

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2007

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### As Reported by House Committee On: Local Government

**Title:** An act relating to requirements for certified bylaws to be attached to certain petitions in cities and towns.

**Brief Description:** Changing requirements for petitions in cities and towns.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Moeller, Dunn, Fromhold, Wallace and Clibborn.

#### **Brief History:**

##### **Committee Activity:**

Local Government: 2/21/05, 2/24/05 [DP].

#### **Brief Summary of Bill**

- Revises the general procedural rules governing the petition processes used in cities and towns by allowing a duly authorized corporate officer to sign a petition on behalf of the corporation without requiring that he/she attach to the petition a certified excerpt from the corporate bylaws.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Simpson, Chair; Clibborn, Vice Chair; Schindler, Ranking Minority Member; Ahern, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; B. Sullivan and Takko.

**Staff:** Thamas Osborn (786-7129).

#### **Background:**

State law contains specified procedural and substantive rules governing the use of the various voter/property owner petitions initiated in accordance with the governance procedures required of cities and towns. The rules governing this petition process include those pertaining to:

- petition formats;
- textual requirements;
- persons allowed to sign petitions;
- determination of signature validity; and
- validity of signatures by authorized officers of property-owning corporations.

A corporate officer who is authorized to execute deeds or encumbrances on behalf of a corporation may be allowed to sign a petition on behalf of that corporation, but only if the officer attaches to the petition a certified excerpt from the bylaws showing that he/she has such authority.

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**Summary of Bill:**

A duly authorized corporate officer may sign a petition on behalf of a corporation without requiring that he/she attach to the petition a certified excerpt from the bylaws of such corporation evidencing his/her authority to sign.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This is essentially a technical bill that eliminates an unnecessary procedural rule pertaining to the general statutory requirements for the public petition processes that must be used by cities and towns; i.e., the requirement that corporate officers signing petitions must attach a copy of the bylaws to the petition. This requirement serves no useful function and unduly complicates the petition process.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Moeller, prime sponsor; Dave Williams, Association of Washington Cities; and Sharon Wylie, Clark County.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.