
Health Care Committee

HB 1652

Brief Description: Authorizing fire protection districts to establish or participate in health clinic services.

Sponsors: Representatives Ericks, Appleton, Simpson, Kilmer, Eickmeyer, Woods, Lovick, Santos and Linville.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Any fire protection district in Washington may participate in the operation and maintenance of a health clinic.

Hearing Date: 2/18/05

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

Point Roberts, Washington is bounded on three sides by water and shares a common border with Canada. While part of Whatcom County, residents must drive through two international borders to seek medical attention in the county's largest city, Bellingham. In 2002, a group of local citizens attempted to open a health clinic in conjunction with the local fire protection district to serve some of the health needs of area residents. The State Auditor's Office indicated at the time that the fire protection district did not have the statutory authority to assist with the operation of a health clinic.

In 2003, the Legislature specifically authorized the fire protection district at Point Roberts, Washington to participate in the operation and maintenance of a health clinic. It is the only fire protection district in Washington authorized to do so.

Summary of Bill:

Authorizes any fire protection district in Washington to participate in the operation and maintenance of health clinics.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.