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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6642**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Heavey and Schow)

Read first time 02/02/96.

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 and every port district  
11 with a population of one million or more shall be divided into the same  
12 number of commissioner districts as there are commissioner positions,  
13 each having approximately equal population, unless provided otherwise  
14 under subsection (2) of this section. Where a port district with three  
15 commissioner positions and three commissioner districts is coextensive  
16 with the boundaries of a county (~~that has a population of less than~~  
17 ~~five hundred thousand~~) and the county has three county legislative  
18 authority districts, the port commissioner districts shall be the  
19 county legislative authority districts. In other instances where a

1 port district is divided into commissioner districts, the port  
2 commission shall divide the port district into commissioner districts  
3 unless the commissioner districts have been described pursuant to RCW  
4 53.04.031. The commissioner districts shall be altered as provided in  
5 chapter 53.16 RCW.

6 Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a  
7 registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a  
8 candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner  
9 district; and (b) only the voters of a commissioner district may vote  
10 at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the  
11 commissioner district. Voters of the entire port district may vote at  
12 a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the  
13 commissioner district.

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

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