
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1277

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By House Committee on Economic Development, Housing & Trade (originally sponsored by Representatives Carlson, Ogden, Dunn, Alexander, Benson, Pennington, Wood, Gombosky, D. Sommers, Mielke, Crouse, Boldt, Skinner, Hankins and Romero)

Read first time 03/02/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding for regional convention, conference, or
2 special events centers; adding a new chapter to Title 35 RCW; providing
3 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislative authority of any town or
6 city located in a county with a population of less than one million may
7 create a public facilities district. The legislative authorities of
8 any contiguous group of towns or cities located in a county with a
9 population of less than one million may enter an agreement under
10 chapter 39.34 RCW for the creation and joint operation of a public
11 facilities district.

12 (2) A public facilities district shall be coextensive with the
13 boundaries of the city or town or contiguous group of cities or towns
14 that created the district, except that the district shall be
15 coextensive with the boundaries of the county or counties in which the
16 district is located if a majority of the voters of the county or
17 counties approve the creation of the district in a general election or
18 a special election that may be called for that purpose.

1 (3) A public facilities district created by a single city or town
2 shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of the members of
3 the legislative body of the city that created the district. A district
4 created by a contiguous group of cities or towns shall be governed by
5 a board of directors appointed in accordance with the terms of the
6 agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint operation of the
7 district.

8 (4) A public facilities district is a municipal corporation, an
9 independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII,
10 section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the
11 meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

12 (5) A public facilities district shall constitute a body corporate
13 and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public
14 purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be
15 specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the
16 authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into
17 contracts, and to sue and be sued.

18 (6) A public facilities district may acquire and transfer real and
19 personal property by lease, sublease, purchase, or sale. No direct or
20 collateral attack on any metropolitan facilities district purported to
21 be authorized or created in conformance with this chapter may be
22 commenced more than thirty days after creation by the city legislative
23 authority.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A public facilities district is
25 authorized to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip,
26 reequip, repair, and operate one or more regional centers. For
27 purposes of this act, "regional center" means a convention, conference,
28 or special events center, or any combination of facilities, and related
29 parking facilities, serving a regional population constructed,
30 improved, or rehabilitated after the effective date of this act at a
31 cost of at least ten million dollars, including debt service.
32 "Regional center" also includes an existing convention, conference, or
33 special events center, and related parking facilities, serving a
34 regional population, that is improved or rehabilitated after the
35 effective date of this act where the costs of improvement or
36 rehabilitation are at least ten million dollars, including debt
37 service. A regional center is conclusively presumed to serve a
38 regional population if state and local government investment in the

1 construction, improvement, or rehabilitation of the regional center is
2 equal to or greater than ten million dollars.

3 (2) A public facilities district may impose charges and fees for
4 the use of its facilities, and may accept and expend or use gifts,
5 grants, and donations for the purpose of a regional center.

6 (3) Notwithstanding the establishment of a career, civil, or merit
7 service system, a public facilities district may contract with a public
8 or private entity for the operation or management of its public
9 facilities.

10 (4) A public facilities district is authorized to use the
11 supplemental alternative public works contracting procedures set forth
12 in chapter 39.10 RCW in connection with the design, construction,
13 reconstruction, remodel, or alteration of any regional center.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The board of directors of the public
15 facilities district shall adopt a resolution that may be amended from
16 time to time that shall establish the basic requirements governing
17 methods and amounts of reimbursement payable to such district officials
18 and employees for travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf
19 of the district. The resolution shall, among other things, establish
20 procedures for approving such expenses; the form of the travel and
21 expense voucher; and requirements governing the use of credit cards
22 issued in the name of the district. The resolution may also establish
23 procedures for payment of per diem to board members. The state auditor
24 shall, as provided by general law, cooperate with the public facilities
25 district in establishing adequate procedures for regulating and
26 auditing the reimbursement of all such expenses.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The board of directors of the public
28 facilities district shall have authority to authorize the expenditure
29 of funds for the public purposes of preparing and distributing
30 information to the general public and promoting, advertising,
31 improving, developing, operating, and maintaining a regional center.
32 Nothing contained in this section may be construed to authorize
33 preparation and distribution of information to the general public for
34 the purpose of influencing the outcome of a district election.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The public facilities district may secure
36 services by means of an agreement with a service provider. The public

1 facilities district shall publish notice, establish criteria, receive
2 and evaluate proposals, and negotiate with respondents under
3 requirements set forth by district resolution.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** In addition to provisions contained in
5 chapter 39.04 RCW, the public facilities district is authorized to
6 follow procedures contained in RCW 43.19.1906 and 43.19.1911 for all
7 purchases, contracts for purchase, and sales.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute
9 a new chapter in Title 35 RCW.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its
11 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
12 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
13 persons or circumstances is not affected.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
16 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
17 July 1, 1999.

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