
SENATE BILL 6300

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Winsley, Kline, Patterson, Kohl, Fairley, Franklin, Heavey and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/15/98. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to public housing authorities in jurisdictions with
2 populations over four hundred thousand; amending RCW 35.82.040 and
3 35.82.050; and adding a new section to chapter 35.82 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.82.040 and 1995 c 293 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Except as provided in section 2 of this act, when the governing
8 body of a city adopts a resolution declaring that there is a need for
9 a housing authority, it shall promptly notify the mayor of such
10 adoption. Upon receiving such notice, the mayor shall appoint five
11 persons as commissioners of the authority created for the city. When
12 the governing body of a county adopts a resolution declaring that there
13 is a need for a housing authority, it shall appoint five persons as
14 commissioners of the authority created for the county. The
15 commissioners who are first appointed shall be designated to serve for
16 terms of one, two, three, four and five years, respectively, from the
17 date of their appointment, but thereafter commissioners shall be
18 appointed for a term of office of five years except that all vacancies
19 shall be filled for the unexpired term. No commissioner of an

1 authority may be an officer or employee of the city or county for which
2 the authority is created, unless the commissioner is an employee of a
3 separately elected county official other than the county governing body
4 in a county with a population of less than one hundred seventy-five
5 thousand as of the 1990 federal census, and the total government
6 employment in that county exceeds forty percent of total employment.
7 A commissioner shall hold office until a successor has been appointed
8 and has qualified, unless sooner removed according to this chapter. A
9 certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any commissioner
10 shall be filed with the clerk and such certificate shall be conclusive
11 evidence of the due and proper appointment of such commissioner. A
12 commissioner shall receive no compensation for his or her services for
13 the authority, in any capacity, but he or she shall be entitled to the
14 necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the
15 discharge of his or her duties.

16 The powers of each authority shall be vested in the commissioners
17 thereof in office from time to time. Except as provided in section 2
18 of this act, three commissioners shall constitute a quorum of the
19 authority for the purpose of conducting its business and exercising its
20 powers and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the
21 authority upon a vote of a majority of the commissioners present,
22 unless in any case the bylaws of the authority shall require a larger
23 number. The mayor (or in the case of an authority for a county, the
24 governing body of the county) shall designate which of the
25 commissioners appointed shall be the first chair of the commission and
26 he or she shall serve in the capacity of chair until the expiration of
27 his or her term of office as commissioner. When the office of the
28 chair of the authority becomes vacant, the authority shall select a
29 chair from among its commissioners. An authority shall select from
30 among its commissioners a vice-chair, and it may employ a secretary
31 (who shall be executive director), technical experts and such other
32 officers, agents and employees, permanent and temporary, as it may
33 require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties and
34 compensation. For such legal services as it may require, an authority
35 may call upon the chief law officer of the city or the county or may
36 employ its own counsel and legal staff. An authority may delegate to
37 one or more of its agents or employees such powers or duties as it may
38 deem proper.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.82 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) After the effective date of this section, the governing body of
4 the city with a population of four hundred thousand or more, that has
5 created a housing authority under RCW 35.82.040 shall adopt a
6 resolution to expand the number of commissioners on the housing
7 authority from five to seven. Upon receiving such notice, the mayor,
8 with a public hearing and approval or the city council, shall appoint
9 additional persons as commissioners of the authority created for the
10 city.

11 (2) The seven member commission shall consist of at least:

12 (a) One representative of labor;

13 (b) One representative of senior citizens;

14 (c) One representative of low-income housing organizations;

15 (d) One tenant representative that resides in a housing project
16 that is located within the housing authority's area of operation; and

17 (e) Three representatives at large.

18 (3) The commissioners representing labor, senior citizens, low-
19 income housing organizations, and tenants must be appointed from a list
20 of names submitted to the mayor by the organizations that represent
21 these groups and are located within the area of operation of the
22 housing authority.

23 (4) After the effective date of this section, all commissioners
24 shall be appointed to serve three-year terms except that all vacancies
25 shall be filled for the remainder of an unexpired term. No
26 commissioner of an authority may be an officer or employee of the city
27 for which the authority is created. A commissioner shall hold office
28 until a successor has been appointed and has qualified, unless sooner
29 removed according to this chapter.

30 (5) A commissioner may be reappointed only after a public hearing
31 is held by the city council and an opportunity is given for public
32 input.

33 (6) A certificate of the appointment or reappointment of any
34 commissioner shall be filed with the clerk and such certificate shall
35 be conclusive evidence of the due and proper appointment of such
36 commissioner.

37 (7) A commissioner shall receive no compensation for his or her
38 services for the authority, in any capacity, but he or she shall be

1 entitled to the necessary expenses, including traveling expenses,
2 incurred in the discharge of his or her duties.

3 (8) The powers of each authority shall be vested in the
4 commissioners. Four commissioners shall constitute a quorum of the
5 authority for the purpose of conducting its business and exercising its
6 powers and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the
7 authority upon a vote of a majority of the commissioners present,
8 unless in any case the bylaws of the authority shall require a larger
9 number.

10 (9) The mayor, with consent of the city council, shall designate
11 which of the commissioners appointed shall be the first chair of the
12 commission and he or she shall serve in the capacity of chair until the
13 expiration of his or her term of office as commissioner. When the
14 office of the chair of the authority becomes vacant, the authority
15 shall select a chair from among its commissioners. An authority shall
16 select from among its commissioners a vice-chair, and it may employ a
17 secretary (who shall be executive director), technical experts and such
18 other officers, agents, and employees, permanent and temporary, as it
19 may require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and
20 compensation.

21 (10) For such legal services as it may require, an authority may
22 call upon the chief law officer of the city or may employ its own
23 counsel and legal staff. An authority may delegate to one or more of
24 its agents or employees such powers or duties as it may deem proper.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.82.050 and 1965 c 7 s 35.82.050 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (1) No commissioner ((or)), employee ((of an authority shall
28 acquire any interest direct or indirect in any housing project or in
29 any property included or planned to be included in any project, nor
30 shall he have any interest direct or indirect in any contract or
31 proposed contract for materials or services to be furnished or used in
32 connection with any housing project)), or appointee to any decision-
33 making body for the housing authority shall own or hold an interest in
34 any contract or property or engage in any business transaction or
35 professional or personal activity that would:

36 (a) Be, or appear to be, in conflict with the commissioner's,
37 employee's, or appointee's to any decision-making body for the housing
38 authority duties relating to the housing authority served by or subject

1 to the authority of that commissioner, employee, or appointee to any
2 decision-making body for the housing authority;

3 (b) Secure, or appear to secure, unwarranted privileges or
4 advantages for that commissioner, employee, or appointee to any
5 decision-making body for the housing authority or others; or

6 (c) Prejudice, or appear to prejudice, that commissioner's,
7 employee's, or appointee's to any decision-making body for the housing
8 authority independence of judgment in exercise of his or her official
9 duties relating to the housing authority served by or subject to the
10 authority of the commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-
11 making body for the housing authority.

12 (2) No commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making
13 body for the housing authority shall act in an official capacity in any
14 manner in which that commissioner, employee, or appointee to any
15 decision-making body of the housing authority has a direct or indirect
16 financial or personal involvement.

17 (3) No commissioner, employee, or appointee to any decision-making
18 body for the housing authority shall use his or her public office or
19 employment to secure financial gain for himself or herself.

20 (4) If any commissioner or employee of an authority or any
21 appointee to any decision-making body for the housing authority owns or
22 controls an interest direct or indirect in any property included or
23 planned to be included in any housing project, he or she immediately
24 shall disclose the same in writing to the authority and such disclosure
25 shall be entered upon the minutes of the authority. Failure ((~~to~~)) to
26 disclose such interest shall constitute misconduct in office. Upon
27 such disclosure such commissioner ((~~or~~)), employee, or appointee to any
28 decision-making body for the housing authority shall not participate in
29 any action by the authority affecting such property.

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