best interest. For these reasons, this chapter contains performance measures, comparable to that research, relating to the organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special operations by substantially career fire departments. This chapter does not, and is not intended to, in any way modify or limit the authority of cities and towns to set levels of service. [2005 c 376 s 101.]

**RCW 35.103.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring, manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous access, and drug therapy.

(2) "Aircraft rescue and firefighting" means the firefighting actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

(3) "Brain death" as defined by the American heart association means the irreversible death of brain cells that begins four to six minutes after cardiac arrest.

(4) "City" means a first-class city or a second-class city that provides fire protection services in a specified geographic area.

(5) "Fire department" means a city or town fire department responsible for firefighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special operations in a specified geographic area. The department must be a substantially career fire department, and not a substantially volunteer fire department.

(6) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling and extinguishing fires.

(7) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator capability.

(8) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and the fire spreads rapidly.

(9) "Marine rescue and firefighting" means the firefighting actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using normal and emergency routes for egress.

(10) "Response time" means the time immediately following the turnout time that begins when units are en route to the emergency incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

(11) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment.

(12) "Town" means a town that provides fire protection services, which may include firefighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special operations, in a specified geographic area.

(13) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units receive notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time. [2005 c 376 s 102.]

**RCW 35.103.030 Policy statement—Service delivery objectives.**

(1) Every city and town shall maintain a written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- (a) The existence of a fire department;
- (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;
- (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;
- (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and
- (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to perform.

(2) Every city and town shall include service delivery objectives in the written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of this section. These objectives shall include specific response time objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- (a) Fire suppression;
- (b) Emergency medical services;
- (c) Special operations;
- (d) Aircraft rescue and firefighting;
- (e) Marine rescue and firefighting; and
- (f) Wildland firefighting.

(3) Every city and town, in order to measure the ability to arrive and begin mitigation operations before the critical events of brain death or flash-over, shall establish time objectives for the following measurements:

- (a) Turnout time;
- (b) Response time for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident and response time for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident;
- (c) Response time for the arrival of a unit with first responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident; and

(d) Response time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the fire department.

(4) Every city and town shall also establish a performance objective of not less than ninety percent for the achievement of each response time objective established under subsection (3) of this section. [2005 c 376 s 103.]

**RCW 35.103.040 Annual evaluations—Annual report.** (1) Every city and town shall evaluate its level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the city or town.

(2) Beginning in 2007, every city and town shall issue an annual written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required by subsection (1) of this section.

(a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being met.

(b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve compliance. [2005 c 376 s 104.]

**RCW 35.103.050 Maintenance of response times in newly annexed areas—Firefighter transfers.** Cities and towns conducting annexations of all or part of fire protection districts shall, at least through the budget cycle, or the following budget cycle if the annexation occurs in the last half of the current budget cycle, in which the annexation occurs, maintain existing fire protection and emergency services response times in the newly annexed areas consistent with response times recorded prior to the annexation as defined in the previous annual report for the fire protection district and as reported in RCW 52.33.040. If the city or town is unable to maintain these service levels in the newly annexed area, the transfer of firefighters from the annexed fire protection district as a direct result of the annexation must occur pursuant to RCW 35.13.238 (4) through (8). [2009 c 60 s 8.]

**RCW 35.103.060 Hazardous material cleanup or removal—Cost recovery.** (1) A municipal fire department, or department, is entitled to recover from any liable party the actual costs associated with the cleanup or removal of hazardous waste and other hazardous materials, including debris or vehicle operating fluids, when responding to a vehicle accident on private or public property, including public roadways. A liable party may submit an invoice for those actual costs incurred by the department, for the department's cleanup or removal services, to their insurer that provides coverage for property damage for which the party becomes legally obligated, if coverage is found within a liable party's insurance policy. An insurer providing such coverage may issue payment directly to the department from available property damage liability coverage contained in the policy. If there are multiple liable parties involved, the department may only recover

the proportional amount of liability legally determined for each party. The department may not recover from any one liable party, or all liable parties combined, more than the actual costs incurred with the cleanup and removal of the hazardous waste and other hazardous materials, including debris or vehicle operating fluids, when responding to a vehicle accident on private or public property, including public roadways.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in this subsection apply:

(a) "Actual costs" means the amount necessary to compensate for reasonable personnel time spent at the scene of a vehicle accident and the reasonable cost of any supplies used in the cleanup or removal of hazardous waste and other hazardous materials, including debris or vehicle operating fluids, when responding to a vehicle accident on private or public property, including public roadways.

(b) "Insurer" has the same meaning as in RCW 48.01.050.

(c) "Liable party" means a person or entity that is legally obligated or responsible for causing a vehicle accident.

(d) "Vehicle" means any mode of transportation operated by a liable party and involved in a vehicle accident including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles. [2020 c 198 s 2.]

**Chapter 35.104 RCW**  
**HEALTH SCIENCES AND SERVICES AUTHORITIES**

**Sections**

35.104.010	Purpose.
35.104.020	Definitions.
35.104.030	Creation.
35.104.040	Applications.
35.104.050	Governing board.
35.104.060	Powers and duties.
35.104.070	General indebtedness—General obligation bonds.
35.104.080	Limitation on bonds issued.
35.104.090	Liability.
35.104.100	Dissolution of sponsoring local government.
35.104.110	Borrowed moneys—Liability.

**RCW 35.104.010 Purpose.** The health sciences and services program is created to promote bioscience-based economic development and advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health. [2007 c 251 s 2.]

**Captions not law—2007 c 251:** "Captions used in this act are not any part of the law." [2007 c 251 s 14.]

**Severability—2007 c 251:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2007 c 251 s 15.]

**RCW 35.104.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authority" means a health sciences and services authority created pursuant to this chapter.

(2) "Board" means the governing board of trustees of an authority.

(3) "Director" means the executive director of the student achievement council.

(4) "Health sciences and services" means biosciences that advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health.

(5) "Local government" means a city, town, or county.

(6) "Sponsoring local government" means a city, town, or county that creates a health sciences and services authority. [2012 c 229 s 580; 2007 c 251 s 1.]

**Effective date—2012 c 229 ss 101, 117, 401, 402, 501 through 594, 601 through 609, 701 through 708, 801 through 821, 902, and 904:** See note following RCW 28B.77.005.

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.030 Creation.** A local government must establish by ordinance or resolution an authority. At a minimum, the ordinance must:

- (1) Specify the powers to be exercised by the authority;
- (2) Reserve the local government's right to dissolve the authority after its contractual responsibilities have expired;
- (3) Establish an administrative board, including: (a) The number of board members; (b) the times and terms of appointment for each board position; (c) the amount of compensation, if any, to be paid to board members; (d) the procedures for removing board members and filling vacancies; and (e) the qualifications for the appointment of individuals to the board;
- (4) Establish the authority's boundaries, which must be contiguous tracts of land;
- (5) Ensure that private and public funds provided to the authority will be segregated;
- (6) Establish guidelines under which the authority may invest its funds;
- (7) Provide the requirements for auditing the records of the authority; and
- (8) Require the local government's legal counsel to also provide legal services to the authority. [2007 c 251 s 3.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.040 Applications.** (1) The student achievement council may approve applications submitted by local governments for an area's designation as a health sciences and services authority under this chapter. The director must determine the division to review applications submitted by local governments under this chapter. The application for designation must be in the form and manner and contain such information as the student achievement council may prescribe, provided the application:

- (a) Contains sufficient information to enable the director to determine the viability of the proposal;
- (b) Demonstrates that an ordinance or resolution has been passed by the legislative authority of a local government that delineates the boundaries of an area that may be designated an authority;
- (c) Is submitted on behalf of the local government, or, if that office does not exist, by the legislative body of the local government;
- (d) Demonstrates that the public funds directed to programs or facilities in the authority will leverage private sector resources and contributions to activities to be performed;
- (e) Provides a plan or plans for the development of the authority as an entity to advance as a cluster for health sciences education, health sciences research, biotechnology development, biotechnology product commercialization, and/or health care services; and
- (f) Demonstrates that the state has previously provided funds to health sciences and services programs or facilities in the applicant city, town, or county.

(2) The director must determine the division to develop criteria to evaluate the application. The criteria must include:



(a) The presence of infrastructure capable of spurring development of the area as a center of health sciences and services;

(b) The presence of higher education facilities where undergraduate or graduate coursework or research is conducted; and

(c) The presence of facilities in which health services are provided.

(3) There may be no more than two authorities statewide.

(4) An authority may only be created in a county with a population of less than one million persons and located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

(5) The director may reject or approve an application. When denying an application, the director must specify the application's deficiencies. The decision regarding such designation as it relates to a specific local government is final; however, a rejected application may be resubmitted.

(6) Applications are due by December 31, 2010, and must be processed within sixty days of submission.

(7) The director may, at his or her discretion, amend the boundaries of an authority upon the request of the local government.

(8) The student achievement council may adopt any rules necessary to implement this chapter.

(9) The student achievement council must develop evaluation criteria that enables the local governments to measure the effectiveness of the program. [2012 c 229 s 581; 2011 c 155 s 1; 2010 1st sp.s. c 33 s 2; 2007 c 251 s 4.]

**Effective date—2012 c 229 ss 101, 117, 401, 402, 501 through 594, 601 through 609, 701 through 708, 801 through 821, 902, and 904:** See note following RCW 28B.77.005.

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.050 Governing board.** (1) An authority shall be overseen by a board with not more than fourteen members. The authority board shall select the chair. Board members must have some experience with the mission of the authority. The board members shall be appointed as follows:

(a) The governor shall appoint three members;

(b) The county legislative authority in which the authority resides shall appoint three members;

(c) The mayor of the city in which the authority is created, or the mayor of the largest city within the authority if created by a county, shall appoint three members; and

(d) Up to five additional members may be appointed by the board.

(2) A simple majority of the board members shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The board shall annually elect a secretary and any other officers it deems necessary.

(4) The local government shall designate an individual with financial experience to serve as treasurer. The individual may be a city or county treasurer, city or county auditor, or a private party. If the treasurer is a private party, the local government shall require a bond in an amount and under such terms and conditions as the local government deems necessary to protect the authority. The

treasurer shall have the power to create and maintain funds, issue warrants, and invest funds in its possession.

(5) The board may adopt bylaws or rules for their own governance.

(6) Meetings of the board shall be held in accordance with the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW, and at the call of the chair or when a majority of the board so requests. Meetings of the board may be held at any location and board members may participate in a meeting of the board by means of a conference telephone or similar communication equipment under RCW 23B.08.200. [2007 c 251 s 5.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.060 Powers and duties.** (1) The authority has all the general powers necessary to carry out its purposes and duties and to exercise its specific powers, including the authority may:

(a) Sue and be sued in its own name;

(b) Make and execute agreements, contracts, and other instruments, with any public or private entity or person, in accordance with this chapter;

(c) Employ, contract with, or engage independent counsel, financial advisors, auditors, other technical or professional assistants, and such other personnel as are necessary or desirable to implement this chapter;

(d) Establish such special funds, and control deposits to and disbursements from them, as it finds convenient for the implementation of this chapter;

(e) Enter into contracts with public and private entities for research to be conducted in this state;

(f) Delegate any of its powers and duties if consistent with the purposes of this chapter;

(g) Exercise any other power reasonably required to implement the purposes of this chapter; and

(h) Hire staff and pay administrative costs; however, such expenses shall be paid from moneys provided by the sponsoring local government and moneys received from gifts, grants, and bequests and the interest earned on the authority's accounts and investments. No more than ten percent of the amounts received under RCW 82.14.480 may be used by a health sciences and services authority for the purposes of subsections (1)(c) and (h) of this section.

(2) In addition to other powers and duties prescribed in this chapter, the authority is empowered to:

(a) Use the authority's public moneys, leveraging those moneys with amounts received from other public and private sources in accordance with contribution agreements, to promote bioscience-based economic development, and to advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health;

(b) Solicit and receive gifts, grants, and bequests, and enter into contribution agreements with private entities and public entities to receive moneys in consideration of the authority's promise to leverage those moneys with the revenue generated by the tax authorized under RCW 82.14.480 and contributions from other public entities and private entities, in order to use those moneys to promote bioscience-based economic development and advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health;

(c) Hold funds received by the authority in trust for their use pursuant to this chapter to promote bioscience-based economic development and advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health;

(d) Manage its funds, obligations, and investments as necessary and consistent with its purpose, including the segregation of revenues into separate funds and accounts;

(e) Borrow money and incur indebtedness pursuant to RCW 35.104.110;

(f) Make grants to entities pursuant to contract to promote bioscience-based economic development and advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health. Grant agreements shall specify the deliverables to be provided by the recipient pursuant to the grant. Grants to private entities may only be provided under a contractual agreement that ensures the state will receive appropriate consideration, such as an assurance of job creation or retention, or the delivery of services that provide for the public health, safety, and welfare. The authority shall solicit requests for funding and evaluate the requests by reference to factors such as: (i) The quality of the proposed research; (ii) its potential to improve health outcomes, with particular attention to the likelihood that it will also lower health care costs, substitute for a more costly diagnostic or treatment modality, or offer a breakthrough treatment for a particular disease or condition; (iii) its potential to leverage additional funding; (iv) its potential to provide health care benefits; (v) its potential to stimulate employment; and (vi) evidence of public and private collaboration;

(g) Create one or more advisory boards composed of scientists, industrialists, and others familiar with health sciences and services; and

(h) Adopt policies and procedures to facilitate the orderly process of grant application, review, and reward.

(3) The records of the authority shall be subject to audit by the office of the state auditor. [2010 1st sp.s. c 33 s 1; 2009 c 564 s 921; 2007 c 251 s 6.]

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.070 General indebtedness—General obligation bonds.**

(1) A local government that creates a health sciences and services authority may incur general indebtedness, and issue general obligation bonds, to finance the grants and other programs and retire the indebtedness in whole or in part from the funds distributed pursuant to RCW 82.14.480 and subject to the following requirements:

(a) The ordinance adopted by the local government creating the authority and authorizing the use of the excise tax in RCW 82.14.480 indicates an intent to incur this indebtedness and the maximum amount of this indebtedness that is contemplated; and

(b) The local government includes this statement of the intent in all notices.

(2) The general indebtedness incurred under this section may be payable from other tax revenues, the full faith and credit of the

sponsoring local government, and nontax income, revenues, fees, and rents from the public improvements, as well as contributions, grants, and nontax money available to the local government for payment of costs of the grants and other programs or associated debt service on the general indebtedness. [2007 c 251 s 7.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.080 Limitation on bonds issued.** The bonds issued by a local government under RCW 35.104.070 shall not constitute an obligation of the state of Washington, either general or special. [2007 c 251 s 8.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.090 Liability.** (1) Members of the board, as well as other persons acting on behalf of the authority, while acting within the scope of their employment or agency, shall not be subject to personal liability resulting from their official duties conferred on them under this chapter.

(2) The state, the local government that created the authority, and the authority shall not be liable for any loss, damage, harm, or other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from grants provided by the authority or from programs, services, research, or other activities funded with such grants. [2007 c 251 s 9.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.100 Dissolution of sponsoring local government.** The board may petition the sponsoring local government to be dissolved upon a showing that it has no reason to exist and that any assets it retains must be returned to the state treasurer. [2007 c 251 s 10.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 35.104.010.

**RCW 35.104.110 Borrowed moneys—Liability.** (1) A local government that has established a health sciences and services authority under RCW 35.104.030 may, by ordinance or resolution, authorize the authority to borrow money under the conditions set forth in this section.

(2) Moneys borrowed by an authority must be secured by funds derived from gifts or grants from any source, public or private, federal, state, or local government grants or payments, or intergovernmental transfers.

(3) The authority shall incur no expense or liability that is an obligation, either general or special, of the state or local government, or a general obligation of the authority, and shall pay no

expense or liability from funds other than funds of the authority.  
[2010 1st sp.s. c 33 s 4.]

**Chapter 35.106 RCW  
CRIME-FREE RENTAL HOUSING**

**Sections**

- 35.106.005 Finding—Intent.
- 35.106.010 Definitions.
- 35.106.020 Crime-free rental housing program.
- 35.106.030 Program—No prohibition against hiring or renting to person based on criminal history.
- 35.106.100 Chapter supersedes and preempts local laws—Application of RCW 35.106.020 to local laws.

**RCW 35.106.005 Finding—Intent.** The legislature finds that local governments, landlords, and tenants working together to provide crime-free rental housing is beneficial to the public health, safety, and welfare. The legislature is also concerned about activities and provisions that serve to bar a person with a criminal history from obtaining viable housing regardless of other factors that may indicate rental stability, such as employment, rental references, or time in the community with no further criminal activity. It is therefore the intent of chapter 132, Laws of 2010 to provide certain requirements that a local government must follow in adopting a crime-free rental housing program. [2010 c 132 s 1.]

**RCW 35.106.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Crime-free rental housing program" means a crime prevention program designed to reduce crime, drugs, and gangs on rental housing premises under the supervision of the local police department or a crime prevention officer. The program may include, but is not limited to: Property management and crime prevention training classes; crime prevention through environmental design surveys; and community awareness training.

(2) "Criminal activity" means a criminal act defined by statute or ordinance that threatens the health, safety, or welfare of the tenants, owner, guests, occupants, or property manager.

(3) "Local government" means any city, code city, town, or county.

(4) "Premises" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.18.030.

(5) "Rental housing" means any tenancy subject to chapter 59.12, 59.18, or 59.20 RCW. [2010 c 132 s 2.]

**RCW 35.106.020 Crime-free rental housing program.** (1) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a local government may adopt and implement a crime-free rental housing program within its jurisdiction in accordance with this chapter.

(b) A crime-free rental housing program adopted and implemented by a county is applicable only to unincorporated areas of the county.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a crime-free rental housing program must be voluntary.

(3) (a) A local government may require a landlord to participate in a crime-free rental housing program upon exceeding a reasonable

threshold of instances of criminal activity on the premises if the landlord has not made a good faith effort to deter the criminal activity.

(b) A good faith effort may include, but is not limited to:

(i) Service of notice on the tenant to comply or quit as allowed by law or the commencement of an unlawful detainer action against the tenant; and

(ii) Attendance and completion of a landlord training program approved by the local government.

(4) (a) As a prerequisite to subsection (3) of this section, upon the occurrence of criminal activity on the premises, the local police department must send a notice to the landlord setting forth the following:

(i) The date and location of the occurrence;

(ii) The nature of the occurrence; and

(iii) The name of the person who engaged in the occurrence.

(b) Notice is deemed properly delivered when it is either served upon the landlord or a property manager of the rental property, or is delivered by first-class mail to the last known address of the landlord.

(5) This section does not prevent a local government from charging a fee for participation in a crime-free rental housing program.

(6) This section does not affect a local government's authority to enforce existing law in regard to rental housing, except in regard to a crime-free rental housing program. [2010 c 132 s 3.]

**RCW 35.106.030 Program—No prohibition against hiring or renting to person based on criminal history.** A crime-free rental housing program may not prohibit a landlord from hiring or renting to a person solely because of the person's criminal history. [2010 c 132 s 4.]

**RCW 35.106.100 Chapter supersedes and preempts local laws—Application of RCW 35.106.020 to local laws.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, this chapter supersedes and preempts all rules, regulations, codes, statutes, or ordinances of all local governments regarding the same subject matter. The state preemption created in this section applies to all rules, regulations, codes, statutes, and ordinances pertaining to crime-free rental housing programs at any time.

(2) RCW 35.106.020 does not apply to rules, regulations, codes, statutes, or ordinances adopted by local governments prior to July 1, 2010, except as required by an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to litigation regarding the rules, regulations, codes, statutes, or ordinances. [2010 c 132 s 5.]

**Chapter 35.107 RCW**  
**COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE DEVELOPMENT**

**Sections**

- 35.107.005 Findings—Intent.
- 35.107.010 Commercial office space development area—Local sales and use tax remittance program—Local property tax reinvestment program.
- 35.107.020 Definitions.
- 35.107.030 Ordinance establishing commercial office space development area—Requirements.
- 35.107.040 Application for a qualifying project—Requirements.
- 35.107.050 Application approval by administrative official or committee of the city—When authorized.
- 35.107.060 Commercial office development public improvement fund—Required deposits.
- 35.107.070 Commercial office development public improvement fund—Expenditures.
- 35.107.080 Ownership change in participating projects.
- 35.107.090 Joint legislative audit and review committee report.

**RCW 35.107.005 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that the cost of developing high quality, commercial office space is prohibitive in cities located outside of a major metropolitan area. The legislature finds these cities plan to locate commercial office space within those urban centers. The legislature also finds that solely planning for commercial office space within urban centers is inadequate and an incentive should be created to stimulate commercial office space development in urban centers outside major metropolitan areas. The legislature intends to provide these cities with local options to incentivize the development of commercial office space in urban centers with access to transit, transportation systems, and other amenities. [2019 c 273 s 1.]

**RCW 35.107.010 Commercial office space development area—Local sales and use tax remittance program—Local property tax reinvestment program.** A governing authority of a city may designate a commercial office space development area. Within the area, the city may:

- (1) Adopt a local sales and use tax remittance program to incentivize the development of commercial office space; and
- (2) Establish a local property tax reinvestment program to make public improvements that incentivize the development of commercial office space. [2019 c 273 s 2.]

**RCW 35.107.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commercial office space" means a high quality building or buildings in the local market, as determined by a city's governing authority. High quality must be reflected in the finishes, construction, and infrastructure of the project building. The building or buildings must be at least fifty thousand square feet, and at least



three stories. The building must be centrally located in a city, provide close access to available public transportation and freeways, be managed professionally, and offer amenities and advanced technology options to tenants.

(2) "Commercial office space development area" means an area that has been designated by the city legislative authority as a commercial office space development area. Each area is limited to contiguous tracts, lots, pieces, or parcels of land without the creation of islands of property not included in the commercial office space development area. The commercial office space development area or areas within a city cannot contain more than twenty-five percent of the total assessed value of the taxable real property within the boundaries of the city at the time the area is established.

(3) "County" means a county with a population of less than one million five hundred thousand.

(4) "Family living wage job" means a job with a wage that is sufficient for raising a family. A family living wage job must have an average wage of eighteen dollars an hour or more, working two thousand eighty hours per year, as adjusted annually by the consumer price index. The family living wage may be increased by the local authority based on regional factors and wage conditions.

(5) "Operationally complete" means that a certificate of occupancy has been issued for the building.

(6) "Public improvement" means infrastructure improvements to be owned by a public entity within the commercial office space development area that include:

- (a) Street, road, bridge, and rail construction and maintenance;
- (b) Water and sewer system construction and improvements;
- (c) Sidewalks, streetlights, landscaping, and streetscaping;
- (d) Parking, terminal, and dock facilities;
- (e) Park and ride facilities of a transit authority;
- (f) Park facilities, recreational areas, and environmental remediation;
- (g) Stormwater and drainage management systems;
- (h) Seismic improvements to buildings eligible for or eligible for listing in the Washington state register of historic places (RCW 27.34.220) or the national register of historic places as defined in the national historic preservation act of 1966 (Title 1, Sec. 101, P.L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 470) as now or hereafter amended;
- (i) Electric, gas, fiber, and other utility infrastructures; and
- (j) Expenditures for any of the following purposes:
  - (i) Providing environmental analysis, professional management, planning, and promotion within the commercial office space development area; and
  - (ii) Providing maintenance and security for common or public areas in the commercial office space development area.

(7) "Public improvement costs" means the costs of:

- (a) Design; planning; acquisition, including land acquisition; site preparation, including land clearing; construction; reconstruction; rehabilitation; improvements; and installation of public improvements;
- (b) Demolishing, relocating, maintaining, and operating property pending construction of public improvements;
- (c) Relocating utilities as a result of public improvements;
- (d) Financing public improvements, including interest during construction; legal, and other professional services; taxes;

insurance; principal and interest costs on general indebtedness issued to finance public improvements; and any necessary reserves for general indebtedness; and

(e) Administrative expenses and feasibility studies reasonably necessary and related to these costs, including related costs that may have been incurred before adoption of the ordinance authorizing the public improvements and use of funds deposited into the commercial office development public improvement fund.

(8) "Qualifying project" means new construction or rehabilitation of a building or group of buildings intended for use as commercial office space. A "qualifying project" may include mixed-use buildings, not solely intended to be used as office space, but does not include any portion of a project intended for residential use or noncommercial use. A "qualifying project" may include new construction, or rehabilitation of an existing building, which included an area intended to be used for child care facilities at or near the commercial office space. "Qualifying project" does not include the land associated with the new construction or rehabilitation.

(9) "Rehabilitation" and "rehabilitation improvements" means modifications to an existing building or buildings made to achieve substantial improvements such that the building or buildings can be categorized as commercial office space.

(10) "Rehabilitation improvements" means modifications to an existing building or buildings made to achieve substantial improvements such that the building or buildings can be categorized as commercial office space.

(11) "Urban center" means a compact identifiable district where urban residents may obtain a variety of products and services. An urban center must contain:

(a) Several existing or previous, or both, business establishments that may include but are not limited to shops, offices, banks, restaurants, and governmental agencies;

(b) Adequate public facilities including streets, sidewalks, lighting, transit, domestic water, and sanitary sewer systems; and

(c) A mixture of uses and activities that may include housing, recreation, and cultural activities in association with either commercial or office use, or both commercial and office use. [2019 c 273 s 3.]

**RCW 35.107.030 Ordinance establishing commercial office space development area—Requirements.** (1) In order for a city to approve a qualifying project to receive a sales and use tax remittance and participate in a local property tax reinvestment program, the city legislative authority must adopt an ordinance designating a commercial office space development area or areas. In the ordinance, the city legislative authority must:

(a) Outline the boundaries of the commercial office space development area or areas, consistent with the definitions of this chapter;

(b) Find that the area is wholly within an urban center;

(c) Find that the area lacks sufficient available, desirable, high quality, and convenient commercial office space to provide family living wage jobs in the urban center;

(d) Outline standards and guidelines consistent with RCW 35.107.040 to accept and approve applications for qualifying projects

to be considered for a local sales and use tax remittance or a property tax reinvestment program; and

(e) Establish a commercial office development public improvement fund in which to deposit property tax reinvestment revenues.

(2) The city legislative authority must hold a public hearing on the ordinance establishing the commercial office space development area or areas. The city legislative authority must give notice of a hearing held under this section by publication of the notice once each week for two consecutive weeks, not less than seven days, nor more than thirty days before the date of the hearing in a paper having a general circulation in the city where the proposed commercial office space development area or areas would be located. The notice must state the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing and generally identify the area proposed to be designated as a commercial office space development area. [2019 c 273 s 4.]

#### **RCW 35.107.040 Application for a qualifying project—**

**Requirements.** (1) In order to approve the sales and use tax remittance and property tax reinvestment for a qualifying project under RCW 35.107.030, an owner of a qualifying project must, in coordination with the city, submit an application to the city consistent with the standards and guidelines provided in RCW 35.107.030. Additionally, the application must include:

(a) Whether the qualifying project is located within a commercial office space development area, in accordance with an adopted ordinance under RCW 35.107.030;

(b) Whether the qualifying project meets the definition of a qualifying project;

(c) The number of family living wage jobs estimated to be generated by the qualifying project;

(d) A description of the qualifying project, including a physical description of proposed building or buildings including estimated square footage, number of floors, and a list of features and amenities;

(e) The cost of construction or rehabilitation, and length of time that the qualifying project will be under construction;

(f) Whether the qualifying project is or will be, at the time of completion, in conformance with all local plans and regulations that apply at the time the application is approved; and

(g) A statement that the qualifying project is not anticipated to be used for the purpose of relocating a business from outside of the commercial office space development area, but within the state, to within the commercial office space development area. This does not exclude the incentives authorized under this chapter and RCW 82.14.532 from being used for the expansion of a business, including the development of additional offices or satellite facilities.

(2) If the project applicant is seeking a sales and use tax remittance, the application must also include:

(a) A written agreement for the use of the local sales and use tax remittance from any taxing authority that imposes a sales or use tax under chapter 82.14 RCW or RCW 81.104.170. The agreement must be authorized by the governing body of such participating taxing authorities. If a taxing authority does not provide a written agreement, the sales and use tax for that taxing authority may not be remitted and the revenue may not be estimated in the application;

(b) An estimate of the amount of local sales and use tax revenue that will be remitted to a taxpayer;

(c) The approximate date that the local sales and use tax revenue will be remitted to a taxpayer; and

(d) The criteria under this section by which a qualifying project can later receive certification under RCW 82.14.532(4) confirming that a taxpayer is eligible for the remittance.

(3) If the city intends to approve the qualifying project for a property tax reinvestment, the application must also include:

(a) A written agreement of the participation of any taxing authority that collects a local property tax allocation. The agreement must be authorized by the governing body of such participating local taxing authorities. If a taxing authority does not provide written agreement, the local property tax for that taxing authority may not be remitted to the city legislative authority that established a commercial office development public improvement fund;

(b) An estimated amount of property tax to be deposited into a commercial office development public improvement fund resulting from the qualifying project; and

(c) A prioritized list of public improvements that support the development of the qualifying project, and the estimated public improvement costs. [2019 c 273 s 5.]

**RCW 35.107.050 Application approval by administrative official or committee of the city—When authorized.**

(1) The duly authorized administrative official or committee of the city may approve the application if it finds that:

(a) The proposed qualifying project meets the criteria as defined by the city in RCW 35.107.030;

(b) The proposed qualifying project is or will be, at the time of completion, in conformance with all local plans and regulations that apply at the time the application is approved;

(c) The owner has complied with all standards and guidelines adopted by the city in RCW 35.107.030; and

(d) The site is located in a commercial office space development area that has been designated by the city legislative authority in accordance with the procedures and guidelines indicated in RCW 35.107.030.

(2) If the application is approved, the city must issue the owner of the property a conditional certificate of acceptance of the project for the sales and use tax remittance and participation in a property tax reinvestment program.

(3) If the application is denied by the authorized administrative official or committee authorized by the city legislative authority, the deciding administrative official or committee must state in writing the reasons for denial and send the notice to the applicant at the applicant's last known address within ten days of the denial.

(4) Upon denial by a duly authorized administrative official or committee, an applicant may appeal the denial to the city legislative authority within thirty days after receipt of the denial. The appeal before the governing authority must be based upon the record made before the administrative official or committee with the burden of proof on the applicant to show that there was no substantial evidence to support the administrative official's or committee's decision. The

decision of the city legislative authority in denying or approving the application is final. [2019 c 273 s 6.]

**RCW 35.107.060 Commercial office development public improvement fund—Required deposits.** (1) Once the city approves an application for a qualifying project to participate in a property tax reinvestment program, the city must deposit into a commercial office development public improvement fund, the equivalent of the city's share of the ad valorem property taxation on the value of new construction and rehabilitation improvements of real property for qualifying projects under this chapter for a period of ten successive years beginning January 1st of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the application is initially approved.

(2) For a period of ten successive years beginning January 1st of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the application is initially approved, taxing districts participating under this section that provide a written agreement under RCW 35.107.040 must transfer to the city an amount equivalent to the portion of the taxing district's ad valorem property tax on the value of new construction and rehabilitation improvements of real property for qualifying projects for the city to deposit into a commercial office development public improvement fund. [2019 c 273 s 7.]

**RCW 35.107.070 Commercial office development public improvement fund—Expenditures.** (1) The city may only make expenditures from the commercial office development public improvement fund that:

(a) Are to construct the public improvement that was identified in the approved application, requesting the property tax reinvestment submitted under RCW 35.107.040 and approved under RCW 35.107.050;

(b) Transfer funding to the project applicant to construct the public improvement and transfer ownership of the public improvement to a public agency; and

(c) Meet any additional criteria established in an ordinance adopted under RCW 35.107.030.

(2) The city and the project applicant must enter into a written agreement outlining the specifics of the public improvement, associated public improvement costs, responsible parties, and any other information required by the city. [2019 c 273 s 8.]

**RCW 35.107.080 Ownership change in participating projects.** If a qualifying project participating in the property tax reinvestment program under this chapter changes ownership, the property continues to qualify for the reinvestment, if the new owner complies with all of the application requirements, procedures, terms, conditions, and reporting requirements under this chapter, and meets all of the criteria established by the city to which the application was submitted under this chapter. [2019 c 273 s 9.]

**RCW 35.107.090 Joint legislative audit and review committee report. (Expires December 31, 2028.)** (1) The joint legislative audit and review committee must study the effectiveness of the local sales and use tax remittance and the local property tax reinvestment

programs authorized in this chapter, and submit a report as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) The report must include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the local sales and use tax remittance and the property tax reinvestment programs authorized under this chapter and an evaluation of:

- (a) The availability of quality office space;
- (b) The effects on affordable housing;
- (c) The effects on transportation, traffic congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions; and
- (d) Job creation.

(3) By October 1, 2028, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the joint legislative audit and review committee must submit to the appropriate committees of the legislature a final report with their findings and recommendations under this section.

(4) This section expires December 31, 2028. [2019 c 273 s 10.]

**Chapter 35.110 RCW**  
**PASSENGER-ONLY FERRY SERVICE**

**Sections**

35.110.010 When authorized—Investment plan.

**RCW 35.110.010 When authorized—Investment plan.** (1) Any city having a boundary located on Puget Sound or Lake Washington may establish, finance, and provide passenger-only ferry service, including associated services to support and augment passenger-only ferry service operation, within its boundaries. For the purposes of this chapter, Puget Sound has the same meaning as described in RCW 36.57A.200.

(2) Before a city may provide passenger-only ferry service, it must develop a passenger-only ferry investment plan, which must include elements regarding operating or contracting for the operation of passenger-only ferry services; the purchase, lease, or rental of ferry vessels and dock facilities for the provision of transit service; consultation with potentially affected federally recognized Indian treaty fishing tribes and other federally recognized treaty tribes with potentially affected interests to ensure impacts to tribal fishing are minimized; and identifying other activities necessary to implement the plan. The passenger-only ferry investment plan must also set forth terminal locations to be served, consistency with any study developed through the Puget Sound regional council for regional service, projected costs of providing services, and revenues to be generated from tolls, locally collected tax revenues, and other revenue sources. The passenger-only ferry investment plan may recommend additional revenue authority that has not yet been authorized under state law.

(3) The passenger-only ferry investment plan must ensure that services provided under the plan are for the benefit of the residents of the city. The city may use any of its powers to carry out this purpose, unless otherwise prohibited by law. In addition, the city may enter into contracts and agreements to operate passenger-only ferry service, as well as appropriate public-private partnerships including, but not limited to, design-build, general contractor/construction management, or other alternative procurement processes substantially consistent with chapter 39.10 RCW.

(4) The passenger-only ferry investment plan must show design and funding considerations for propulsion types and technologies that meet low, ultra-low, and zero emission targets in relation to any operations and business plan to ensure a viable route. Considerations should include vessel design, electrification, as well as shoreside infrastructure. The investment plan must also show best management practices and technologies available and considered to reduce impacts to water quality, prevention of strikes, and underwater noise that impact the southern resident killer whale population, other marine mammals, and aquatic life. [2020 c 181 s 1.]