

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6415

Chapter 99, Laws of 2020

66th Legislature
2020 Regular Session

PERMANENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BENEFIT CHARGES

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2020

Passed by the Senate February 18,
2020

Yeas 46 Nays 1

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 6, 2020

Yeas 72 Nays 25

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Approved March 19, 2020 2:53 PM

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6415** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

BRAD HENDRICKSON

Secretary

FILED

March 19, 2020

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6415

Passed Legislature - 2020 Regular Session

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Das, Van De Wege, Wellman, Takko, Wilson, C., Hunt, and Billig)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing a permanent fire protection district
2 benefit charge with voter approval; and amending RCW 52.18.050 and
3 52.26.220.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.18.050 and 2017 c 196 s 4 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The initial imposition of a benefit charge authorized by
8 this chapter must be approved by not less than sixty percent of the
9 voters of the district voting at a general election or at a special
10 election called by the district for that purpose.

11 (b) An election held for the initial imposition of a benefit
12 charge must be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on
13 which the first charge is to be assessed.

14 (c) A benefit charge approved at an election expires in six or
15 fewer years as authorized by the voters unless subsequently
16 reapproved by the voters.

17 (2) Ballot measures calling for the initial imposition of a
18 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the
19 authorization of a benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed to
20 vote "No," and the ballot question must be as follows:

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

7 YES NO
8

9 (3) (a) The continued imposition of a benefit charge authorized by
10 this chapter may be approved for six consecutive years, ten
11 consecutive years, or permanently.

12 A ballot measure calling for the continued imposition of a
13 benefit charge for six consecutive years or ten consecutive years
14 must be approved by a majority of the voters of the district voting
15 at a general election or at a special election called by the district
16 for that purpose.

17 A ballot measure calling for the continued imposition of a
18 benefit charge as a permanent benefit charge must be approved by not
19 less than sixty percent of the voters of the district voting at a
20 general election or at a special election called by the district for
21 that purpose.

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

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

34 YES NO
35

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 52.26.220 and 2017 c 196 s 1 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1)(a) The initial imposition of a benefit charge authorized by
4 this chapter must be approved by not less than sixty percent majority
5 of the voters of the regional fire protection service authority
6 voting at a general election or at a special election called by the
7 authority for that purpose. Ballot measures containing an
8 authorization to impose benefit charges that are approved by the
9 voters pursuant to RCW 52.26.060 satisfy the proposition approval
10 requirement of this subsection and subsection (2) of this section.

11 (b) An election held for the initial imposition of a benefit
12 charge must be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on
13 which the first charge is to be assessed.

14 (c) A benefit charge approved at an election expires in six or
15 fewer years as authorized by the voters, unless subsequently
16 reapproved by the voters.

17 (2) Ballot measures calling for the initial imposition of a
18 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the
19 authorization of a benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed to
20 vote "No." The ballot question is as follows:

21 "Shall the regional fire protection service
22 authority composed of (insert the participating fire
23 protection jurisdictions) be authorized to impose
24 benefit charges each year for (insert number of years
25 not to exceed six) years, not to exceed an amount equal to
26 sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from
27 imposing an additional property tax under RCW
28 52.26.140(1)(c)?"

29	YES	NO
30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

31 (3)(a) The continued imposition of a benefit charge authorized by
32 this chapter may be approved for six consecutive years, ten
33 consecutive years, or permanently. A ballot measure calling for the
34 continued imposition of a benefit charge for six consecutive years or
35 ten consecutive years must be approved by a majority of the voters of
36 the regional fire protection service authority voting at a general
37 election or at a special election called by the authority for that
38 purpose. A ballot measure calling for the continued imposition of a

1 benefit charge as a permanent benefit charge must be approved by not
2 less than sixty percent of the voters of the regional fire protection
3 service authority voting at a general election or at a special
4 election called by the authority for that purpose.

5 (b) Ballot measures calling for the continued imposition of a
6 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the
7 continued imposition of the benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those
8 opposed to vote "No." The ballot question must be substantially in
9 the following form:

10 "Shall the regional fire protection service
11 authority composed of (insert the participating fire
12 protection jurisdictions) be authorized to
13 continue voter-authorized benefit charges (insert "
14 each year for six consecutive years," "each year for ten
15 consecutive years," or "permanently"), not to exceed an
16 amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be
17 prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW
18 52.26.140(1)(c)?

19 YES NO
20

Passed by the Senate February 18, 2020.
Passed by the House March 6, 2020.
Approved by the Governor March 19, 2020.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 19, 2020.

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