

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**ESSB 5110**

**AS PASSED SENATE, MARCH 9, 1993**

**Brief Description:** Changing provisions relating to sewer and water districts.

**SPONSORS:** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Drew and Winsley)

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5110 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

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

**Staff:** Rod McAulay (786-7754)

**Hearing Dates:** February 3, 1993; February 10, 1993

**BACKGROUND:**

When considering competitive bids for contracts for work and material, water districts and sewer districts may reject bids that are "unsatisfactory." It is not clear that this standard would include consideration of the past performance record of a contractor or changed circumstances since the advertisement for bids.

Water districts and sewer districts do not have authority to solicit voluntary contributions from their customers to assist indigent customers. Public utility districts do have this authority.

**SUMMARY:**

Water districts and sewer districts may reject bids "for good cause."

Sewer and water districts may solicit voluntary contributions from customers to be paid with regular billing to assist indigent customers.

Archaic terminology is corrected and gender inclusive terms are added.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

The bill clarifies ambiguous language regarding the scope of eminent domain powers and regarding the basis for rejecting competitive bids for contracts.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Joe Daniels, Washington Association of Water/Wastewater Districts