
SENATE BILL 5419

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Wojahn, Franklin and M. Rasmussen

Read first time 01/27/93. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

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

17 Any petition requesting that such an election be held shall be
18 submitted to the county auditor for verification of the signatures
19 thereon. Within no more than thirty days after the submission of the

1 petition, the auditor shall determine if the petition contains the
2 requisite number of valid signatures. The auditor shall certify
3 whether or not the petition has been signed by the requisite number of
4 park district voters and forward such petition to the board of
5 commissioners for the park district.

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

12 (2) Before the filing period for the next park district election
13 after approval by the voters under subsection (1) of this section in a
14 metropolitan park district in a county with a population of five
15 hundred thousand or more, the current board of commissioners for the
16 park district shall divide the district into five electoral districts
17 so that each electoral district shall comprise as nearly as possible
18 one-fifth of the population of the metropolitan park district. The
19 lines of the electoral districts shall be changed not more than once
20 every five years and only by a vote of a majority of the entire
21 membership of the board of commissioners. The electoral districts
22 shall be designated as districts numbered one, two, three, four, and
23 five. At the first park district election after an election by
24 electoral district is called for, a primary and a general election
25 shall be held in all five electoral districts, with the terms to be
26 staggered as provided in RCW 35.61.050. One commissioner shall be
27 elected from each electoral district.

28 Electoral districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a
29 registered voter who resides in an electoral district may be a
30 candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the park district
31 from that electoral district; and (b) only the voters of an electoral
32 district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a
33 commissioner of the park district from that electoral district. Only
34 voters of the electoral district may vote at a general election to
35 elect a person as a commissioner of the park district from that
36 electoral district.

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