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SENATE BILL 5368

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Heavey

Read first time 01/20/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to voting for port commissioners; and amending RCW  
2 53.12.010.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.12.010 and 1994 c 223 s 81 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The powers of the port district shall be exercised through a  
7 port commission consisting of three or, when permitted by this title,  
8 five members.

9 Every port district that is not coextensive with a county having a  
10 population of five hundred thousand or more shall be divided into the  
11 same number of commissioner districts as there are commissioner  
12 positions, each having approximately equal population, unless provided  
13 otherwise under subsection (2) of this section. Where a port district  
14 with three commissioner positions is coextensive with the boundaries of  
15 a county that has a population of less than five hundred thousand and  
16 the county has three county legislative authority districts, the port  
17 commissioner districts shall be the county legislative authority  
18 districts. In other instances where a port district is divided into  
19 commissioner districts, the port commission shall divide the port

1 district into commissioner districts unless the commissioner districts  
2 have been described pursuant to RCW 53.04.031. The commissioner  
3 districts shall be altered as provided in chapter 53.16 RCW.

4 Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a  
5 registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a  
6 candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner  
7 district; and (b) only the voters of a commissioner district may vote  
8 at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the  
9 commissioner district. In addition, in port districts with a  
10 population of one million or more, only voters of a commissioner  
11 district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a  
12 commissioner of the commissioner district, but in all other port  
13 districts voters of the entire port district may vote at a general  
14 election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner  
15 district.

16 (2) In port districts with five commissioners, two of the  
17 commissioner districts may include the entire port district if approved  
18 by the voters of the district either at the time of formation or at a  
19 subsequent port district election at which the issue is proposed  
20 pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners and  
21 delivered to the county auditor.

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