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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5337**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Stevens, Deccio and Swecker)

Read first time 02/21/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to formation of less than county-wide port  
2 districts; and amending RCW 53.04.023.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.04.023 and 1994 c 223 s 84 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 A less than county-wide port district with an assessed valuation of  
7 at least (~~seventy-five~~) one hundred fifty million dollars may be  
8 created in a county that already has a less than county-wide port  
9 district located within its boundaries. Except as provided in this  
10 section, such a port district shall be created in accordance with the  
11 procedure to create a county-wide port district.

12 The effort to create such a port district is initiated by the  
13 filing of a petition with the county auditor calling for the creation  
14 of such a port district, describing the boundaries of the proposed port  
15 district, designating either three or five commissioner positions,  
16 describing commissioner districts if the petitioners propose that the  
17 commissioners represent districts, and providing a name for the  
18 proposed port district. The petition must be signed by voters residing

1 within the proposed port district equal in number to at least ten  
2 percent of such voters who voted at the last county general election.

3 A public hearing on creation of the proposed port district shall be  
4 held by the county legislative authority if the county auditor  
5 certifies that the petition contained sufficient valid signatures.  
6 Notice of the public hearing must be published in the county's official  
7 newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing.  
8 After taking testimony, the county legislative authority may make  
9 changes in the boundaries of the proposed port district if it finds  
10 that such changes are in the public interest and shall determine if the  
11 creation of the port district is in the public interest. No area may  
12 be added to the boundaries unless a subsequent public hearing is held  
13 on the proposed port district.

14 The county legislative authority shall submit a ballot proposition  
15 authorizing the creation of the proposed port district to the voters of  
16 the proposed port district, at any special election date provided in  
17 RCW 29.13.020, if it finds the creation of the port district to be in  
18 the public interest.

19 The port district shall be created if a majority of the voters  
20 voting on the ballot proposition favor the creation of the port  
21 district. The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same  
22 election, from districts or at large, as provided in the petition  
23 initiating the creation of the port district. The election shall be  
24 otherwise conducted as provided in RCW 53.12.172, but the election of  
25 commissioners shall be null and void if the port district is not  
26 created.

27 (~~This section shall expire July 1, 1997.~~)

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