

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1013

As of March 31, 2015

Title: An act relating to authorizing regular meetings of county legislative authorities to be held at alternate locations within the county.

Brief Description: Authorizing regular meetings of county legislative authorities to be held at alternate locations within the county.

Sponsors: Representatives Appleton, Johnson, Hansen, Takko, Gregerson and Fey.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/11/15, 87-11; 2/12/15, 80-17.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Security: 3/23/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & SECURITY

Staff: Sam Thompson (786-7413)

Background: County legislative authorities, including county councils and boards of county commissioners, hold regular meetings at county seats to transact business required or permitted by law. They may hold special meetings at other locations in the county. However, under an interpretation of current law, certain actions, including adoption of ordinances, can only be taken in regular meetings.

Summary of Bill: As an option exercised on an infrequent and irregular basis, a county legislative authority may hold regular meetings at a location outside of the county seat but within the county if the county legislative authority determines that meeting at an alternate location would support greater citizen engagement in local government.

The county legislative authority must give notice of the meeting at least 20 days in advance. At a minimum, notice must be posted on the county's website, published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, and sent via email to any county resident who has chosen to receive notice in that manner regarding a regular meeting held outside of the county seat.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Great distance or travelling time to a county seat prevents some citizens, including older citizens, from fully participating in county government. This legislation facilitates greater access and accountability by allowing county legislative authorities to take final action, in meetings outside of the county seat, regarding decisions that may specifically apply to certain locales, such as shorelines. Counties support this measure.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Appleton, prime sponsor; Rob Gelder, Kitsap County; Laura Merrill, WA State Assn. of Counties.

Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying: No one.