

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5332**

Chapter 49, Laws of 2013

63rd Legislature  
2013 Regular Session

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS--BENEFIT CHARGES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/28/13

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2013  
YEAS 33 NAYS 16

BRAD OWEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 12, 2013  
YEAS 54 NAYS 40

FRANK CHOPP

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 23, 2013, 4:25 p.m.

JAY INSLEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5332** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

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**Secretary**

FILED

April 24, 2013

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5332**

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Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

**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

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2013.  
Passed by the House April 12, 2013.  
Approved by the Governor April 23, 2013.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 24, 2013.