
SENATE BILL 5244

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senator Hewitt

Read first time 01/20/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to powers of unclassified cities; and adding new
2 sections to chapter 35.30 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 35.30 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 If the legislative body of an unclassified city determines that it
7 would serve the best interests and general welfare of such
8 municipality, the body may by resolution adopt any powers granted to
9 cities classified under Title 35A RCW including, but not limited to,
10 the power to define the functions, powers, and duties of its officers
11 and employees.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.30 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) When a majority of the legislative body of an unclassified city
15 determines that it would serve the best interests and general welfare
16 of such municipality to change the election procedures of such city to
17 the procedures specified in this section, such legislative body may, by
18 resolution, declare its intention to adopt such procedures for the

1 city. Such resolution must be adopted at least one hundred eighty days
2 before the general municipal election at which the new election
3 procedures are implemented. Within ten days after the passage of the
4 resolution, the legislative body shall cause it to be published at
5 least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the city.

6 (2) All general municipal elections in an unclassified city
7 adopting a resolution under subsection (1) of this section shall be
8 held biennially in the odd-numbered years as provided in RCW 29.13.020
9 and shall be held in accordance with the general election laws of the
10 state.

11 The term of the treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium
12 in which the term of the mayor commences. Candidates for the city
13 council shall run for specific council positions. The staggering of
14 terms of city officers shall be established at the first election,
15 where the simple majority of the persons elected as councilmembers
16 receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year
17 terms of office and the remainder of the persons elected as
18 councilmembers and the treasurer shall be elected to two-year terms of
19 office. Thereafter, all elected city officers shall be elected for
20 four-year terms and until their successors are elected and qualified
21 and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

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