

---

**SENATE BILL 582**

---

**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hunt and Kuderer

Prefiled 12/22/21.

1       AN ACT Relating to the deadline for a port commission to send new  
2 district boundaries to the county auditor when expanding from three  
3 commissioners to five; and amending RCW 53.12.010 and 53.12.130.

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

5       **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.12.010 and 2002 c 51 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7       (1) The powers of the port district shall be exercised through a  
8 port commission consisting of three or, when permitted by this title,  
9 five members. Every port district that is not coextensive with a  
10 county having a population of five hundred thousand or more shall be  
11 divided into the same number of commissioner districts as there are  
12 commissioner positions, each having approximately equal population,  
13 unless provided otherwise under subsection (2) of this section. Where  
14 a port district with three commissioner positions is coextensive with  
15 the boundaries of a county that has a population of less than five  
16 hundred thousand and the county has three county legislative  
17 authority districts, the port commissioner districts shall be the  
18 county legislative authority districts. In other instances where a  
19 port district is divided into commissioner districts, the port  
20 commission shall divide the port district into commissioner districts  
21 unless the commissioner districts have been described pursuant to RCW

1 53.04.031. The commissioner districts shall be altered as provided in  
2 chapter 53.16 RCW.

3 Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a  
4 registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a  
5 candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner  
6 district; and (b) only the voters of a commissioner district may vote  
7 at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the  
8 commissioner district. Voters of the entire port district may vote at  
9 a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the  
10 commissioner district.

11 (2) (a) In port districts with five commissioners, two of the  
12 commissioner districts may include the entire port district if  
13 approved by the voters of the district either at the time of  
14 formation or at a subsequent port district election at which the  
15 issue is proposed pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of  
16 commissioners and delivered to the county auditor.

17 (b) In a port district with five commissioners, where two of the  
18 commissioner districts include the entire port district, the port  
19 district may be divided into five commissioner districts if proposed  
20 pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners or  
21 pursuant to a petition by the voters and approved by the voters of  
22 the district at the next general or special election occurring sixty  
23 or more days after the adoption of the resolution. A petition  
24 proposing such an increase must be submitted to the county auditor of  
25 the county in which the port district is located and signed by voters  
26 of the port district at least equal in number to ten percent of the  
27 number of voters in the port district who voted at the last general  
28 election.

29 Upon approval by the voters, the commissioner district boundaries  
30 shall be redrawn into five districts (~~(within one hundred twenty~~  
31 ~~days)) prior to the first day of January in the year in which the two  
32 additional commissioners shall be elected and submitted to the county  
33 auditor pursuant to RCW 53.16.015. The new commissioner districts  
34 shall be numbered one through five and the three incumbent  
35 commissioners representing the three former districts shall represent  
36 commissioner districts one through three. The two at large incumbent  
37 commissioners shall represent commissioner districts four and five.  
38 If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries more than one of  
39 the incumbent commissioners resides in one of the new commissioner  
40 districts, the commissioners who reside in the same commissioner~~

1 district shall determine by lot which of the numbered commissioner  
2 districts they shall represent for the remainder of their respective  
3 terms.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 53.12.130 and 2015 c 53 s 79 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Two additional port commissioners shall be elected at the next  
7 district general election following the election at which voters  
8 authorized the increase in port commissioners to five members.

9 The port commissioners shall divide the port district into five  
10 commissioner districts prior to the first day of (~~June~~) January in  
11 the year in which the two additional commissioners shall be elected,  
12 unless the voters approved the nomination of the two additional  
13 commissioners from district-wide commissioner districts as permitted  
14 in RCW 53.12.010(2). The new commissioner districts shall be numbered  
15 one through five and the three incumbent commissioners shall  
16 represent commissioner districts one through three. If, as a result  
17 of redrawing the district boundaries two or three of the incumbent  
18 commissioners reside in one of the new commissioner districts, the  
19 commissioners who reside in the same commissioner district shall  
20 determine by lot which of the first three numbered commissioner  
21 districts they shall represent for the remainder of their respective  
22 terms. A primary shall be held to nominate candidates from districts  
23 four and five where necessary and commissioners shall be elected from  
24 commissioner districts four and five at the general election. The  
25 persons elected as commissioners from commissioner districts four and  
26 five shall take office immediately after qualification as defined  
27 under RCW 29A.04.133.

28 In a port district where commissioners are elected to four-year  
29 terms of office, the additional commissioner thus elected receiving  
30 the highest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of  
31 office and the other additional commissioner thus elected shall be  
32 elected to a term of office of two years, if the election is held in  
33 an odd-numbered year, or the additional commissioner thus elected  
34 receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a term of  
35 office of three years and the other shall be elected to a term of  
36 office of one year, if the election is held in an even-numbered year.  
37 In a port district where the commissioners are elected to six-year  
38 terms of office, the additional commissioner thus elected receiving  
39 the highest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of

1 office and the other additional commissioner shall be elected to a  
2 four-year term of office, if the election is held in an odd-numbered  
3 year, or the additional commissioner receiving the highest number of  
4 votes shall be elected to a term of office of five-years and the  
5 other shall be elected to a three-year term of office, if the  
6 election is held in an even-numbered year. The length of terms of  
7 office shall be computed from the first day of January in the year  
8 following this election.

9       Successor commissioners from districts four and five shall be  
10 elected to terms of either six or four years, depending on the length  
11 of terms of office to which commissioners of that port district are  
12 elected.

--- END ---