
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2305

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Haugen, Ferguson, Dorn, Horn, Bray and Rasmussen)

Read first time 01/22/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to fire protection districts; amending RCW
2 52.06.085; and adding a new section to chapter 52.14 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.06.085 and 1985 c 7 s 118 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Whenever two or more fire protection districts merge, the board
7 of fire commissioners of the merged fire protection district shall
8 consist of all of the original fire commissioners. At the next three
9 elections for fire commissioners the number of fire commissioners for
10 the merged district shall be reduced as follows, notwithstanding the
11 number of fire commissioners whose terms expire:

12 In the first election after the merger, only one position shall be
13 filled, whether the new fire protection district be a three member
14 district or a five member district pursuant to RCW 52.14.020.

1 In each of the two subsequent elections, one position shall be
2 filled if the new fire protection district is a three member district
3 and two positions shall be filled if the new fire protection district
4 is a five member district pursuant to RCW 52.14.020.

5 Thereafter, the fire commissioners shall be elected in the same
6 manner as prescribed for such fire protection districts of the state.

7 (2) A ballot proposition to create commissioner districts may be
8 submitted to the voters of the fire protection districts proposed to be
9 merged at the same election the ballot proposition is submitted
10 authorizing the merging of the fire protection districts. The
11 procedure to create commissioner districts shall conform with section
12 2 of this act, except that: (a) Resolutions proposing the creation of
13 commissioner districts must be adopted by unanimous vote of the boards
14 of fire commissioners of each of the fire protection districts that are
15 proposed to be merged; and (b) commissioner districts will be
16 authorized only if the ballot propositions to authorize the merger and
17 to create commissioner districts are both approved. A ballot
18 proposition authorizing the creation of commissioner districts is
19 approved if it is approved by a simple majority vote of the combined
20 voters of all the fire protection districts proposed to be merged. The
21 commissioner districts shall not be drawn until the number of
22 commissioners in the fire protection district has been reduced under
23 subsection (1) of this section to either three or five commissioners.
24 After this reduction of fire commissioners has occurred the
25 commissioner districts shall be drawn and used for the election of the
26 successor fire commissioners.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 52.14 RCW
28 to read as follows:

1 The board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district may
2 adopt a resolution by unanimous vote causing a ballot proposition to be
3 submitted to voters of the district authorizing the creation of
4 commissioner districts. The board of fire commissioners shall create
5 commissioner districts if the ballot proposition authorizing the
6 creation of commissioner districts is approved by a simple majority
7 vote of the voters of the fire protection district voting on the
8 proposition. Three commissioner districts shall be created for a fire
9 protection district with three commissioners, and five commissioner
10 districts shall be created for a fire protection district with five
11 commissioners. No two commissioners may reside in the same
12 commissioner district.

13 The population of each commissioner district shall include
14 approximately equal population. Commissioner districts shall be
15 redrawn as provided in chapter 29.70 RCW. Commissioner districts shall
16 be used as follows: (1) Only a registered voter who resides in a
17 commissioner district may be a candidate for, or serve as, a
18 commissioner of the commissioner district; and (2) only voters of a
19 commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for
20 a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire fire
21 protection district may vote at a general election to elect a person as
22 a commissioner of the commissioner district.

23 When a board of fire commissioners that has commissioner districts
24 has been increased to five members under RCW 52.14.015, the board of
25 fire commissioners shall divide the fire protection district into five
26 commissioner districts before it appoints the two additional fire
27 commissioners. The two additional fire commissioners who are appointed
28 shall reside in separate commissioner districts in which no other fire
29 commissioner resides.