

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5684

C 43 L 97

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Prescribing procedures for decreasing fire protection district commissioners.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Horn, Haugen and Wood).

Senate Committee on Government Operations
House Committee on Government Administration

Background: Unless it consists wholly of personnel employed on a full-time, fully-paid basis, a fire protection district must initially have a board of three fire commissioners. Either by resolution of the commissioners or by a petition signed by 10 percent of the registered voters in the district who voted in the last general municipal election, a special election may be called to increase the number of commissioners from three to five. If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election, the commission is increased to five commissioners. A fire protection district consisting wholly of personnel employed on a full-time, fully-paid basis must have five commissioners.

There is no statutory authority allowing a five commissioner district to decrease to a three commissioner district.

Summary: Either by resolution of the commissioners or by a petition signed by 10 percent of the registered voters who voted in the last general municipal election, a special election may be called to decrease the board of fire commissioners from five members to three members. This procedure is not applicable to a fire protection district consisting wholly of personnel employed on a full-time, fully-paid basis. If the fire protection district has commissioner districts, the board must pass a resolution to either redistrict from five commissioner districts to three commissioner districts or eliminate the commissioner districts, before submitting a proposition to the voters to decrease the board of fire commissioners. If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election, the commission is decreased to three commissioners.

Votes on Final Passage:

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| Senate | 45 | 0 |
| House | 97 | 0 |

Effective: July 27, 1997