
SENATE BILL 6688

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Goings, Patterson, Haugen and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/24/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to fire district benefit charges; and amending RCW
2 52.18.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.18.050 and 1998 c 16 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Any benefit charge authorized by this chapter shall not be
7 effective unless a proposition to impose the benefit charge is approved
8 by a sixty percent majority of the voters of the district voting at a
9 general election or at a special election called by the district for
10 that purpose, held within the fire protection district. An election
11 held pursuant to this section shall be held not more than twelve months
12 prior to the date on which the first such charge is to be assessed(~~(÷~~
13 ~~PROVIDED, That~~)). The benefit charge shall be imposed (a) each year
14 for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten consecutive years, or
15 (c) permanently. A benefit charge approved at an election shall not
16 remain in effect for ((a period of more than six years nor)) more than
17 the number of years authorized by the voters if ((fewer than six
18 years)) a six or ten-year charge is authorized unless subsequently
19 reapproved by the voters.

1 (2) The ballot shall be submitted so as to enable the voters
2 favoring the authorization of a fire protection district benefit charge
3 to vote "Yes" and those opposed thereto to vote "No(~~(, "and))~~."

4 (a) The ballot proposition authorizing a six-year benefit charge or
5 a ten-year benefit charge shall be:

6 "Shall county fire protection district No.
7 be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for
8 (insert the maximum number of years (~~(not to exceed six)~~)
9 allowable) years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty
10 percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from
11 imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

12 YES NO
13 l l "

14 (~~(3))~~ (b) Districts renewing ((the)) a six-year benefit charge or
15 a ten-year benefit charge may elect to use the following alternative
16 ballot:

17 "Shall county fire protection district No.
18 be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges each
19 year for (insert the maximum number of years (~~(not to~~
20 ~~exceed six~~) allowable) years, not to exceed an amount equal to
21 sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from
22 imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

23 YES NO
24 l l "

25 (c) The ballot proposition authorizing a permanent benefit charge
26 shall be:

27 "Shall county fire protection district No.
28 be authorized to impose PERMANENT benefit charges, not to
29 exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating
30 budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property
31 tax under RCW 52.16.160?

32 YES NO
33 l l "

34 (3) A district imposing a permanent benefit charge under this
35 chapter shall provide for separate accounting of expenditures of the
36 revenues generated by the charge. The district shall maintain a

1 statement of the accounting which shall be updated at least every two
2 years and shall be available to the public upon request at no charge.

3 (4) A district imposing a permanent benefit charge under this
4 chapter shall provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the
5 resolution imposing the charge. This referendum procedure shall
6 specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with a
7 filing officer, as identified in the resolution. Within ten days, the
8 filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and
9 style of the petition, issue the petition an identification number, and
10 secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from the
11 designated local official. The petitioner shall have thirty days in
12 which to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the
13 registered voters of the district, as of the last general election,
14 upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the full text of
15 the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the
16 sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if sufficient valid
17 signatures are properly submitted, shall certify the referendum measure
18 to the next election within the district if one is to be held within
19 one hundred eighty days from the date of filing of the referendum
20 petition, or at a special election to be called for that purpose in
21 accordance with RCW 29.13.020.

22 The referendum procedure provided in this subsection shall be
23 exclusive in all instances for any district imposing the benefit charge
24 under this chapter and shall supersede the procedures provided under
25 all other provisions for initiative or referendum which might otherwise
26 apply.

--- END ---