
HOUSE BILL 2525

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Lysen, Mulliken, Dunshee, Mielke and Miloscia

Read first time 01/21/2002. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to calling special meetings in second class cities
2 and code cities; amending RCW 35.23.181 and 35A.12.110; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The open public meetings act provides that
6 a special meeting may be called by the presiding officer or by a
7 majority of the members of a city or town council.

8 The statute relating to special meetings for mayor-council second
9 class cities allows only the mayor to call a special meeting and not a
10 majority of the council.

11 The statute relating to special meetings for code cities allows the
12 mayor or any three councilmembers to call a special meeting, but that
13 is not a majority in cities that have a seven-member council.

14 It is the legislature's intent to amend the laws relating to
15 special meetings for second class cities and code cities to make them
16 consistent with the open public meetings act.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.23.181 and 1993 c 199 s 2 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

1 The city council and mayor shall meet in January next succeeding
2 the date of each general municipal election, and shall take the oath of
3 office, and shall hold regular meetings at least once during each month
4 but not to exceed one regular meeting in each week, at such times as
5 may be fixed by ordinance.

6 Special meetings may be called by the mayor or by a majority of the
7 members of the city council by written notice as provided in RCW
8 42.30.080. No ordinances shall be passed or contract let or entered
9 into, or bill for the payment of money allowed at any special meeting.

10 All meetings of the city council shall be held at such place as may
11 be designated by the city council. All final actions on resolutions
12 and ordinances must take place within the corporate limits of the city.
13 All meetings of the city council must be public.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35A.12.110 and 1993 c 199 s 3 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 The city council and mayor shall meet regularly, at least once a
17 month, at a place and at such times as may be designated by the city
18 council. All final actions on resolutions and ordinances must take
19 place within the corporate limits of the city. Special meetings may be
20 called by the mayor or ~~((any three))~~ by a majority of the members of
21 the council by written notice delivered to each member of the council
22 at least twenty-four hours before the time specified for the proposed
23 meeting. All actions that have heretofore been taken at special
24 council meetings held pursuant to this section, but for which the
25 number of hours of notice given has been at variance with requirements
26 of RCW 42.30.080, are hereby validated. All council meetings shall be
27 open to the public except as permitted by chapter 42.30 RCW. No
28 ordinance or resolution shall be passed, or contract let or entered
29 into, or bill for the payment of money allowed at any meeting not open
30 to the public, nor at any public meeting the date of which is not fixed
31 by ordinance, resolution, or rule, unless public notice of such meeting
32 has been given by such notice to each local newspaper of general
33 circulation and to each local radio or television station, as provided
34 in RCW 42.30.080 ~~((as now or hereafter amended))~~. Meetings of the
35 council shall be presided over by the mayor, if present, or otherwise
36 by the mayor pro tempore, or deputy mayor if one has been appointed, or
37 by a member of the council selected by a majority of the council
38 members at such meeting. Appointment of a council member to preside

1 over the meeting shall not in any way abridge his or her right to vote
2 on matters coming before the council at such meeting. In the absence
3 of the clerk, a deputy clerk or other qualified person appointed by the
4 clerk, the mayor, or the council, may perform the duties of clerk at
5 such meeting. A journal of all proceedings shall be kept, which shall
6 be a public record.

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