

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SB 5020**

**AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS,  
JANUARY 24, 1991**

**Brief Description:** Changing per diem compensation for certain local officials.

**SPONSORS:** Senator L. Smith.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5020 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McCaslin, Chairman; Roach, Vice Chairman; Madsen, Matson, and Sutherland.

**Staff:** Eugene Green (786-7405)

**Hearing Dates:** January 24, 1991

**BACKGROUND:**

Members of the boards of commissioners or supervisors of diking districts; drainage districts; diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement districts, and intercounty diking and drainage districts receive compensation up to \$25 per day for attendance at official meetings of the respective districts. This compensation has been in effect since 1985. Several other boards which are appointed by county legislative authorities (such as planning commissions, hospital boards and boards of equalization) may receive reimbursement for expenses but no compensation. It is argued that this compensation level is so low as to make these positions unattractive.

In 1985, per day rates of compensation were raised to \$50 for members of the governing bodies of fire protection, sewer, water, public hospital, and port districts. An annual ceiling for most of these officials was established at \$4,800.

**SUMMARY:**

The per day compensation for members of the boards of diking commissioners, drainage commissioners, diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement supervisors, and intercounty diking and drainage commissioners is increased from \$25 to \$50. Such compensation shall not exceed \$4,800 per year.

**EFFECT OF PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE:**

County legislative authorities may provide compensation of up to \$50 per day for certain appointive boards and commissions, but reimbursement for expenses is eliminated.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

In some of these districts, the board members actually operate the utility, instead of merely attending policy meetings. There have been occasions when no one could be persuaded to file for office because they would suffer a loss of compensation from a regular job.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Dave C. Spencer, Consolidated Diking and Drainage District #1, Cowlitz County (pro)