
SENATE BILL 5561

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker, Stevens, Sheahan, Johnson, Hochstatter and Deccio

Read first time 01/26/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the election of intercounty rural library
2 district directors; amending RCW 27.12.130 and 27.12.190; adding a new
3 section to chapter 27.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The board of trustees of a rural intercounty
6 library district prepares the budget upon which the property tax levy
7 rate is determined, and the amount of this rate could cause a fire
8 protection district or a cemetery district to be unfunded. To enhance
9 the trustees' accountability to the people they serve, the legislature
10 intends for trustees to be directly elected by the voters.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.12 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 On January 1, 2002, intercounty rural library districts in counties
14 having a population over one million persons shall dissolve their
15 boards of trustees on the date of the next municipal general election
16 and shall hold an election at that municipal general election to elect
17 seven nonpartisan library directors to serve four-year staggered terms.
18 Candidates shall run for specific positions. A primary shall not be

1 held to nominate candidates for intercounty rural library district
2 directors. The staggering of terms of members of the intercounty rural
3 library district directors shall be established at this election, where
4 the four persons elected as library directors receiving the greatest
5 numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office and the
6 remainder of the persons elected as library directors shall be elected
7 to two-year terms of office. Newly elected library directors shall
8 serve until their successors are elected and qualified. Library
9 directors who are elected subsequently shall be elected to four-year
10 terms of office and shall serve until their successors are elected and
11 qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.
12 Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with RCW 42.12.070.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 27.12.130 and 1959 c 133 s 1 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 ~~((Immediately following the establishment of an intercounty rural
16 library district the boards of county commissioners of the counties
17 affected shall jointly appoint a board of five or seven trustees for
18 the district in accordance with RCW 27.12.190.))~~ The board of trustees
19 shall appoint a librarian for the district.

20 **Sec. 4.** RCW 27.12.190 and 1982 c 123 s 8 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 The management and control of a library shall be vested in a board
23 of either five or seven trustees as hereinafter in this section
24 provided. In cities and towns five trustees shall be appointed by the
25 mayor with the consent of the legislative body. In counties, rural
26 county library districts, and island library districts, five trustees
27 shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners. In a regional
28 library district a board of either five or seven trustees shall be
29 appointed by the joint action of the legislative bodies concerned.
30 ~~((In intercounty rural library districts a board of either five or
31 seven trustees shall be appointed by the joint action of the boards of
32 county commissioners of each of the counties included in a district.
33 The first appointments for boards comprised of but five trustees shall
34 be for terms of one, two, three, four, and five years respectively, and
35 thereafter a trustee shall be appointed annually to serve for five
36 years. The first appointments for boards comprised of seven trustees
37 shall be for terms of one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven years~~

1 ~~respectively, and thereafter a trustee shall be appointed annually to~~
2 ~~serve for seven years. No person shall be appointed to any board of~~
3 ~~trustees for more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies shall be~~
4 ~~filled for unexpired terms as soon as possible in the manner in which~~
5 ~~members of the board are regularly chosen.))~~

6 A library trustee shall not receive a salary or other compensation
7 for services as trustee, but necessary expenses actually incurred shall
8 be paid from the library funds.

9 A library trustee in the case of a city or town may be removed only
10 by vote of the legislative body. A trustee of a county library, a
11 rural county library district library, or an island library district
12 library may be removed for just cause by the county commissioners after
13 a public hearing upon a written complaint stating the ground for
14 removal, which complaint, with a notice of the time and place of
15 hearing, shall have been served upon the trustee at least fifteen days
16 before the hearing. ~~((A trustee of an intercounty rural library~~
17 ~~district may be removed by the joint action of the board of county~~
18 ~~commissioners of the counties involved in the same manner as provided~~
19 ~~herein for the removal of a trustee of a county library.))~~

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