

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1468

As Reported by House Committee On:
Local Government & Housing

Title: An act relating to the appointment of trustees for rural county library districts located in counties with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more.

Brief Description: Requiring rural county library district boards in counties with populations of one million five hundred thousand or more to have seven appointed members.

Sponsors: Representatives Sullivan, Rodne and Goodman.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Local Government & Housing: 2/2/09, 2/9/09 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Amends statute to require the county legislative body to appoint seven trustees to rural county library district boards in counties with populations of 1.5 million or more.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HOUSING

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Simpson, Chair; Nelson, Vice Chair; Angel, Ranking Minority Member; Cox, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Ericksen, Miloscia, Short, Springer, Upthegrove and White.

Staff: Sara del Moral (786-7291) and Thamas Osborn (786-7129)

Background:

State law provides for the establishment, management, and operation of several categories of public library districts. These include rural county library districts, intercounty rural library districts, and island library districts.

A rural county library district provides library services to all areas within a county not included within incorporated cities and towns. It also provides service to cities and towns

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that choose to undergo an annexation process. Such cities and towns must have a population of 100,000 or less at the time of annexation.

Additionally, state law includes provisions regarding the number of trustees in a library district and how they are appointed. Provisions vary according to type of district. However, each district type must have five or seven trustees. Trustees are appointed by a mayor, local legislative body, or board of county commissioners.

Terms are established for the trustees such that each year there is one vacancy. Boards with five members have terms of five years, while boards with seven members have terms of seven years. When a new library district is established, initial terms are of one, two, three, four, and five years for boards with five members, such that vacancies occur on a yearly basis. Terms are established in a similar manner for boards with seven members.

Library trustees do not receive salaries. However, they are paid from library funds for necessary expenses actually incurred.

Summary of Bill:

Provisions regarding rural county library boards in counties with populations of 1.5 million or more are amended. The number of library board trustees is modified from five to seven.

Beginning January 10, 2010, term length for new trustees is modified from five to seven years.

Within four months of the effective date of this act, the appointing authority must appoint two additional trustees. The term lengths for these trustees must be of six and seven years, so that from that date forward, there is one vacancy each year.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) King County's Library District Board (Board) would benefit from this bill. Given that the jurisdiction is so large, the Board has subcommittees; more board members would be helpful. This bill parallels legislation regarding multi-city districts. It would only apply to King County.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Bill Ptacek, King County Library System.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.