S-1986.1   _____

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5478
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State of Washington   **60th Legislature**   **2007 Regular Session**

By Senate Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Management (originally sponsored by Senators Kastama, Rasmussen and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/19/07.

1   AN ACT Relating to less than countywide port district formation;
2 amending RCW 53.04.023; creating a new section; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that global
6 competition requires local areas within the state to develop new tools
7 to enhance their competitiveness and that local and regional economic
8 development is served through the formation of locally controlled port
9 districts. The legislature further finds that the state has a history
10 of forming countywide and less than countywide port districts and that
11 both countywide and less than countywide port districts have been
12 successful. Because less than countywide port districts can address
13 specific local economic development goals and increase local
14 prosperity, it is the purpose of this act to give the opportunity to
15 local areas to form less than countywide port districts over the next
16 four years.

17   **Sec. 2.** RCW 53.04.023 and 1997 c 256 s 1 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

1   A less than countywide port district with an assessed valuation of
 2   at least one hundred fifty million dollars may be created in a county
 3   ((that already has a less than countywide port district located within
 4   its boundaries)).   Except as provided in this section, such a port
 5   district shall be created in accordance with the procedure to create a
 6   countywide port district.
 7   The effort to create such a port district is initiated by the
 8   filing of a petition with the county auditor calling for the creation
 9   of such a port district, describing the boundaries of the proposed port
10   district, designating either three or five commissioner positions,
11   describing commissioner districts if the petitioners propose that the
12   commissioners represent districts, and providing a name for the
13   proposed port district. The petition must be signed by voters residing
14   within the proposed port district equal in number to at least ten
15   percent of such voters who voted at the last county general election.
16   A public hearing on creation of the proposed port district shall be
17   held by the county legislative authority if the county auditor
18   certifies that the petition contained sufficient valid signatures.
19   Notice of the public hearing must be published in the county's official
20   newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing.
21   After taking testimony, the county legislative authority may make
22   changes in the boundaries of the proposed port district if it finds
23   that such changes are in the public interest and shall determine if the
24   creation of the port district is in the public interest. No area may
25   be added to the boundaries unless a subsequent public hearing is held
26   on the proposed port district.
27   The county legislative authority shall submit a ballot proposition
28   authorizing the creation of the proposed port district to the voters of
29   the proposed port district, at any special election date provided in
30   RCW ((29.13.020)) 29A.04.330, if it finds the creation of the port
31   district to be in the public interest.
32   The port district shall be created if a majority of the voters
33   voting on the ballot proposition favor the creation of the port
34   district. The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same
35   election, from districts or at large, as provided in the petition
36   initiating the creation of the port district. The election shall be
37   otherwise conducted as provided in RCW 53.12.172, but the election of

1 commissioners shall be null and void if the port district is not
2 created.

3   <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act expires four years
4 after the effective date of this act.

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