
SENATE BILL 6208

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Kastama and McCaslin

Read first time 01/14/2004. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to water-sewer district charges for temporary
2 facilities; and amending RCW 57.08.005.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 57.08.005 and 2003 c 394 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 A district shall have the following powers:

7 (1) To acquire by purchase or condemnation, or both, all lands,
8 property and property rights, and all water and water rights, both
9 within and without the district, necessary for its purposes. The right
10 of eminent domain shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same
11 procedure as provided for cities and towns, insofar as consistent with
12 this title, except that all assessment or reassessment rolls to be
13 prepared and filed by eminent domain commissioners or commissioners
14 appointed by the court shall be prepared and filed by the district, and
15 the duties devolving upon the city treasurer are imposed upon the
16 county treasurer;

17 (2) To lease real or personal property necessary for its purposes
18 for a term of years for which that leased property may reasonably be
19 needed;

1 (3) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and
2 supply waterworks to furnish the district and inhabitants thereof and
3 any other persons, both within and without the district, with an ample
4 supply of water for all uses and purposes public and private with full
5 authority to regulate and control the use, content, distribution, and
6 price thereof in such a manner as is not in conflict with general law
7 and may construct, acquire, or own buildings and other necessary
8 district facilities. Where a customer connected to the district's
9 system uses the water on an intermittent or transient basis, a district
10 may charge for providing water service to such a customer, regardless
11 of the amount of water, if any, used by the customer. District
12 waterworks may include facilities which result in combined water supply
13 and electric generation, if the electricity generated thereby is a
14 byproduct of the water supply system. That electricity may be used by
15 the district or sold to any entity authorized by law to use or
16 distribute electricity. Electricity is deemed a byproduct when the
17 electrical generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of water
18 supply. For such purposes, a district may take, condemn and purchase,
19 acquire, and retain water from any public or navigable lake, river or
20 watercourse, or any underflowing water, and by means of aqueducts or
21 pipeline conduct the same throughout the district and any city or town
22 therein and carry it along and upon public highways, roads, and
23 streets, within and without such district. For the purpose of
24 constructing or laying aqueducts or pipelines, dams, or waterworks or
25 other necessary structures in storing and retaining water or for any
26 other lawful purpose such district may occupy the beds and shores up to
27 the high water mark of any such lake, river, or other watercourse, and
28 may acquire by purchase or condemnation such property or property
29 rights or privileges as may be necessary to protect its water supply
30 from pollution. For the purposes of waterworks which include
31 facilities for the generation of electricity as a byproduct, nothing in
32 this section may be construed to authorize a district to condemn
33 electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or facilities
34 of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or to acquire
35 such rights or facilities without the consent of the owner;

36 (4) To purchase and take water from any municipal corporation,
37 private person, or entity. A district contiguous to Canada may
38 contract with a Canadian corporation for the purchase of water and for

1 the construction, purchase, maintenance, and supply of waterworks to
2 furnish the district and inhabitants thereof and residents of Canada
3 with an ample supply of water under the terms approved by the board of
4 commissioners;

5 (5) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and
6 operate systems of sewers for the purpose of furnishing the district,
7 the inhabitants thereof, and persons outside the district with an
8 adequate system of sewers for all uses and purposes, public and
9 private, including but not limited to on-site sewage disposal
10 facilities, approved septic tanks or approved septic tank systems, on-
11 site sanitary sewerage systems, inspection services and maintenance
12 services for private and public on-site systems, point and nonpoint
13 water pollution monitoring programs that are directly related to the
14 sewerage facilities and programs operated by a district, other
15 facilities, programs, and systems for the collection, interception,
16 treatment, and disposal of wastewater, and for the control of pollution
17 from wastewater with full authority to regulate the use and operation
18 thereof and the service rates to be charged. Under this chapter, after
19 July 1, 1998, any requirements for pumping the septic tank of an on-
20 site sewage system should be based, among other things, on actual
21 measurement of accumulation of sludge and scum by a trained inspector,
22 trained owner's agent, or trained owner. Training must occur in a
23 program approved by the state board of health or by a local health
24 officer. Sewage facilities may include facilities which result in
25 combined sewage disposal or treatment and electric generation, except
26 that the electricity generated thereby is a byproduct of the system of
27 sewers. Such electricity may be used by the district or sold to any
28 entity authorized by law to distribute electricity. Electricity is
29 deemed a byproduct when the electrical generation is subordinate to the
30 primary purpose of sewage disposal or treatment. For such purposes a
31 district may conduct sewage throughout the district and throughout
32 other political subdivisions within the district, and construct and lay
33 sewer pipe along and upon public highways, roads, and streets, within
34 and without the district, and condemn and purchase or acquire land and
35 rights of way necessary for such sewer pipe. A district may erect
36 sewage treatment plants within or without the district, and may
37 acquire, by purchase or condemnation, properties or privileges
38 necessary to be had to protect any lakes, rivers, or watercourses and

1 also other areas of land from pollution from its sewers or its sewage
2 treatment plant. For the purposes of sewage facilities which include
3 facilities that result in combined sewage disposal or treatment and
4 electric generation where the electric generation is a byproduct,
5 nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a district to
6 condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or
7 facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or
8 to acquire such rights or facilities without the consent of the owners;

9 (6)(a) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and
10 operate systems of drainage for the benefit and use of the district,
11 the inhabitants thereof, and persons outside the district with an
12 adequate system of drainage, including but not limited to facilities
13 and systems for the collection, interception, treatment, and disposal
14 of storm or surface waters, and for the protection, preservation, and
15 rehabilitation of surface and underground waters, and drainage
16 facilities for public highways, streets, and roads, with full authority
17 to regulate the use and operation thereof and, except as provided in
18 (b) of this subsection, the service rates to be charged.

19 (b) The rate a district may charge under this section for storm or
20 surface water sewer systems or the portion of the rate allocable to the
21 storm or surface water sewer system of combined sanitary sewage and
22 storm or surface water sewer systems shall be reduced by a minimum of
23 ten percent for any new or remodeled commercial building that utilizes
24 a permissive rainwater harvesting system. Rainwater harvesting systems
25 shall be properly sized to utilize the available roof surface of the
26 building. The jurisdiction shall consider rate reductions in excess of
27 ten percent dependent upon the amount of rainwater harvested.

28 (c) Drainage facilities may include natural systems. Drainage
29 facilities may include facilities which result in combined drainage
30 facilities and electric generation, except that the electricity
31 generated thereby is a byproduct of the drainage system. Such
32 electricity may be used by the district or sold to any entity
33 authorized by law to distribute electricity. Electricity is deemed a
34 byproduct when the electrical generation is subordinate to the primary
35 purpose of drainage collection, disposal, and treatment. For such
36 purposes, a district may conduct storm or surface water throughout the
37 district and throughout other political subdivisions within the
38 district, construct and lay drainage pipe and culverts along and upon

1 public highways, roads, and streets, within and without the district,
2 and condemn and purchase or acquire land and rights of way necessary
3 for such drainage systems. A district may provide or erect facilities
4 and improvements for the treatment and disposal of storm or surface
5 water within or without the district, and may acquire, by purchase or
6 condemnation, properties or privileges necessary to be had to protect
7 any lakes, rivers, or watercourses and also other areas of land from
8 pollution from storm or surface waters. For the purposes of drainage
9 facilities which include facilities that also generate electricity as
10 a byproduct, nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a
11 district to condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution
12 rights or facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute
13 electricity, or to acquire such rights or facilities without the
14 consent of the owners;

15 (7) To construct, condemn, acquire, and own buildings and other
16 necessary district facilities;

17 (8) To compel all property owners within the district located
18 within an area served by the district's system of sewers to connect
19 their private drain and sewer systems with the district's system under
20 such penalty as the commissioners shall prescribe by resolution. The
21 district may for such purpose enter upon private property and connect
22 the private drains or sewers with the district system and the cost
23 thereof shall be charged against the property owner and shall be a lien
24 upon property served;

25 (9) Where a district contains within its borders, abuts, or is
26 located adjacent to any lake, stream, ground water as defined by RCW
27 90.44.035, or other waterway within the state of Washington, to provide
28 for the reduction, minimization, or elimination of pollutants from
29 those waters in accordance with the district's comprehensive plan, and
30 to issue general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, local improvement
31 district bonds, or utility local improvement bonds for the purpose of
32 paying all or any part of the cost of reducing, minimizing, or
33 eliminating the pollutants from these waters;

34 (10) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, to fix rates and
35 charges for water, sewer, and drain service supplied and to charge
36 property owners seeking to connect to the district's systems, as a
37 condition to granting the right to so connect, in addition to the cost
38 of the connection, such reasonable connection charge as the board of

1 commissioners shall determine to be proper in order that those property
2 owners shall bear their equitable share of the cost of the system. For
3 the purposes of calculating a connection charge, the board of
4 commissioners shall determine the pro rata share of the cost of
5 existing facilities and facilities planned for construction within the
6 next ten years and contained in an adopted comprehensive plan and other
7 costs borne by the district which are directly attributable to the
8 improvements required by property owners seeking to connect to the
9 system. The cost of existing facilities shall not include those
10 portions of the system which have been donated or which have been paid
11 for by grants. The connection charge may include interest charges
12 applied from the date of construction of the system until the
13 connection, or for a period not to exceed ten years, whichever is
14 shorter, at a rate commensurate with the rate of interest applicable to
15 the district at the time of construction or major rehabilitation of the
16 system, or at the time of installation of the lines to which the
17 property owner is seeking to connect. In lieu of requiring the
18 installation of permanent local facilities not planned for construction
19 by the district, a district may permit connection to the water and/or
20 sewer systems through temporary facilities and collect from property
21 owners so connecting a proportionate share of the cost of future local
22 facilities needed to serve the property. The amount collected
23 including interest shall be held for contribution to the construction
24 of the permanent local facilities by other developers. If permanent
25 local facilities capable of serving the property are not constructed
26 within fifteen years of the date of payment, the amount collected,
27 including any accrued interest, shall be returned to the property
28 owner. A district may permit payment of the cost of connection and the
29 reasonable connection charge to be paid with interest in installments
30 over a period not exceeding fifteen years. The county treasurer may
31 charge and collect a fee of three dollars for each year for the
32 treasurer's services. Those fees shall be a charge to be included as
33 part of each annual installment, and shall be credited to the county
34 current expense fund by the county treasurer. Revenues from connection
35 charges excluding permit fees are to be considered payments in aid of
36 construction as defined by department of revenue rule. Rates or
37 charges for on-site inspection and maintenance services may not be

1 imposed under this chapter on the development, construction, or
2 reconstruction of property.

3 Before adopting on-site inspection and maintenance utility
4 services, or incorporating residences into an on-site inspection and
5 maintenance or sewer utility under this chapter, notification must be
6 provided, prior to the applicable public hearing, to all residences
7 within the proposed service area that have on-site systems permitted by
8 the local health officer. The notice must clearly state that the
9 residence is within the proposed service area and must provide
10 information on estimated rates or charges that may be imposed for the
11 service.

12 A water-sewer district shall not provide on-site sewage system
13 inspection, pumping services, or other maintenance or repair services
14 under this section using water-sewer district employees unless the on-
15 site system is connected by a publicly owned collection system to the
16 water-sewer district's sewerage system, and the on-site system
17 represents the first step in the sewage disposal process.

18 Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity
19 and public property, including the state of Washington and state
20 property, shall be subject to rates and charges for sewer, water, storm
21 water control, drainage, and street lighting facilities to the same
22 extent private persons and private property are subject to those rates
23 and charges that are imposed by districts. In setting those rates and
24 charges, consideration may be made of in-kind services, such as stream
25 improvements or donation of property;

26 (11) To contract with individuals, associations and corporations,
27 the state of Washington, and the United States;

28 (12) To employ such persons as are needed to carry out the
29 district's purposes and fix salaries and any bond requirements for
30 those employees;

31 (13) To contract for the provision of engineering, legal, and other
32 professional services as in the board of commissioner's discretion is
33 necessary in carrying out their duties;

34 (14) To sue and be sued;

35 (15) To loan and borrow funds and to issue bonds and instruments
36 evidencing indebtedness under chapter 57.20 RCW and other applicable
37 laws;

- 1 (16) To transfer funds, real or personal property, property
2 interests, or services subject to RCW 57.08.015;
- 3 (17) To levy taxes in accordance with this chapter and chapters
4 57.04 and 57.20 RCW;
- 5 (18) To provide for making local improvements and to levy and
6 collect special assessments on property benefitted thereby, and for
7 paying for the same or any portion thereof in accordance with chapter
8 57.16 RCW;
- 9 (19) To establish street lighting systems under RCW 57.08.060;
- 10 (20) To exercise such other powers as are granted to water-sewer
11 districts by this title or other applicable laws; and
- 12 (21) To exercise any of the powers granted to cities and counties
13 with respect to the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation
14 of, and fixing rates and charges for waterworks and systems of sewerage
15 and drainage.

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