

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5584**

---

**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Highways & Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Swecker, Jacobsen, T. Sheldon, Morton, Deccio, Rossi and Sheahan)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to dissolution of regional transit authorities;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 81.112 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) A regional transit authority may be dissolved by a vote of the  
7 people residing within the boundaries of the authority. Any referendum  
8 petition to dissolve the authority must be filed with the legislative  
9 authority of each county that is within, in whole or in part, the  
10 boundaries of the authority. The referendum petition must contain  
11 provisions for dissolution of the authority, subject to subsection (2)  
12 of this section. Within fourteen days of the filing of the petition,  
13 each affected county legislative authority shall confer with the  
14 petitioner concerning the form and style of the petition, issue an  
15 identification number for the petition, and write a ballot title for  
16 the measure. The ballot title must be posed as a question so that an  
17 affirmative vote on the measure results in authority retention and a  
18 negative vote on the measure results in the authority's dissolution.

1 The petitioner must be notified of the identification number and ballot  
2 title within this fourteen-day period.

3 After this notification, the petitioner must have ninety days in  
4 which to secure on petition forms, the signatures of not less than  
5 fifteen percent of the registered voters in the authority area and to  
6 file the signed petitions with the filing officer in each county. Each  
7 petition form must contain the ballot title and the full text of the  
8 measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the  
9 sufficiency of the signatures on the petitions. If sufficient valid  
10 signatures are properly submitted, the filing officer shall submit the  
11 referendum measure to the authority area voters at a general or special  
12 election held on one of the dates provided in RCW 29.13.010 as  
13 determined by the county legislative authorities, which election may  
14 not take place later than one hundred twenty days after the signed  
15 petition has been filed.

16 (2) If an authority is dissolved under this process, within thirty  
17 days of the election conducted under subsection (1) of this section the  
18 authority shall terminate day-to-day operations and exist solely as a  
19 limited entity that oversees the collection of revenue and the payment  
20 of debt service or financing still in effect, if any. The authority  
21 shall terminate work on the transportation project or series of  
22 transportation projects, except that the authority may take reasonable  
23 steps to use, preserve, or connect any improvement already constructed.  
24 The authority shall accordingly adjust downward its employees,  
25 administration, and overhead expenses. Any taxes, fees, tolls, fares,  
26 or charges, imposed under an approved system and financing plan,  
27 terminate when the financing or debt service on the transportation  
28 project or series of transportation projects constructed is completed  
29 and paid, thirty days from which point the authority shall dissolve  
30 itself and cease to exist. If there is no debt outstanding, then the  
31 authority shall dissolve within thirty days of the election conducted  
32 in subsection (1) of this section. Notice of dissolution must be  
33 published in newspapers of general circulation within the authority at  
34 least three times in a period of thirty days. Creditors shall file  
35 claims due within thirty days of the last published notice or the claim  
36 is extinguished.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   This act is remedial in nature and applies  
2   to all regional transit authorities established before or after the  
3   effective date of this act.

--- END ---