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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6189**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Bateman, Hasegawa, and Nobles)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to removing the deadline for forming a public  
2 facilities district for regional aquatics and sports facilities; and  
3 amending RCW 35.57.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.57.010 and 2023 c 218 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The legislative authority of any town or city located in a  
8 county with a population of less than one million may create a public  
9 facilities district.

10 (b) The legislative authorities of any contiguous group of towns  
11 or cities located in a county or counties each with a population of  
12 less than one million may enter an agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW  
13 for the creation and joint operation of a public facilities district.

14 (c) The legislative authority of any town or city, or any  
15 contiguous group of towns or cities, located in a county with a  
16 population of less than one million and the legislative authority of  
17 a contiguous county, or the legislative authority of the county or  
18 counties in which the towns or cities are located, may enter into an  
19 agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW for the creation and joint  
20 operation of a public facilities district.

1 (d) The legislative authority of a city located in a county with  
2 a population greater than one million may create a public facilities  
3 district, when the city has a total population of less than one  
4 hundred fifteen thousand but greater than eighty thousand and  
5 commences construction of a regional center prior to July 1, 2008.

6 (e) At least three contiguous towns or cities with a combined  
7 population of at least one hundred sixty thousand, each of which  
8 previously created a public facilities district under (a) of this  
9 subsection, may create an additional public facilities district. The  
10 previously created districts may continue their full corporate  
11 existence and activities notwithstanding the creation and existence  
12 of the additional district within the same geographic area.

13 (f) The legislative authority of two or more contiguous towns or  
14 cities or the legislative authority of two or more contiguous towns  
15 or cities and the legislative authority of the county or counties in  
16 which the towns or cities are located, each of which participated in  
17 the creation of a public facilities district under (c) of this  
18 subsection, may create an additional public facilities district. Any  
19 previously created district may continue its full corporate existence  
20 and activities notwithstanding the creation and existence of an  
21 additional district within the same geographic area. (~~(A public~~  
22 ~~facilities district formed under this subsection (1)(f) must be~~  
23 ~~created prior to July 1, 2026.)~~) The creation of a public facilities  
24 district under this subsection does not require all of the original  
25 participating towns, cities, or counties that created a public  
26 facilities district under (c) of this subsection to participate in  
27 the formation of the additional public facilities district under this  
28 subsection.

29 (2)(a) A public facilities district is coextensive with the  
30 boundaries of the city or town or contiguous group of cities or towns  
31 that created the district.

32 (b) A public facilities district created by an agreement between  
33 a town or city, or a contiguous group of towns or cities, and a  
34 contiguous county or the county in which they are located, is  
35 coextensive with the boundaries of the towns or cities, and the  
36 boundaries of the county or counties as to the unincorporated areas  
37 of the county or counties. The boundaries do not include incorporated  
38 towns or cities that are not parties to the agreement for the  
39 creation and joint operation of the district.

1           (3)(a) A public facilities district created by a single city or  
2 town shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of five  
3 members selected as follows: (i) Two members appointed by the  
4 legislative authority of the city or town; and (ii) three members  
5 appointed by legislative authority based on recommendations from  
6 local organizations. The members appointed under (a)(i) of this  
7 subsection, shall not be members of the legislative authority of the  
8 city or town. The members appointed under (a)(ii) of this subsection,  
9 must be based on recommendations received from local organizations  
10 that may include, but are not limited to, the local chamber of  
11 commerce, local economic development council, and local labor  
12 council. The members shall serve four-year terms. Of the initial  
13 members, one must be appointed for a one-year term, one must be  
14 appointed for a two-year term, one must be appointed for a three-year  
15 term, and the remainder must be appointed for four-year terms.

16           (b) A public facilities district created by a contiguous group of  
17 cities and towns must be governed by a board of directors consisting  
18 of seven members selected as follows: (i) Three members appointed by  
19 the legislative authorities of the cities and towns; and (ii) four  
20 members appointed by the legislative authorities of the cities and  
21 towns based on recommendations from local organizations. The members  
22 appointed under (b)(i) of this subsection shall not be members of the  
23 legislative authorities of the cities and towns. The members  
24 appointed under (b)(ii) of this subsection, must be based on  
25 recommendations received from local organizations that include, but  
26 are not limited to, the local chamber of commerce, local economic  
27 development council, local labor council, and a neighborhood  
28 organization that is directly affected by the location of the  
29 regional center in their area. The members of the board of directors  
30 must be appointed in accordance with the terms of the agreement under  
31 chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint operation of the district and shall  
32 serve four-year terms. Of the initial members, one must be appointed  
33 for a one-year term, one must be appointed for a two-year term, one  
34 must be appointed for a three-year term, and the remainder must be  
35 appointed for four-year terms.

36           (c) A public facilities district created by a town or city, or a  
37 contiguous group of towns or cities, and a contiguous county or the  
38 county or counties in which they are located, must be governed by a  
39 board of directors consisting of seven members selected as follows:  
40 (i) Three members appointed by the legislative authorities of the

1 cities, towns, and county; and (ii) four members appointed by the  
2 legislative authorities of the cities, towns, and county based on  
3 recommendations from local organizations. The members appointed under  
4 (c)(i) of this subsection shall not be members of the legislative  
5 authorities of the cities, towns, or county. The members appointed  
6 under (c)(ii) of this subsection must be based on recommendations  
7 received from local organizations that include, but are not limited  
8 to, the local chamber of commerce, the local economic development  
9 council, the local labor council, and a neighborhood organization  
10 that is directly affected by the location of the regional center in  
11 their area. The members of the board of directors must be appointed  
12 in accordance with the terms of the agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW  
13 for the joint operation of the district and shall serve four-year  
14 terms. Of the initial members, one must be appointed for a one-year  
15 term, one must be appointed for a two-year term, one must be  
16 appointed for a three-year term, and the remainder must be appointed  
17 for four-year terms.

18 (d)(i) A public facilities district created under subsection  
19 (1)(e) of this section must provide, in the agreement providing for  
20 its creation and operation, that the district must be governed by an  
21 odd-numbered board of directors of not more than nine members who are  
22 also members of the legislative authorities that created the public  
23 facilities district or of the governing boards of the public  
24 facilities districts previously created by those legislative  
25 authorities, or both.

26 (ii) A board of directors formed under this subsection must have  
27 an equal number of members representing each city or town  
28 participating in the public facilities district. If there are  
29 unfilled board member positions after each city or town has appointed  
30 an equal number of board members, the members so appointed must  
31 appoint a number of additional board members necessary to fill any  
32 remaining positions. For a board formed under this subsection to  
33 submit a proposition to the voters under RCW 82.14.048, a majority of  
34 the members representing or appointed by each legislative authority  
35 participating in the public facilities district must agree to submit  
36 the proposition to the voters.

37 (4) A public facilities district is a municipal corporation, an  
38 independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII,  
39 section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within  
40 the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

1           (5) A public facilities district constitutes a body corporate and  
2 possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes  
3 as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically  
4 conferred by statute including, but not limited to, the authority to  
5 hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, and to  
6 sue and be sued.

7           (6) A public facilities district may acquire and transfer real  
8 and personal property by lease, sublease, purchase, or sale. No  
9 direct or collateral attack on any public facilities district  
10 purported to be authorized or created in conformance with this  
11 chapter may be commenced more than thirty days after creation by the  
12 city and/or county legislative authority.

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