

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6278

As Passed House - Amended:

March 4, 1998

Title: An act relating to specifying the number of signatures required on a petition to place on the ballot the question of changing the name of a port district.

Brief Description: Specifying the number of signatures required on a petition to place on the ballot the question of changing the name of a port district.

Sponsors: Senators Horn, McCaslin and T. Sheldon.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Government Administration: 2/18/98 [DPA].

Floor Activity:

Passed House - Amended: 3/4/98, 97-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 10 members: Representatives D. Schmidt, Chairman; D. Sommers, Vice Chairman; Scott, Ranking Minority Member; Doumit; Dunn; Dunshee; Murray; L. Thomas; Wensman and Wolfe.

Staff: Caroleen Dineen (786-7156).

Background: Port districts are municipal corporations authorized to control and manage specified functions, including harbor and industrial improvements and rail, motor, air and water transfer and terminal facilities. A county legislative authority: (a) may decide to submit a proposal to create a port district to county voters; or (b) is required to submit a proposal upon receipt of a petition signed by 10 percent of registered county voters based on the total vote in the last general county election. The proposal to create a port district is approved by majority vote.

The corporate name of any port district may be changed under certain conditions. The port district commissioners are required to submit a proposal to change the name of the port district upon receiving a petition requesting such a change that is signed by at least 250 registered voters residing in the port district. The name change proposal is approved by majority vote.

Summary of Bill: The minimum number of signatures required to submit a name change proposal to voters is increased in statute. Port district commissioners must submit a name change proposal to port district voters at a general port election upon receiving a petition requesting such a change that is signed by at least 10 percent of port district voters who voted at the last general port election.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Changing the threshold to 10 percent will make port name change petition requirements the same as other types of petitions.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Horn, prime sponsor; and Scott Taylor, Washington Public Ports Association.