

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SB 6061**

**AS PASSED SENATE, FEBRUARY 14, 1994**

**Brief Description:** Revising provisions relating to special elections to validate excess levies or bond issues.

**SPONSORS:** Senators Vognild, Winsley, Haugen and Sellar

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

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

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

**Hearing Dates:** January 21, 1994; February 4, 1994

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The election code fixes the dates for general elections, primaries and special elections. Special elections may be called by a county legislative authority if it deems an emergency to exist by presenting a resolution to the county auditor at least 45 days prior to the proposed election date. Special elections may be conducted in conjunction with a general election, a primary, or on specified days in February, March, April or May. In addition to these specified days, a special election to validate an excess levy or bond issue may be called at any time to meet the needs resulting from the failure of a county, school district, or junior taxing district to pass a special levy for the first time, or from fire, flood, earthquake, or other act of God.

It is believed that the failure of a county, school district or junior taxing district to pass an excess levy or bond issue the first time does not justify the potential added expense of scheduling a special election on a date other than on one of the days specified by statute.

**SUMMARY:**

The authority to call a special election at any time to validate an excess levy or bond issue to meet the needs resulting from the failure of a county, school district, or junior taxing district to pass a special levy for the first time is repealed.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

Eliminates number of "wild card" elections. Avoids cost. Disrupts preparation for regular elections. Affects integrity of elections because of stressed staff. Now have mail ballot alternative.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Doug Cochrane, Yakima County Auditor; Don Whiting, Assistant Secretary of State

**HOUSE AMENDMENT(S):**

The special election date for April is changed from "the first Tuesday after the first Monday" to "the fourth Tuesday."