
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6277

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Governmental Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Wojahn, Madsen and Johnson)

Read first time 02/06/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to metropolitan park districts; and adding a new
2 section to chapter 35.61 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.61 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) A majority of the entire membership of the board of
7 commissioners of any metropolitan park district in a county with a
8 population of five hundred thousand or more may by resolution cause a
9 ballot proposition to be submitted at a park district general election
10 to the voters of the park district authorizing the park district to be
11 divided into five electoral districts.

12 (b) As an alternative procedure, a ballot proposition shall be
13 submitted to the voters of a park district authorizing the park
14 district to be divided into five electoral districts, upon petition of

1 the park district voters equal to at least ten percent of the voters
2 voting at the last park district general election.

3 Any petition requesting that such an election be held shall be
4 submitted to the county auditor for verification of the signatures
5 thereon. Within no more than thirty days after the submission of the
6 petition, the auditor shall determine if the petition contains the
7 requisite number of valid signatures. The auditor shall certify
8 whether or not the petition has been signed by the requisite number of
9 park district voters and forward such petition to the board of
10 commissioners for the park district.

11 (c) If a resolution is adopted or a petition has been signed by the
12 requisite number of park district voters, the board of commissioners
13 for the park district shall submit the proposition to the voters of the
14 park district for their approval or rejection at the next park district
15 general election held at least sixty days after the resolution is
16 adopted or the proposition is certified by the auditor.

17 (2) Before the filing period for the next park district election
18 after approval by the voters under subsection (1) of this section in a
19 metropolitan park district in a county with a population of five
20 hundred thousand or more, the current board of commissioners for the
21 park district shall divide the district into five electoral districts
22 so that each electoral district shall comprise as nearly as possible
23 one-fifth of the population of the metropolitan park district. The
24 lines of the electoral districts shall be changed not more than once
25 every five years and only by a vote of a majority of the entire
26 membership of the board of commissioners. The electoral districts
27 shall be designated as districts numbered one, two, three, four, and
28 five. At the first park district election after an election by
29 electoral district is called for, a primary and a general election
30 shall be held in all five electoral districts, with the terms to be

1 staggered as provided in RCW 35.61.050. One commissioner shall be
2 elected from each electoral district.

3 Electoral districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a
4 registered voter who resides in an electoral district may be a
5 candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the park district
6 from that electoral district; and (b) only the voters of an electoral
7 district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a
8 commissioner of the park district from that electoral district. Only
9 voters of the electoral district may vote at a general election to
10 elect a person as a commissioner of the park district from that
11 electoral district.