

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5091

As Passed Senate, February 13, 1995

Title: An act relating to public utility district alternative bid procedure.

Brief Description: Raising the dollar limit for the public utility district alternative bid procedure.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen, Winsley and Pelz.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 1/24/95, 1/31/95 [DP, DNP].
Passed Senate, 2/13/95, 46-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Drew, Hale, McCaslin and Winsley.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Heavey.

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Background: A public utility district commission that wishes to award a contract to purchase materials, equipment, or supplies more than \$5,000 but less than \$15,000 in value must follow a statutory procedure that requires public notice to invite sealed bids for the materials.

In lieu of the requirement of a sealed bidding, the commission may establish a uniform process to award contracts for the purchase of these materials. This involves periodic publication in a newspaper of general circulation, and securing telephone or written quotations, or both, from at least three different vendors.

The \$15,000 limit has been in effect since 1977.

Summary of Bill: The limit for a public utility district's alternative bid procedure for purchase of materials, equipment, or supplies is raised from \$15,000 to \$35,000.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The process works well and saves money. The limit has not been raised since 1977.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Dave Webb, Judy Spence, Snohomish County PUD.