
HOUSE BILL 2145

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Fitzgibbon and Santos

Read first time 02/18/15. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the appointment process for trustees
2 and the selection process for librarians of rural county library
3 districts in counties with one million or more residents; amending
4 RCW 27.12.190 and 27.12.210; and adding new sections to chapter 27.12
5 RCW.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 27.12.190 and 1982 c 123 s 8 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The management and control of a library shall be vested in a
10 board of either five or seven trustees as hereinafter in this section
11 provided. In cities and towns five trustees shall be appointed by the
12 mayor with the consent of the legislative body. In counties, rural
13 county library districts, and island library districts, except as
14 provided in section 2 of this act, five trustees shall be appointed
15 by the board of county commissioners. In a regional library district
16 a board of either five or seven trustees shall be appointed by the
17 joint action of the legislative bodies concerned. In intercounty
18 rural library districts a board of either five or seven trustees
19 shall be appointed by the joint action of the boards of county
20 commissioners of each of the counties included in a district. The
21 first appointments for boards comprised of but five trustees shall be

1 for terms of one, two, three, four, and five years respectively, and
2 thereafter a trustee shall be appointed annually to serve for five
3 years. The first appointments for boards comprised of seven trustees
4 shall be for terms of one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven
5 years respectively, and thereafter a trustee shall be appointed
6 annually to serve for seven years. No person shall be appointed to
7 any board of trustees for more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies
8 shall be filled for unexpired terms as soon as possible in the manner
9 in which members of the board are regularly chosen.

10 A library trustee shall not receive a salary or other
11 compensation for services as trustee, but necessary expenses actually
12 incurred shall be paid from the library funds.

13 A library trustee in the case of a city or town may be removed
14 only by vote of the legislative body. A trustee of a county library,
15 a rural county library district library, or an island library
16 district library may be removed for just cause by the county
17 commissioners after a public hearing upon a written complaint stating
18 the ground for removal, which complaint, with a notice of the time
19 and place of hearing, shall have been served upon the trustee at
20 least fifteen days before the hearing. A trustee of an intercounty
21 rural library district may be removed by the joint action of the
22 board of county commissioners of the counties involved in the same
23 manner as provided herein for the removal of a trustee of a county
24 library.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.12
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 In any county with an adopted home rule charter and one million
28 or more residents, the board of trustees of a rural county library
29 district will be made up of nine members who are nominated by the
30 county legislative authority, appointed by the county executive and
31 confirmed by the county legislative authority. Members shall be
32 residents of either those cities or towns that, through annexation,
33 have become part of the rural county library district or areas of
34 unincorporated King county, and that represent the geographic
35 diversity of the library district.

36 The composition of an initial nine-member rural county library
37 district board of trustees will comprise the existing five trustees,
38 who will serve out their existing terms, and four new trustees, whose
39 positions shall have initial terms of one, two, three, and four years

1 respectively. Thereafter a trustee shall be appointed to serve for
2 seven years to fill each expired term.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 27.12.210 and 2011 c 336 s 703 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The trustees, immediately after their appointment or election,
6 shall meet and organize by the election of such officers as they deem
7 necessary. They shall:

8 (1) Adopt such bylaws, rules, and regulations for their own
9 guidance and for the government of the library as they deem
10 expedient;

11 (2) Have the supervision, care, and custody of all property of
12 the library, including the rooms or buildings constructed, leased, or
13 set apart therefor;

14 (3) Except as provided in section 4 of this act, select and
15 employ a librarian, and upon his or her recommendation employ such
16 other assistants as may be necessary, all in accordance with the
17 provisions of RCW ((27.08.010, prescribe their duties, fix their
18 compensation, and)) 27.04.055;

19 (4) Prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of the
20 librarian and any assistants, and have the ability to remove them for
21 cause;

22 ((+4)) (5) Submit annually to the legislative body a budget
23 containing estimates in detail of the amount of money necessary for
24 the library for the ensuing year; except that in a library district
25 the board of library trustees shall prepare its budget, certify the
26 same and deliver it to the board of county commissioners in ample
27 time for it to make the tax levies for the purpose of the district;

28 ((+5)) (6) Have exclusive control of the finances of the
29 library;

30 ((+6)) (7) Accept such gifts of money or property for library
31 purposes as they deem expedient;

32 ((+7)) (8) Lease or purchase land for library buildings;

33 ((+8)) (9) Lease, purchase, or erect an appropriate building or
34 buildings for library purposes, and acquire such other property as
35 may be needed therefor;

36 ((+9)) (10) Purchase books, periodicals, maps, and supplies for
37 the library; and

38 ((+10)) (11) Do all other acts necessary for the orderly and
39 efficient management and control of the library.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 27.12
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 In any county with an adopted home rule charter and one million
4 or more residents, the librarian of a rural county library district
5 shall be selected through a process by which a majority of trustees
6 recommends a candidate for librarian to the county executive, the
7 county executive nominates the librarian candidate to the county
8 legislative authority, and the county legislative authority confirms
9 the nominated librarian.

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