
Local Government Committee

HB 1280

Brief Description: Concerning public health district authority as it relates to gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or personal property.

Sponsors: Representatives Springer, Rodne, Takko and Smith.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes public hospital districts to receive and seek gifts, in trust or otherwise.
- Authorizes public hospital districts to invest or divest gifts, or the assets generated from gifts.
- Authorizes public hospital districts to enter into contracts with organizations regarding fundraising.

Hearing Date: 1/26/11

Staff: Miranda Leskinen (786-7291) and Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

Public hospital districts, also known as public health care service districts, are community-created, publicly-owned governmental entities authorized by the state to deliver health services appropriate to the public, provided services include acute, outpatient, rehabilitative, and nursing home care, as well as ambulance services.

There are 56 public hospital districts in Washington. Nearly half of the hospitals in the state are Public Hospital Districts, most of which are in rural areas. Public hospital districts may carry out their powers in contracts with federal, state, or local government entities.

Public hospital districts generate revenue from the following sources:

- private and public insurance;
- property taxes;
- a tax levy in excess of its regular property tax revenue; and

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- bonds, warrants, or other revenue obligations.

Currently, a county hospital is authorized, through its board of trustees, to accept gifts of property.

Summary of Bill:

Public health districts are expressly authorized to solicit, accept, and divest gifts. Gifts, including personal and/or real property, may be accepted in trust or otherwise. Public hospital districts are also expressly authorized to contract with organizations, both for-profit and nonprofit, to support fundraising efforts.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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