
SENATE BILL 6412

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin, Patterson, Heavey, Roach, Haugen and Schow

Read first time 01/19/98. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to voting for port commissioners; amending RCW
2 53.12.010; and adding a new section to chapter 53.12 RCW.

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.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 53.12 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 If the commissioners of a port district wish to have their district
23 exempted from the requirement of RCW 53.12.010 that the port district
24 be divided into districts of approximately equal population, the
25 commissioners may place on the next general election ballot following
26 the effective date of this section the following measure: "Shall the
27 port of . . . elect all of its commissioners at large, instead of by
28 separate district?" The request shall be in the form of a resolution
29 consistent with RCW 29.13.020. The measure shall be advertised as
30 required by RCW 29.27.060, and shall be considered enacted if approved
31 by a majority of voters voting on the measure.

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