

Chapter 35A.14 RCW
ANNEXATION BY CODE CITIES

Sections

- 35A.14.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 35A.14.005 Annexations beyond urban growth areas prohibited.
- 35A.14.010 Authority for annexation.
- 35A.14.015 Election method—Resolution for election—Contents of resolution.
- 35A.14.020 Election method—Contents of petition—Certification by auditor—Approval or rejection by legislative body—Costs.
- 35A.14.030 Filing of petition as approved by city.
- 35A.14.040 Election method—Hearing by review board—Notice.
- 35A.14.050 Decision of the county annexation review board—Filing—Date for election.
- 35A.14.070 Election method—Notice of election.
- 35A.14.080 Election method—Vote required for annexation—Proposition for assumption of indebtedness—Certification.
- 35A.14.085 Election method—Vote required for annexation with assumption of indebtedness—Without assumption of indebtedness.
- 35A.14.090 Election method—Ordinance providing for annexation, assumption of indebtedness.
- 35A.14.100 Election method—Effective date of annexation.
- 35A.14.110 Election method is alternative.
- 35A.14.120 Direct petition method—Notice to legislative body—Meeting—Assumption of indebtedness—Proposed zoning regulation—Contents of petition.
- 35A.14.130 Direct petition method—Notice of hearing.
- 35A.14.140 Direct petition method—Ordinance providing for annexation.
- 35A.14.150 Direct petition method—Effective date of annexation.
- 35A.14.160 Annexation review board—Composition.
- 35A.14.170 Time for filing nominations—Vacancies.
- 35A.14.180 Terms of members.
- 35A.14.190 Organization of annexation review board—Rules—Journal—Authority.
- 35A.14.200 Determination by county annexation review board—Factors considered—Filing of findings and decision.
- 35A.14.210 Court review of decisions of the county annexation review board.
- 35A.14.220 When review procedure may be dispensed with.
- 35A.14.231 Territory subject to annexation proposal—When annexation by another city or incorporation allowed.
- 35A.14.295 Annexation of unincorporated island of territory within code city—Resolution—Notice of hearing.
- 35A.14.296 Annexation of unincorporated territory pursuant to interlocal agreement.
- 35A.14.297 Ordinance providing for annexation of unincorporated island of territory—Referendum.
- 35A.14.299 Annexation of unincorporated island of territory within code city—Referendum—Effective date if no referendum.

- 35A.14.300 Annexation for municipal purposes.
- 35A.14.310 Annexation of federal areas.
- 35A.14.320 Annexation of federal areas—Provisions of ordinance—
Authority over annexed territory.
- 35A.14.330 Proposed zoning regulation—Purposes of regulations and
restrictions.
- 35A.14.340 Notice and hearing—Filings and recordings.
- 35A.14.380 Ownership of assets of fire protection district—
Assumption of responsibility of fire protection—When
at least sixty percent of assessed valuation is
annexed or incorporated in code city.
- 35A.14.400 Ownership of assets of fire protection district—When
less than sixty percent of assessed valuation is
annexed or incorporated in code city.
- 35A.14.410 When right-of-way may be included—Use of right-of-way
line as corporate boundary.
- 35A.14.420 Alternative direct petition method—Notice to legislative
body—Meeting—Assumption of indebtedness—Proposed
zoning regulation—Contents of petition.
- 35A.14.430 Alternative direct petition method—Notice of hearing.
- 35A.14.440 Alternative direct petition method—Ordinance providing
for annexation.
- 35A.14.450 Alternative direct petition method—Effective date of
annexation.
- 35A.14.460 Annexation of territory within urban growth areas—
Interlocal agreement—Public hearing—Ordinance
providing for annexation.
- 35A.14.470 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.
- 35A.14.472 Annexation of unincorporated territory within urban
growth areas—Interlocal agreement, when authorized—
Requirements.
- 35A.14.475 Annexation of territory within regional transit
authorities.
- 35A.14.480 Annexation of territory served by fire districts—
Interlocal agreement process.
- 35A.14.485 Annexation of fire districts—Transfer of employees.
- 35A.14.488 Fire protection and safety in proposed annexed territory
—Report request.
- 35A.14.490 Annexation of territory used for an agricultural fair.
- 35A.14.500 Outstanding indebtedness not affected.
- 35A.14.550 Providing annexation information to public.
- 35A.14.700 Determining population of annexed territory—Certificate
—As basis for allocation of state funds—Revised
certificate.
- 35A.14.801 Taxes collected in annexed territory—Notification of
annexation.
- 35A.14.900 Cancellation, acquisition of franchise or permit for
operation of public service business in territory
annexed—Regulation of solid waste collection.
- 35A.14.901 Application of chapter to annexations involving water or
sewer service.

Annexation of fire protection district territory: RCW 35.02.190 through 35.02.205.

Water, sewer, or fire districts, annexation of: Chapter 35.13A RCW.

RCW 35A.14.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board. Actions taken under chapter 35A.14 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 s 38.]

RCW 35A.14.005 Annexations beyond urban growth areas prohibited. No code city 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 31.]

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

RCW 35A.14.010 Authority for annexation. Any portion of a county not incorporated as part of a city or town but lying contiguous to a code city may become a part of the charter code city or noncharter code city by annexation. An area proposed to be annexed to a charter code city or noncharter code city shall be deemed contiguous thereto even though separated by water or tide or shore lands and, upon annexation of such area, any such intervening water and/or tide or shore lands shall become a part of such annexing city. [2009 c 402 s 4; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.010.]

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

RCW 35A.14.015 Election method—Resolution for election—Contents of resolution. When the legislative body of a charter code city or noncharter code city shall determine that the best interests and general welfare of such city would be served by the annexation of unincorporated territory contiguous to such city, such legislative body may, by resolution, call for an election to be held to submit to the voters of such territory the proposal for annexation. The resolution shall, subject to RCW 35.02.170, describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed, state the number of voters residing therein as nearly as may be, and shall provide that said city 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 is assessed and taxed to pay for all or any portion of the then-outstanding indebtedness of the city to which said area is annexed, which indebtedness has been approved by the voters, contracted for, or incurred prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation. Whenever such city has prepared and filed a proposed zoning regulation for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340, the resolution initiating the election may also provide for the simultaneous adoption

of the proposed zoning regulation upon approval of annexation by the electorate of the area to be annexed. A certified copy of the resolution shall be filed with the legislative authority of the county in which said territory is located. A certified copy of the resolution shall be filed with the boundary review board as provided for in chapter 36.93 RCW or the county annexation review board established by RCW 35A.14.200, unless such annexation proposal is within the provisions of RCW 35A.14.220. [1986 c 234 s 29; 1979 ex.s. c 124 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 14; 1971 ex.s. c 251 s 10; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.015.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: "If any provision of this 1979 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 124 s 11.]

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

RCW 35A.14.020 Election method—Contents of petition—Certification by auditor—Approval or rejection by legislative body—Costs. When a petition is sufficient under the rules set forth in RCW 35A.01.040, calling for an election to vote upon the annexation of unincorporated territory contiguous to a code city, describing the boundaries of the area proposed to be annexed, stating the number of voters therein as nearly as may be, and signed by qualified electors resident in such territory equal in number to ten percent of the votes cast at the last state general election therein, it shall be filed with the auditor of the county in which all, or the greatest portion, of the territory is located, and a copy of the petition shall be filed with the legislative body of the code city. If the territory is located in more than a single county, the auditor of the county with whom the petition is filed shall act as the lead auditor and transmit a copy of the petition to the auditor of each other county within which a portion of the territory is located. The auditor or auditors shall examine the petition, and the auditor or lead auditor shall certify the sufficiency of the petition to the legislative authority of the code city.

If the signatures on the petition are certified as containing sufficient valid signatures, the city legislative authority shall, by resolution entered within sixty days thereafter, notify the petitioners, either by mail or by publication in the same manner notice of hearing is required by RCW 35A.14.040 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 is assessed and taxed to pay for all or any portion of the then-outstanding indebtedness of the city to which said area is annexed, which indebtedness has been approved by the voters, contracted for, or incurred prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation. Only after the legislative body has completed preparation and filing of a proposed zoning regulation for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35A.14.330 and

35A.14.340, the legislative body in approving the proposed action, may require that the proposed zoning regulation be simultaneously adopted upon the approval of annexation by the electorate of the area to be annexed. The approval of the legislative body shall be a condition precedent to further proceedings upon the petition. The costs of conducting the election called for in the petition shall be a charge against the city concerned. The proposition or questions provided for in this section may be submitted to the voter either separately or as a single proposition. [1989 c 351 s 4; 1981 c 332 s 6; 1979 ex.s. c 124 s 2; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.020.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

RCW 35A.14.030 Filing of petition as approved by city. Upon approval of the petition for election by the legislative body of the code city to which such territory is proposed to be annexed, the petition shall be filed with the legislative authority of the county in which such territory is located, along with a statement, in the form required by the city, of the provisions, if any there be, relating to assumption of the portion of the debt that the city requires to be assumed by the owners of property of the area proposed to be annexed, and/or the simultaneous adoption of a proposed zoning regulation for the area. A copy of the petition and the statement, if any, shall also be filed with the boundary review board as provided for in chapter 36.93 RCW or the county annexation review board established by RCW 35A.14.160, unless such proposed annexation is within the provisions of RCW 35A.14.220. [1979 ex.s. c 124 s 3; 1971 ex.s. c 251 s 6; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.030.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

RCW 35A.14.040 Election method—Hearing by review board—Notice. Within ten days after receipt of a petition or resolution calling for an election on the question of annexation, the county annexation review board shall meet and, if the proposed annexation complies with the requirements of law, shall fix a date for a hearing thereon, to be held not less than fifteen days nor more than thirty days thereafter, of which hearing the city must give notice by publication at least once a week for two weeks prior thereto in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the city and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area proposed to be annexed. The hearing shall be held within the city to which the territory is proposed to be annexed, at a time and place to be designated by the board. Upon the day fixed, the board shall conduct a hearing upon the petition or resolution, at which hearing a representative of the city shall make a brief presentation to the board in explanation of the annexation and the benefits to be derived therefrom, and the petitioners and any resident of the city or the area proposed to be annexed shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The hearing may be adjourned from time to time in the board's discretion, not to exceed thirty days in all from the commencement of the hearing. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.040.]

RCW 35A.14.050 Decision of the county annexation review board—Filing—Date for election. After consideration of the proposed annexation as provided in RCW 35A.14.200, the county annexation review board, within thirty days after the final day of hearing, shall take one of the following actions:

(1) Approval of the proposal as submitted.

(2) Subject to RCW 35.02.170, modification of the proposal by adjusting boundaries to include or exclude territory; except that any such inclusion of territory shall not increase the total area of territory proposed for annexation by an amount exceeding the original proposal by more than five percent: PROVIDED, That the county annexation review board shall not adjust boundaries to include territory not included in the original proposal without first affording to residents and property owners of the area affected by such adjustment of boundaries an opportunity to be heard as to the proposal.

(3) Disapproval of the proposal.

The written decision of the county annexation review board shall be filed with the board of county commissioners and with the legislative body of the city concerned. If the annexation proposal is modified by the county annexation review board, such modification shall be fully set forth in the written decision. If the decision of the boundary review board or the county annexation review board is favorable to the annexation proposal, or the proposal as modified by the review board, the legislative body of the city at its next regular meeting if to be held within thirty days after receipt of the decision of the boundary review board or the county annexation review board, or at a special meeting to be held within that period, shall indicate to the county auditor its preference for a special election date for submission of such annexation proposal, with any modifications made by the review board, to the voters of the territory proposed to be annexed. The special election date that is so indicated 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 legislative authority shall call the special election at the special election date so indicated by the city. If the boundary review board or the county annexation review board disapproves the annexation proposal, no further action shall be taken thereon, and no proposal for annexation of the same territory, or substantially the same as determined by the board, shall be initiated or considered for twelve months thereafter. [2015 c 53 s 54; 1989 c 351 s 5; 1986 c 234 s 30; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 15; 1971 ex.s. c 251 s 7; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.050.]

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

RCW 35A.14.070 Election method—Notice of election. Notice of an annexation election shall particularly describe the boundaries of the area proposed to be annexed, as the same may have been modified by the boundary review board or the county annexation review board, 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" or "Against Annexation" or words equivalent thereto, or contain the words "For Annexation and Adoption

of Proposed Zoning Regulation", and "Against Annexation and Adoption of Proposed Zoning Regulation", or words equivalent thereto in case the simultaneous adoption of a proposed zoning regulation is proposed, and in case the assumption of all or a portion of indebtedness is proposed, shall contain an appropriate, separate proposition for or against the portion of indebtedness that the city requires to be assumed. 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 at least once a week for two weeks prior to the date of election in a newspaper of general circulation within the limits of the territory proposed to be annexed. Such notice shall be in addition to the notice required by general election law. [1994 c 223 s 38; 1979 ex.s. c 124 s 4; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.070.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

RCW 35A.14.080 Election method—Vote required for annexation—Proposition for assumption of indebtedness—Certification. On the Monday next succeeding the annexation election, the county canvassing board shall proceed to canvass the returns thereof and shall submit the statement of canvass to the county legislative authority.

The proposition for or against annexation or for or against annexation and adoption of the proposed zoning regulation, as the case may be, 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 proposed zoning regulation, as the case may be. If a proposition for or against assumption of all or any portion of indebtedness was submitted to the electorate, it shall be deemed approved if a majority of at least three-fifths of the electors of the territory proposed to be annexed voting on such proposition vote 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 territory at the last preceding general election. If either or both propositions were approved by the electors, the county legislative authority shall enter a finding to that effect on its minutes, a certified copy of which shall be forthwith transmitted to and filed with the clerk of the city to which annexation is proposed, together with a certified abstract of the vote showing the whole number who voted at the election, the number of votes cast for annexation and the number cast against annexation or for annexation and adoption of the proposed zoning regulation and the number cast against annexation and adoption of the proposed zoning regulation, as the case may be, and if a proposition for assumption of all or any portion of indebtedness was submitted to the electorate, 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. [1979 ex.s. c 124 s 5; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.080.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

RCW 35A.14.085 Election method—Vote required for annexation with assumption of indebtedness—Without assumption of indebtedness.

A code city may cause a proposition authorizing an area to be annexed to the city 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 code city 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 23.]

RCW 35A.14.090 Election method—Ordinance providing for annexation, assumption of indebtedness. Upon filing of the certified copy of the finding of the county legislative authority, the clerk shall transmit it to the legislative body of the city at the next regular meeting or as soon thereafter as practicable. If only a proposition relating to annexation or to annexation and adoption of a proposed zoning regulation 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 a proposed zoning regulation, as the case may be. If a proposition for annexation or for annexation and adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, and a proposition for assumption of all or any portion of indebtedness were both submitted, and both were approved, the legislative body shall adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation or for annexation and adoption of the proposed zoning regulation, including the assumption of the portion of indebtedness that was approved by the voters. If both propositions were submitted and only the annexation or the annexation and adoption of the proposed zoning regulation was approved, the legislative body may adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation or adopt ordinances providing for the annexation and adoption of the proposed zoning regulation, as the case may be, or the legislative body may refuse to annex when a proposal for assumption of the portion of indebtedness has been disapproved by the voters. [1979 ex.s. c 124 s 6; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.090.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

RCW 35A.14.100 Election method—Effective date of annexation. Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, the area annexed shall become a part of the city. Upon the date fixed in the ordinances of annexation and adoption of the proposed zoning regulation, the area annexed shall become a part of the city, and property in the annexed area shall be subject to the proposed zoning regulation, as prepared and filed as provided for in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340. All property within the territory hereafter annexed shall, if the

proposition approved by the people so provides, 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 the portion of indebtedness of the city that was approved by the voters. [1979 ex.s. c 124 s 7; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.100.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

RCW 35A.14.110 Election method is alternative. The method of annexation provided for in RCW 35A.14.015 through 35A.14.100 is an alternative method and is additional to the other methods provided for in this chapter. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.110.]

RCW 35A.14.120 Direct petition method—Notice to legislative body—Meeting—Assumption of indebtedness—Proposed zoning regulation—Contents of petition. Proceedings for initiating annexation of unincorporated territory to a charter code city or noncharter code city may be commenced by the filing of a petition of property owners of the territory proposed to be annexed, in the following manner. This method of annexation shall be alternative to other methods provided in this chapter. Prior to the circulation of a petition for annexation, the initiating party or parties, who shall be 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 sought, shall notify the legislative body of the code city 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 code city will accept, reject, or geographically modify the proposed annexation, whether it shall require the simultaneous adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, if such a proposal has been prepared and filed for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340, and whether it shall require the assumption of all or of any portion of existing city 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 proposed zoning regulation, it shall record this action in its minutes and the petition for annexation shall be so drawn as to clearly indicate these facts. Approval by the legislative body shall be a condition precedent to circulation of the petition. There shall be no appeal from the decision of the legislative body. A petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a code city may be filed with the legislative body of the municipality to which annexation is desired. It must be signed by the owners, as defined by RCW 35A.01.040(9) (a) through (d), 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 a petition for annexation of an area having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous with a portion of the boundaries of the code city, not including that portion of the boundary of the area proposed to be annexed that is coterminous with a portion of the boundary between two counties in this state, need be signed by only the owners of not less than fifty percent in value according to the assessed valuation for general

taxation of the property for which the annexation is petitioned. Such petition shall set forth a description of the property according to government legal subdivisions or legal plats and shall be accompanied by a map which 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 indebtedness by the area annexed or the adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, these facts, together with a quotation of the minute entry of such requirement, or requirements, shall also be set forth in the petition. [1989 c 351 s 6; 1979 ex.s. c 124 s 8; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.120.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

Sufficiency of petition in code city: RCW 35A.01.040.

RCW 35A.14.130 Direct petition method—Notice of hearing.

Whenever such a petition for annexation is filed with the legislative body of a code city, which petition meets the requirements herein specified and is sufficient according to the rules set forth in RCW 35A.01.040, the legislative body may entertain the same, fix a date for a public hearing thereon and cause notice of the hearing to be published in one or more issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the city. 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. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.130.]

RCW 35A.14.140 Direct petition method—Ordinance providing for annexation. Following the hearing, if the legislative body determines to effect the annexation, they shall do so by ordinance. Subject to RCW 35.02.170, the ordinance 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 annexation ordinance a certified copy shall be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located. [1986 c 234 s 31; 1975 1st ex.s. c 220 s 16; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.140.]

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

RCW 35A.14.150 Direct petition method—Effective date of annexation. Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation the area annexed shall become part of the city. 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 code city is assessed and taxed to pay for the portion of any then-outstanding indebtedness of the city to which said area is annexed, which indebtedness has been approved by the voters, contracted for, or incurred prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation and that the city has required to be assumed. If the annexation petition so provided, all property in the annexed area

shall be subject to and a part of the proposed zoning regulation as prepared and filed as provided for in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340. [1979 ex.s. c 124 s 9; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.150.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 124: See note following RCW 35A.14.015.

RCW 35A.14.160 Annexation review board—Composition. There is hereby established in each county of the state, other than counties having a boundary review board as provided for in chapter 189, Laws of 1967 [chapter 36.93 RCW], a board to be known as the "annexation review board for the county of (naming the county)", which shall be charged with the duty of reviewing proposals for annexation of unincorporated territory to charter code cities and noncharter code cities within its respective county; except that proposals within the provisions of RCW 35A.14.220 shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of such board.

In all counties in which a boundary review board is established pursuant to chapter 189, Laws of 1967 [chapter 36.93 RCW] review of proposals for annexation of unincorporated territory to charter code cities and noncharter code cities within such counties shall be subject to chapter 189, Laws of 1967 [chapter 36.93 RCW]. Whenever any county establishes a boundary review board pursuant to chapter 189, Laws of 1967 [chapter 36.93 RCW] the provisions of this act relating to annexation review boards shall not be applicable.

Except as provided above in this section, whenever one or more cities of a county shall have elected to be governed by this title by becoming a charter code city or noncharter code city, the governor shall, within forty-five days thereafter, appoint an annexation review board for such county consisting of five members appointed in the following manner:

Two members shall be selected independently by the governor. Three members shall be selected by the governor from the following sources: (1) One member shall be appointed from nominees of the individual members of the board of county commissioners; (2) one member shall be appointed from nominees of the individual mayors of charter code cities within such county; (3) one member shall be appointed from nominees of the individual mayors of noncharter code cities within such county.

Each source shall nominate at least two persons for an available position. In the event there are less than two nominees for any position, the governor may appoint the member for that position independently. If, at the time of appointment, there are within the county no cities of one of the classes named above as a nominating source, a position which would otherwise have been filled by nomination from such source shall be filled by independent appointment of the governor.

In making appointments independently and in making appointments from among nominees, the governor shall strive to appoint persons familiar with municipal government and administration by experience and/or training. [1971 ex.s. c 251 s 8; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.160.]

RCW 35A.14.170 Time for filing nominations—Vacancies. Upon the initial formation of a county annexation review board the governor shall give written notice of such formation to all the nominating sources designated therein and nominations must be filed with the office of the governor within fifteen days after receipt of such notice. Nominations to fill vacancies caused by expiration of terms must be filed at least thirty days preceding the expiration of the terms. When vacancies occur in the membership of the board, the governor shall solicit nominations from the appropriate source and if none are filed within fifteen days thereafter, the governor shall fill the vacancy by an independent appointment. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.170.]

RCW 35A.14.180 Terms of members. The members of the annexation review board shall be appointed for five year terms. Upon the initial formation of a board, one member appointed by the governor independently shall be appointed for a four year term, the member appointed from among nominees of the board of county commissioners shall be appointed for a three year term, the member appointed from among nominees of the mayors of noncharter code cities shall be appointed for a three year term, and the remaining members shall be appointed for five year terms. Thereafter board members shall be appointed for five year terms as the terms of their predecessors expire. Members shall be eligible for reappointment to the board for successive terms. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.180.]

RCW 35A.14.190 Organization of annexation review board—Rules—Journal—Authority. The members of each annexation review board shall elect from among the members a chair and a vice chair, and may employ a nonmember as chief clerk, who shall be the secretary of the board. The board shall determine its own rules and order of business, shall provide by resolution for the time and manner of holding regular or special meetings, and shall keep a journal of its proceedings which shall be a public record. A majority of all the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The chief clerk of the board, the chair, or the vice chair shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations, certify to all official acts, issue subpoenas to any public officer or employee ordering him or her to testify before the board and produce public records, papers, books or documents. The chief clerk, the chair or the vice chair may invoke the aid of any court of competent jurisdiction to carry out such powers.

The planning departments of the county, other counties, and any city, and any state or regional planning agency shall furnish such information to the board at its request as may be reasonably necessary for the performance of its duties.

At the request of the board, the state attorney general shall provide counsel for the board. [2009 c 549 s 3030; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.190.]

RCW 35A.14.200 Determination by county annexation review board—Factors considered—Filing of findings and decision. The jurisdiction of the county annexation review board shall be invoked upon the filing

with the board of a resolution for an annexation election as provided in RCW 35A.14.015, or of a petition for an annexation election as provided in RCW 35A.14.030, and the board shall proceed to hold a hearing, upon notice, all as provided in RCW 35A.14.040. A verbatim record shall be made of all testimony presented at the hearing and upon request and payment of the reasonable costs thereof, a copy of the transcript of such testimony shall be provided to any person or governmental unit. The board shall make and file its decision, all as provided in RCW 35A.14.050, insofar as said section is applicable to the matter before the board. Dissenting members of the board shall have the right to have their written dissents included as part of the decision. In reaching a decision on an annexation proposal, the county annexation review board shall consider the factors affecting such proposal, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) The immediate and prospective population of the area proposed to be annexed, the configuration of the area, land use and land uses, comprehensive use plans and zoning, per capita assessed valuation, topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins, the likelihood of significant growth in the area and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas during the next ten years, location and coordination of community facilities and services; and

(2) The need for municipal services and the available municipal services, effect of ordinances and governmental codes, regulations and resolutions on existing uses, present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls, the probable future needs for such services and controls, the probable effect of the annexation proposal or alternatives on cost and adequacy of services and controls in area and adjacent area, the effect on the finances, debt structure, and contractual obligations and rights of all affected governmental units; and

(3) The effect of the annexation proposal or alternatives on adjacent areas, on mutual economic and social interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county.

The county annexation review board shall determine whether the proposed annexation would be in the public interest and for the public welfare. The decision of the board shall be accompanied by the findings of the board. Such findings need not include specific data on all the factors listed in this section, but shall indicate that all such factors were considered. [1971 ex.s. c 251 s 11; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.200.]

RCW 35A.14.210 Court review of decisions of the county annexation review board. Decisions of the county annexation review board shall be final unless within ten days from the date of said action a governmental unit affected by the decision or any person owning real property in or residing in the area proposed to be annexed files in the superior court a notice of appeal. The filing of such notice of appeal within such time limit shall stay the effective date of the decision of the board until such time as the appeal shall have been adjudicated or withdrawn. On appeal the superior court shall not take any evidence other than that contained in the record of the hearing before the board. The superior court may affirm the decision of the county annexation review board or remand the case for further proceedings; or the court may reverse the decision and remand if it finds that substantial rights have been prejudiced because the findings, conclusions, or decision of the board are:

- (1) In violation of constitutional provisions; or
- (2) In excess of the statutory authority or jurisdiction of the board; or
- (3) Made upon unlawful procedure; or
- (4) Affected by other error of law; or
- (5) Unsupported by material and substantial evidence in view of the entire record as submitted; or
- (6) Arbitrary or capricious. [1971 ex.s. c 251 s 12; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.210.]

RCW 35A.14.220 When review procedure may be dispensed with.

Annexations under the provisions of RCW 35A.14.295, 35A.14.297, 35A.14.300, and 35A.14.310 shall not be subject to review by the annexation review board: PROVIDED, That in any county in which a boundary review board is established under chapter 36.93 RCW all annexations shall be subject to review except as provided for in RCW 36.93.110. When the area proposed for annexation in a petition or resolution, initiated and filed under any of the methods of initiating annexation authorized by this chapter, is less than fifty acres or less than two million dollars in assessed valuation, review procedures shall not be required as to such annexation proposal, except as provided in chapter 36.93 RCW in those counties with a review board established pursuant to chapter 36.93 RCW: PROVIDED, That when an annexation proposal is initiated by the direct petition method authorized by RCW 35A.14.120, review procedures shall not be required without regard to acreage or assessed valuation, except as provided in chapter 36.93 RCW in those counties with a boundary review board established pursuant to chapter 36.93 RCW. [1979 ex.s. c 18 s 27; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 26; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.220.]

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 18: See note following RCW 35A.01.070.

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

RCW 35A.14.231 Territory subject to annexation proposal—When annexation by another city or incorporation allowed. After a petition proposing an annexation by a code city has been filed with the city or the city legislative authority, or after a resolution proposing the annexation by a code city has been adopted by the city legislative authority, 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 or county annexation review board created under RCW 35A.14.160 modifies the boundaries of the proposed annexation and removes the territory; (2) the boundary review board or county annexation review board created under RCW 35A.14.160 rejects the proposed annexation; or (3) the city legislative authority rejects the proposed annexation or voters defeat the ballot proposition authorizing the annexation. [1994 c 216 s 8.]

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

RCW 35A.14.295 Annexation of unincorporated island of territory within code city—Resolution—Notice of hearing. (1) The legislative body of a code city may resolve to annex territory to the city if there is within the city, unincorporated territory:

(a) Containing less than one hundred seventy-five acres and having all of the boundaries of such area contiguous to the code city; or

(b) Of any size containing residential property owners and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to the city. Territory annexed under this subsection (1)(b) must be within the same county and within the same urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110, and the city must plan under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(2) The resolution shall describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed, state the number of voters residing therein as nearly as may be, and set a date for a public hearing on such resolution for annexation. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication of the resolution at least once a week for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the code city 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. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 27 s 1; 2013 c 333 s 1; 1997 c 429 s 36; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.295.]

Effective date—2013 2nd sp.s. c 27: "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 July 28, 2013." [2013 2nd sp.s. c 27 s 4.]

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

RCW 35A.14.296 Annexation of unincorporated territory pursuant to interlocal agreement. (1) A code city as provided in subsection (2) of this section may annex unincorporated territory pursuant to an interlocal agreement. This method of annexation shall be an alternative method and is additional to all other methods provided for in this chapter.

(2) The county legislative authority of a county and the governing body of a code city may jointly initiate an annexation process for unincorporated territory by adopting an interlocal agreement as provided in chapter 39.34 RCW and under this section between the county and code city within the county. If a code city is proposing to annex territory where the sole access or majority of egress and ingress for the territory proposed for annexation is served by the transportation network of an adjacent city, or that will include areas in a fire protection district under Title 52 RCW, regional fire protection service authority under chapter 52.26 RCW, water-sewer district under Title 57 RCW, or transportation benefit district under chapter 36.73 RCW, the code city must provide written notice to the governing authority of such adjacent city, regional fire protection service authority, fire protection district, water-sewer district, or transportation benefit district. Such adjacent city or

notified district shall have thirty calendar days from the date of the notice to provide written notice of its interest in being a party to the interlocal agreement. If timely notice is provided, such city or district shall be included as a party to the interlocal agreement. If the adjacent city or district does not approve the interlocal agreement, the annexation may not proceed under this section. For purposes of this subsection, "adjacent" means that the territory proposed for annexation is contiguous with the existing city limits of the nonannexing city. The interlocal agreement must ensure that for a period of five years after the annexation any parcel zoned for residential development within the annexed area shall:

(a) Maintain a zoning designation that provides for residential development; and

(b) Not have its minimum gross residential density reduced below the density allowed for by the zoning designation for that parcel prior to annexation.

(3) The county and code city shall jointly agree on the boundaries of the annexation and its effective date. The interlocal agreement shall describe the boundaries of the territory to be annexed and set a date for a public hearing on such agreement for annexation. An interlocal agreement may include phased annexation of territory, and may be amended following the same process as initial approval, including adding additional territory. 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:

(a) Separately or jointly, publish a notice of availability of the agreement at least once a week for four weeks before the date of the hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the code city and one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory proposed for annexation; and

(b) If the legislative body has the ability to do so, post the notice of availability of the agreement on its website for the same four weeks that the notice is published in the newspapers under (a) of this subsection. The notice shall describe where the public may review the agreement and the territory to be annexed.

(4) On the date set for hearing, the public shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard. Following the hearing, if the legislative body determines to effect the annexation, they shall do so by ordinance. If the annexation agreement includes phased annexation of territory, the legislative body shall adopt a separate ordinance at the time of each phase of annexation. Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation the area annexed shall become part of the city. 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. Upon passage of the annexation ordinance a certified copy shall be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located. [2020 c 142 s 2.]

Finding—2020 c 142: "The legislature finds that city annexations of unincorporated areas within urban growth areas will be more efficient and effective if the county and city develop a jointly approved interlocal agreement so as not to create illogical boundaries or islands of unincorporated territory." [2020 c 142 s 1.]

RCW 35A.14.297 Ordinance providing for annexation of unincorporated island of territory—Referendum. On the date set for hearing as provided in RCW 35A.14.295, 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. Such annexation ordinance shall be subject to referendum for forty-five days after the passage thereof. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition as provided in RCW 35A.14.299 below, a referendum election shall be held as provided in RCW 35A.14.299, and 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, as provided by RCW 35A.14.299 below, the area annexed shall become a part of the code city upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.297.]

RCW 35A.14.299 Annexation of unincorporated island of territory within code city—Referendum—Effective date if no referendum. Such annexation ordinance as provided for in RCW 35A.14.297 shall be subject to referendum for forty-five days after the passage thereof. 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 such 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 such election shall be given as provided in RCW 35A.14.070 and the election shall be conducted as provided in RCW 35A.29.151. 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 code city upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation. From and after such date, if the ordinance so provided, property in the annexed area shall be subject to the proposed zoning regulation prepared and filed for such area as provided in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340. If the ordinance so provided, all property within the area annexed shall be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing code city is assessed and taxed to pay for any then outstanding indebtedness of

such city contracted prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation. [2006 c 344 s 25; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.299.]

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

RCW 35A.14.300 Annexation for municipal purposes. Legislative bodies of code cities may by a majority vote annex territory outside the limits of such city whether contiguous or noncontiguous for any municipal purpose when such territory is owned by the city. [1981 c 332 s 7; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.300.]

RCW 35A.14.310 Annexation of federal areas. A code city may annex an unincorporated area contiguous to the city that is owned by the federal government by adopting an ordinance providing for the annexation and which ordinance either acknowledges an agreement of the annexation by the government of the United States, or accepts 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 right of annexation shall not apply to any territory more than four miles from the corporate limits existing before such annexation. Whenever a code city proposes to annex territory under this section, the city shall provide written notice of the proposed annexation to the legislative authority of the county within which such territory is located. The notice shall be provided at least thirty days before the city proposes to adopt the annexation ordinance. The city shall not adopt the annexation ordinance, and the annexation shall not occur under this section, if within twenty-five days of receipt of the notice, the county legislative authority adopts a resolution opposing the annexation, which resolution makes a finding that the proposed annexation will have an adverse fiscal impact on the county or road district. [1985 c 105 s 1; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.310.]

RCW 35A.14.320 Annexation of federal areas—Provisions of ordinance—Authority over annexed territory. In the ordinance annexing territory pursuant to a gift, grant, or lease from the government of the United States, a code city may include such tide and shorelands as may be necessary or convenient for the use thereof, and may include in the ordinance an acceptance of the terms and conditions attached to the gift, grant, or lease. A code city 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 current expense fund. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.320.]

RCW 35A.14.330 Proposed zoning regulation—Purposes of regulations and restrictions. The legislative body of any code city acting through a planning agency created pursuant to chapter 35A.63 RCW, or pursuant to its granted powers, may prepare a proposed zoning regulation to become effective upon the annexation of any area which might reasonably be expected to be annexed by the code city at any future time. Such proposed zoning regulation, 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 and structures 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 proposed zoning regulation; and

(4) The time interval following an annexation during which the ordinance or resolution adopting any such proposed regulation, 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. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.330.]

RCW 35A.14.340 Notice and hearing—Filings and recordings. The legislative body of the code city shall hold two or more public hearings, to be held at least thirty days apart, upon the proposed zoning regulation, giving notice of the time and place thereof by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the annexing city and the area to be annexed. A copy of the ordinance or resolution adopting or embodying such proposed zoning regulation or any part thereof or any amendment thereto, duly certified as a true copy by the clerk of the annexing city, 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. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.340.]

Annexation of water, sewer, and fire districts: Chapter 35.13A RCW.

RCW 35A.14.380 Ownership of assets of fire protection district—Assumption of responsibility of fire protection—When at least sixty percent of assessed valuation is annexed or incorporated in code city.

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 code city, ownership of all of the assets of the district shall be vested in the code city, upon payment in cash, properties or contracts for fire protection services to the district within one year, of a percentage of the value of said assets equal to the percentage of the value of the real property in the 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 area who vote on the proposition, to require the annexing code city 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 code city a reasonable fee for such fire protection, operation, and maintenance. [1981 c 332 s 8; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.380.]

RCW 35A.14.400 Ownership of assets of fire protection district—When less than sixty percent of assessed valuation is annexed or incorporated in code city.

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 code city, the ownership of all assets of the district shall remain in the district and the district shall pay to the code city 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 less than five percent of the area of the district is affected, no payment shall be made to the code city except as provided in RCW 35.02.205. The fire protection district 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. [1989 c 267 s 2; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.400.]

RCW 35A.14.410 When right-of-way may be included—Use of right-of-way line as corporate boundary. The boundaries of a code city 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 9.]

RCW 35A.14.420 Alternative direct petition method—Notice to legislative body—Meeting—Assumption of indebtedness—Proposed zoning regulation—Contents of petition. (1) Proceedings for initiating annexation of unincorporated territory to a charter code city or noncharter code city may be commenced by the filing of a petition of property owners of the territory proposed to be annexed, in the following manner which is alternative to other methods provided in this chapter:

(a) Before the circulation of a petition for annexation, the initiating party or parties, who shall be the owners of not less than ten percent of the acreage for which annexation is sought, shall notify the legislative body of the code city in writing of their intention to commence annexation proceedings;

(b) 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 code city will accept, reject, or geographically modify the proposed annexation, whether it shall require the simultaneous adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, if such a proposal has been prepared and filed for the area to be annexed as provided for in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340, and whether it shall require the assumption of all or any portion of existing city indebtedness by the area to be annexed;

(c) If the legislative body requires the assumption of all or any portion of indebtedness and/or the adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, it shall record this action in its minutes and the petition for annexation shall be so drawn as to clearly indicate these facts;

(d) Approval by the legislative body shall be a condition precedent to circulation of the petition; and

(e) There shall be no appeal from the decision of the legislative body.

(2) A petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a code city may be filed with the legislative body of the municipality to which annexation is desired. The petition for annexation 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.

(3) 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.

(4) The petition shall set forth a legal description of the property proposed to be annexed that complies with RCW 35A.14.410, 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 indebtedness by the area annexed or the adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, these facts, together with a quotation of the minute entry of such requirement, or requirements, shall also be set forth in the petition. [2003 c 331 s 10.]

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

RCW 35A.14.430 Alternative direct petition method—Notice of hearing. When a petition for annexation is filed with the legislative body of a code city, that meets the requirements of RCW 35A.01.040 and 35A.14.420, the legislative body may entertain the same, fix a date for a public hearing thereon and cause notice of the hearing to be published in one or more issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the city. 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. [2003 c 331 s 11.]

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

RCW 35A.14.440 Alternative direct petition method—Ordinance providing for annexation. Following the hearing, if the legislative body determines to effect the annexation, they shall do so by ordinance. Subject to RCW 35A.14.410, the ordinance 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 annexation 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 12.]

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

RCW 35A.14.450 Alternative direct petition method—Effective date of annexation. Upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, the area annexed shall become part of the city. 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 the annexing code city is assessed and taxed to pay for the portion of any then-outstanding indebtedness of the city to which the area is annexed, which indebtedness has been approved by the voters, contracted for, or incurred before, or existing at, the date of annexation and that the city has required to be assumed. If the annexation petition so provided, all property in the annexed area shall be subject to and a part of the proposed zoning regulation as prepared and filed as provided for in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340. [2003 c 331 s 13.]

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

RCW 35A.14.460 Annexation of territory within urban growth areas—Interlocal agreement—Public hearing—Ordinance providing for annexation. (1) The legislative body of a county or code city 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 code city within the county. The territory proposed for

annexation must meet the following criteria: (a) Be within the code city urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110, and (b) at least sixty percent of the boundaries of the territory proposed for annexation must be contiguous to the annexing code city 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 if the urban growth area territory proposed for annexation has been designated in a written agreement between a city 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 35A.14.470.

(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 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 upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, which date may not be fewer than forty-five days after adoption of the ordinance. [2003 c 299 s 3.]

**RCW 35A.14.470 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 35A.14.460 if:

(a) The county legislative body initiated an annexation process as provided in RCW 35A.14.460; and

(b) The affected city 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 35A.14.460 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 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 35A.14.460(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 35A.14.070 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 35A.14.070. In addition to the provisions of RCW 35A.14.070, 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 26; 2003 c 299 s 4.]

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

RCW 35A.14.472 Annexation of unincorporated territory within urban growth areas—Interlocal agreement, when authorized—

Requirements. (1) A code city as provided in RCW 35A.14.296(2) may collaborate with the county or counties where the code city is located to form an interlocal agreement regarding annexation of unincorporated territory within the urban growth area boundary. The interlocal agreement formation process must include procedures for public participation. The procedures must provide for broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives, opportunity for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, and consideration of and response to public comments. The interlocal agreement may only be executed after notice of availability of the agreement is posted on the website of each legislative body for four weeks and a public hearing by each legislative body, separately or jointly. This method of annexation shall be an alternative method and is additional to all other methods provided for in this chapter.

(2) An interlocal agreement under this section may include use of a sales tax credit for annexed areas should such a credit be reinstated by the legislature.

(3) The agreement or plan under this section must address the following:

(a) 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;

(c) The potential for revenue-sharing agreements.

(4) In addressing the items in subsection (3)(a) through (c) of this section, the parties must also address the balancing of factors and objectives for annexation review in RCW 36.93.170 and 36.93.180.

(5) By December 1, 2021, the association of Washington cities and the Washington state association of counties shall report to the legislature, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, on how a sales tax credit may be utilized to encourage appropriate annexations and what limits should be associated with such a credit if reinstated. [2021 c 312 s 1.]

RCW 35A.14.475 Annexation of territory within regional transit authorities. When territory is annexed under this chapter to a code 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 code city with respect to the authority. The code city must notify the authority of the annexation. [2010 c 19 s 2.]

RCW 35A.14.480 Annexation of territory served by fire districts

—Interlocal agreement process. (1)(a) An annexation by a code city 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 code city proposing to annex territory shall initiate the interlocal agreement process by sending notice to the fire protection district representative and county representative stating the code city'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 district and the code city;

(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 code 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 code 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 code city, the county, and the fire protection district.

(3) If the fire protection district, annexing code city, and county reach an agreement on the enumerated goals, or if only the annexing code city and county reach an agreement on the enumerated goals, the code city 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 code city, and the county reach agreement on an annexation for which a code city 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 code city, 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 35A.14.070, 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 code city upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation. [2013 2nd sp.s. c 27 s 2; 2009 c 60 s 9.]

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

RCW 35A.14.485 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 code city, both the fire protection district and the code city 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.

(2) An eligible employee may transfer into the civil service system of the code city fire department by filing a written request with the code city 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 35.10.360 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 code city fire department when appropriate positions become available. Employees who are not immediately hired by the code city 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.

(3) (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.

(4) If upon transfer, the transferring employee receives the rights, benefits, and privileges established under subsection

(3) (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.

(5) 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 10.]

RCW 35A.14.488 Fire protection and safety in proposed annexed territory—Report request. Upon the written request of a fire protection district, code cities 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 11.]

RCW 35A.14.490 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 code city through the method prescribed in this section.

(a) The legislative body of the city 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 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 code city upon the date fixed in the ordinance. [2009 c 402 s 5.]

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

RCW 35A.14.500 Outstanding indebtedness not affected. When any portion of a fire protection district is annexed by or incorporated into a code city, 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. [1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.500.]

RCW 35A.14.550 Providing annexation information to public. A code city can provide factual public information on the effects of pending annexation proposed for the code city. [1989 c 351 s 9.]

RCW 35A.14.700 Determining population of annexed territory—Certificate—As basis for allocation of state funds—Revised certificate. (1) Whenever any territory is annexed to a code city, a certificate as hereinafter provided must be submitted to the office of financial management within thirty days of the effective date of the action specified in the relevant ordinance. After approval of the certificate, the office of financial management must 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 code city that the certificate has been approved and posted, and include a link to the website. Such certificates must be in such form and contain such information as prescribed by the office of financial management. 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 of financial management shall furnish certification forms to any code city.

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

(b) If the annexing code city 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 code city may choose to have the population determination of the entire annexed territory consist of an actual enumeration. However, if the code city 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 of financial management 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 of financial management, 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 of financial management.

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

(3) Upon approval of the annexation certificate, the office of financial management 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 of financial management 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.

(4) Until an annexation certificate is filed and approved as provided herein, such annexed territory shall not be considered by the office of financial management in determining the population of such code city. [2024 c 30 s 2; 2011 c 342 s 2; 1979 ex.s. c 18 s 28; 1979 c 151 s 35; 1975 1st ex.s. c 31 s 2; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.700.]

Effective date—2011 c 342: See note following RCW 35.13.260.

Severability—1979 ex.s. c 18: See note following RCW 35A.01.070.

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

RCW 35A.14.801 Taxes collected in annexed territory—

Notification of annexation. (1) Whenever any territory is annexed to a code city 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 code city and by the city placed in the city 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 code city, 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 code city 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 code city, 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 code city 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 code city 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 code city, the code city 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 code city those road taxes, fire district taxes, and library district taxes collected sixty or more days 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 code city 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 code city 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) code city notifications to fire and library districts do not apply if the code city has been annexed to and is within the fire or library district when the code city approves a resolution to annex unincorporated county territory.

(9) An error or accidental omission by a code city in the transmitted annexation notice required under this section may be corrected by the city 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, 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 2; 2007 c 285 s 2; 2001 c 299 s 3; 1998 c 106 s 2; 1971 ex.s. c 251 s 14.]

***Reviser's note:** The reference to "city or town" appears to be erroneous. "Code city" was apparently intended.

**RCW 35A.14.900 Cancellation, acquisition of franchise or permit for operation of public service business in territory annexed—
Regulation of solid waste collection.** The annexation by any code city of any territory pursuant to this chapter 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 utility, including but not limited to, public electric, water, 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 code city 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 code city, 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 code city 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 code city causing such damages.

After an annexation by a code city, 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 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 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 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, 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 code city council's ordinance or resolution to have the code city 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 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 causing such damages. [1997 c 171 s 3; 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.900.]

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

RCW 35A.14.901 Application of chapter to annexations involving water or sewer service. Nothing in this chapter precludes or otherwise applies to an annexation by a code city of unincorporated territory as authorized by RCW 57.24.170, 57.24.190, and 57.24.210. [1996 c 230 s 1604; 1995 c 279 s 4.]

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