
SENATE BILL 6661

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senator Spanel

Read first time 01/24/2002. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the number of port commissioner
2 districts when a port commission has five commissioners; and amending
3 RCW 53.12.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.12.010 and 1994 c 223 s 81 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The powers of the port district shall be exercised through a
8 port commission consisting of three or, when permitted by this title,
9 five members. Every port district that is not coextensive with a
10 county having a population of five hundred thousand or more shall be
11 divided into the same number of commissioner districts as there are
12 commissioner positions, each having approximately equal population,
13 unless provided otherwise under subsection (2) of this section. Where
14 a port district with three commissioner positions is coextensive with
15 the boundaries of a county that has a population of less than five
16 hundred thousand and the county has three county legislative authority
17 districts, the port commissioner districts shall be the county
18 legislative authority districts. In other instances where a port
19 district is divided into commissioner districts, the port commission

1 shall divide the port district into commissioner districts unless the
2 commissioner districts have been described pursuant to RCW 53.04.031.
3 The commissioner districts shall be altered as provided in chapter
4 53.16 RCW.

5 Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a
6 registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a
7 candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner
8 district; and (b) only the voters of a commissioner district may vote
9 at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the
10 commissioner district. Voters of the entire port district may vote at
11 a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the
12 commissioner district.

13 (2)(a) In port districts with five commissioners, two of the
14 commissioner districts may include the entire port district if approved
15 by the voters of the district either at the time of formation or at a
16 subsequent port district election at which the issue is proposed
17 pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners and
18 delivered to the county auditor.

19 (b) In a port district with five commissioners, where two of the
20 commissioner districts include the entire port district, the port
21 district may be divided into five commissioner districts if proposed
22 pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners or
23 pursuant to a petition by the voters and approved by the voters of the
24 district at the next general or special election occurring sixty or
25 more days after the adoption of the resolution. A petition proposing
26 such an increase must be submitted to the county auditor of the county
27 in which the port district is located and signed by voters of the port
28 district at least equal in number to ten percent of the number of
29 voters in the port district who voted at the last general election.

30 Upon approval by the voters, the commissioner district boundaries
31 shall be redrawn into five districts within one hundred twenty days and
32 submitted to the county auditor pursuant to RCW 53.16.015. The new
33 commissioner districts shall be numbered one through five and the three
34 incumbent commissioners representing the three former districts shall
35 represent commissioner districts one through three. The two at large
36 incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts four and
37 five. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries more than
38 one of the incumbent commissioners resides in one of the new
39 commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same

1 commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the numbered
2 commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder of their
3 respective terms.

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