
HOUSE BILL 2634

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session
By Representatives Roland, Forner, Prentice, Nelson, G. Cole, Wood and Paris

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to metropolitan municipal corporations; amending
2 RCW 35.58.140; adding new sections to chapter 35.58 RCW; creating a new
3 section; repealing RCW 35.58.120 and 35.58.150; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purposes of this act are to reduce
7 the size of metropolitan councils and to restructure the composition of
8 metropolitan councils to provide more effective representation to the
9 citizens of a metropolitan area.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A metropolitan municipal corporation
11 shall be governed by a metropolitan council consisting of the following
12 members:

1 (1) One member who is the elected county executive of the central
2 county, or, if there is no elected county executive, one member
3 appointed by, and from, the board of commissioners or council of the
4 central county.

5 (2) Six members appointed by the county commissioners or county
6 councilmembers of the central county, which members may include any or
7 all of the county commissioners or councilmembers.

8 (3) One member who is the elected mayor of the central city, or, if
9 there is no elected mayor, one member appointed by, and from, the mayor
10 and city council of the central city.

11 (4) Six members appointed by the council of the central city, which
12 members may include any or all of the city councilmembers.

13 (5)(a) Six members appointed by and from the mayors and
14 councilmembers of the component cities, other than the central city,
15 that have populations of fifteen thousand or more. The appointment
16 process must give due consideration to the number of citizens residing
17 within each city to facilitate, as much as practicable, proportionate
18 representation.

19 (b) Subject to (c) of this subsection, the members shall be
20 selected in the following manner:

21 (i) The mayors and councilmembers of all selecting component cities
22 shall meet prior to July 1 of each even-numbered year at a date, time,
23 and place to be fixed by resolution of the metropolitan council.

24 (ii) The chairperson of the metropolitan council shall preside.

25 (iii) After nominations are made, successive ballots shall be taken
26 until six candidates each receive a majority of all votes cast.

27 (c) In the event the selecting component cities are members of a
28 duly established association of cities within the metropolitan area
29 whose charter or rules delegate to the association the appointment of
30 members to the metropolitan council, then the appointment of the six

1 members shall be conducted as provided by the association's charter or
2 rules and the results certified to the chairperson of the metropolitan
3 council.

4 (6) One member representing all component cities that have a
5 population of less than fifteen thousand each, who is selected by and
6 from the mayors of these cities in the following manner:

7 (a) The mayors of the cities shall meet prior to July 1 of each
8 even-numbered year at a time and place to be fixed by the metropolitan
9 council.

10 (b) The chairperson of the metropolitan council shall preside.

11 (c) After nominations are made, successive ballots shall be taken
12 until one candidate receives a majority of all votes cast.

13 (7) Three members who are nominated and elected at large from the
14 metropolitan area to four-year staggered terms as provided in section
15 3 of this act. The election shall be held in conformance with the
16 provisions of Title 29 RCW.

17 (8) For any metropolitan municipal corporation that is authorized
18 to perform the function of metropolitan water pollution abatement, one
19 additional member who is a commissioner of a sewer district or a water
20 district that operates a sewer system and is a component part of the
21 metropolitan municipal corporation, who shall participate only in those
22 council actions that relate to the performance of the function of
23 metropolitan water pollution abatement. The commissioners of all the
24 sewer districts and water districts that are component parts of the
25 metropolitan municipal corporation shall meet on the second Tuesday of
26 June of each even-numbered year at seven o'clock p.m. at the office of
27 the board of county commissioners or county council of the central
28 county. After electing a chairperson, the commissioners shall make
29 nominations to select a member to serve on the metropolitan council and

1 successive ballots taken for each nomination until one candidate
2 receives a majority of votes cast.

3 (9) One member shall be chairperson of the metropolitan council who
4 is selected by the other members of the council. The chairperson may
5 not hold public office or be an employee of any component city or
6 component county of the metropolitan municipal corporation. The
7 chairperson shall hold office until the second Tuesday in July of each
8 even-numbered year and may, if reelected, serve more than one term.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The three directly elected members
10 shall have staggered terms where the two members who receive the
11 greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms and the
12 other two members shall be elected to two-year terms of office. The
13 length of these terms run from the first day of January in the year
14 following the election. The initial directly elected members shall
15 take office immediately after they are qualified as defined in RCW
16 29.01.135. Each subsequent directly elected member shall be elected to
17 a four-year term of office that continues until a successor is elected,
18 qualified, and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

19 (2) The initial directly elected members shall be elected at the
20 next general election occurring at least ninety days after the
21 effective date of this act. Eight candidates shall be nominated at the
22 regular primary election and the four directly elected members shall be
23 elected at the general election.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A vacancy in the office of a member of
25 the metropolitan council shall be filled in the same manner as provided
26 for the original appointed member except as provided by this section.
27 The meetings to fill a vacancy of the member selected under section 2
28 (5) and (6) of this act or of commissioners to fill a vacancy of the

1 member selected under section 2(8) of this act shall be held at a time
2 and place as designated by the chairperson of the metropolitan council
3 after ten days' written notice mailed to the mayors and councilmembers
4 of each of the cities participating under section 2(5) of this act, to
5 the mayors of each of the cities participating under section 2(6) of
6 this act, or to the commissioners of the districts participating under
7 section 2(8) of this act, whichever is applicable. In the event of a
8 vacancy of one of the members elected under section 2(7) of this act,
9 the remaining members elected under that provision shall appoint a
10 person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

11 **Sec. 5.** RCW 35.58.140 and 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 6 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Each member of a metropolitan council except those (~~selected under~~
14 ~~the provisions of RCW 35.58.120(1)(a), (5), (7), and (8))~~ elected
15 under section 2(7) of this act, shall hold office at the pleasure of
16 the body (~~which selected him~~) that appointed the member. Each
17 member, (~~who~~) except those elected under section 2(7) of this act,
18 shall hold office ex officio(~~er~~) and may not hold office after (~~he~~)
19 the member ceases to hold the position of elected county executive,
20 mayor, commissioner, or councilman. The (~~chairman~~) chairperson shall
21 hold office until the second Tuesday in July of each even-numbered year
22 and may, if reelected, serve more than one term. Each member appointed
23 to office shall hold office until (~~his~~) a successor has been
24 (~~selected~~) appointed as provided in this chapter.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are
26 each repealed:

1 (1) RCW 35.58.120 and 1983 c 92 s 1, 1981 c 190 s 3, 1974 ex.s. c
2 70 s 5, 1971 ex.s. c 303 s 5, 1969 ex.s. c 135 s 1, 1967 c 105 s 3, &
3 1965 c 7 s 35.58.120; and

4 (2) RCW 35.58.150 and 1984 c 44 s 1, 1967 c 105 s 5, & 1965 c 7 s
5 35.58.150.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are
7 each added to chapter 35.58 RCW.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
10 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
11 effect immediately.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.