

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 6027

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As Reported By House Committee On:  
Local Government

**Title:** An act relating to the creation of urban emergency medical service districts.

**Brief Description:** Creating urban emergency medical service districts.

**Sponsors:** Senators Winsley, Haugen and McAuliffe.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Local Government, February 18, 1994, DP.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives H. Myers, Chair; Springer, Vice Chair; Edmondson, Ranking Minority Member; Reams, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dunshee; R. Fisher; Horn; Moak; Rayburn; Van Luven and Zellinsky.

**Staff:** Steve Lundin (786-7127).

**Background:** Voters of the following five taxing districts may approve ballot propositions authorizing the taxing district to impose annual regular property taxes of up to 50 cents per \$1000 of assessed valuation for six years to finance emergency medical services:

- o counties;
- o cities and towns;
- o fire protection districts;
- o public hospital districts; and
- o emergency medical service districts.

The vote necessary to authorize these taxes is at least a 60 percent affirmative vote, with a 40 percent validation requirement.

An emergency medical service district is a special district that may be created in the unincorporated area of a county to provide and finance emergency medical services. The county legislative authority acts in an ex officio capacity as the governing body of an emergency medical service district.

If a county imposes the property tax for emergency medical services, no taxing district within its boundaries may impose this tax.

Voters of King County have authorized the county to impose the regular property tax to finance emergency medical services. Snohomish County does not impose the emergency medical service tax. Most of the city of Bothell is located in King County, but a part of Bothell is also located in Snohomish County.

**Summary of Bill:** The council of a city or town that is located in two counties may create an urban emergency medical service district in all of the portion of the city or town that is located in one of the two counties if:

- o The county in which the district is located does not impose the property tax to fund emergency medical services; and
- o The other county in which the city or town is located imposes the property tax to fund emergency medical services.

The city or town council must hold a public hearing on the creation of the emergency medical service district prior to creating the district by ordinance. The city or town council acts in an ex officio capacity as the governing body of an urban emergency medical service district. Voters of the urban emergency medical service district are the registered voters residing in the district.

An urban emergency medical service district is authorized to provide emergency medical services within its boundaries by contracting with a county, city, town, fire protection district, public hospital district or emergency medical service district to provide those services.

Voters of an urban emergency medical service district may approve ballot propositions authorizing the district to impose the same tax levies for emergency medical services that other local governments may impose.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** This will permit the city of Bothell to address emergency medical service funding.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Manny O'Campo, city of Bothell; and Stan Finkelstein, Association of Washington Cities.