

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHB 2628

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
FEBRUARY 25, 1994

**Brief Description:** Revising provisions relating to condemnation of blighted property.

**SPONSORS:** House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives R. Fisher, Campbell, Edmondson, Sommers, Appelwick and Dorn)

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chairman; Drew, Vice Chairman; Loveland, McCaslin, Oke, Owen and Winsley.

**Staff:** Eugene Green (786-7405)

**Hearing Dates:** February 22, 1994; February 25, 1994

**BACKGROUND:**

Counties, cities, and towns are authorized to condemn property, dwellings, buildings, and structures constituting a blight on the surrounding neighborhood. A "blight on the surrounding neighborhood" is defined as property that: (1) has not been lawfully occupied for one year or more; (2) constitutes a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, as determined by the county health department; and (3) is or has been associated with illegal drug activity during the previous 12 months.

In addition, the county, city, or town governing body must adopt a resolution declaring that the acquisition of the property is necessary to eliminate neighborhood blight before the property may be condemned.

**SUMMARY:**

The requirements are altered for a county, city, or town to condemn property that constitutes a blight on the surrounding neighborhood. Such property may be condemned if any two of the three factors mentioned above are met.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

This will further allow the people of the Hilltop area in Tacoma to use this as a tool to help make Hilltop a safe and respectable community.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Gary Pederson, Dan McComaghy, City of Tacoma (pro); Marie Orrange, Hilltop Action Coalition (pro); Alberta Cinara, Martin Luther King Housing Dev. Assn. (pro)