
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5332

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Governmental Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, Nelson, Rolfes, Conway, Fain, and Delvin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to voter-approved benefit charges for fire
2 protection districts; and amending RCW 52.18.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.18.050 and 1998 c 16 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) ~~((Any))~~ The initial imposition of a benefit charge authorized
7 by this chapter ~~((shall not be effective unless a proposition to impose~~
8 ~~the benefit charge is))~~ must be approved by ~~((a))~~ sixty percent
9 ~~((majority))~~ of the voters of the district voting at a general election
10 or at a special election called by the district for that purpose~~((~~
11 ~~held within the fire protection district))~~. An election held
12 ~~((pursuant to this section shall))~~ for the initial imposition of a
13 benefit charge must be held not more than twelve months prior to the
14 date on which the first ~~((such))~~ charge is to be assessed~~((~~
15 ~~That))~~. A benefit charge approved at an election ~~((shall not remain in~~
16 ~~effect for a period of more than six years nor more than the number~~
17 ~~of))~~ expires in six or fewer years as authorized by the voters ~~((if~~
18 ~~fewer than six years))~~ unless subsequently reapproved by the voters.

1 (2) (~~The~~) Ballot (~~shall~~) measures calling for the initial
2 imposition of a benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable
3 (~~the~~) voters favoring the authorization of a (~~fire protection~~
4 ~~district~~) benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed (~~thereto~~)
5 to vote "No," and the ballot (~~shall be~~) question must be as follows:

6 "Shall county fire protection district No.
7 be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for
8 (insert number of years not to exceed six) years, not to exceed
9 an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and
10 be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under
11 RCW 52.16.160?

12 YES NO
13 □ □"

14 (3) (~~Districts renewing the benefit charge may elect to use the~~
15 ~~following alternative ballot~~) (a) The continued imposition of a
16 benefit charge authorized by this chapter must be approved by a
17 majority of the voters of the district voting at a general election or
18 at a special election called by the district for that purpose.

19 (b) Ballot measures calling for the continued imposition of a
20 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the
21 continued imposition of the benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those
22 opposed to vote "No." The ballot question must be substantially in the
23 following form:

24 "Shall county fire protection district No.
25 be authorized to continue voter-authorized benefit charges each
26 year for (insert number of years not to exceed six)
27 years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its
28 operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional
29 property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

30 YES NO
31 □ □"

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