

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5407

As Passed Senate, March 10, 1995

Title: An act relating to allowing voters to approve ballot propositions protecting a portion of metropolitan park district property taxes from prorationing.

Brief Description: Allowing voters to protect a portion of metropolitan park district property taxes from prorationing.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Winsley, Haugen, Oke and Wojahn).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 2/7/95, 3/1/95 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 3/10/95, 45-1.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5407 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

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

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Background: The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma is the only metropolitan park district in the state. A metropolitan park district is authorized to impose two regular property tax levies, one at a maximum rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and a second levy at a maximum rate of \$0.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Although both of these levies are subject to the \$5.90 limit on combined levy rates, the \$0.50 levy is placed in a higher status than the \$0.25 levy for purposes of prorationing.

To the extent possible, the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma wants to protect its lower status levy, \$0.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, from prorationing.

Summary of Bill: A metropolitan park district with a population of 150,000 or more (Tacoma) may submit a ballot proposition to the voters authorizing the protection of all or a portion of its \$0.25 levy from prorationing by placing the levy outside the \$5.90 limit (actually the \$9.50 limit if one includes the state school levy of \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation), but under the constitutional 1 percent limitation. The levy is for six years, and is approved by simple majority vote.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: It is with voter permission and will protect our funding.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Dr. Richard Moe, Jim Montgomerie, Wayne Fanshier, Metropolitan Park District, Tacoma (pro); Pete Spiller, Fire Districts.