

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 6504**

59th Legislature  
2006 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate February 14, 2006  
YEAS 47 NAYS 0

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House February 28, 2006  
YEAS 97 NAYS 0

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 6504** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 6504**

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Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By Senators Berkey and Mulliken**

Read first time 01/13/2006.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1            AN ACT Relating to prohibiting employees of public hospital  
2 districts from serving as commissioners; and amending RCW 70.44.040.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.44.040 and 1997 c 99 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) The provisions of Title ((29)) 29A RCW relating to elections  
7 shall govern public hospital districts, except as provided in this  
8 chapter.

9            A public hospital district shall be created when the ballot  
10 proposition authorizing the creation of the district is approved by a  
11 simple majority vote of the voters of the proposed district voting on  
12 the proposition and the total vote cast upon the proposition exceeds  
13 forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the proposed  
14 district at the preceding state general election.

15            A public hospital district initially may be created with three,  
16 five, or seven commissioner districts. At the election at which the  
17 proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether a district shall  
18 be formed, three, five, or seven commissioners shall be elected from  
19 either three, five, or seven commissioner districts, or at-large

1 positions, or both, as determined by resolution of the county  
2 commissioners of the county or counties in which the proposed public  
3 hospital district is located, all in accordance with RCW 70.44.054.  
4 The election of the initial commissioners shall be null and void if the  
5 district is not authorized to be created.

6 No primary shall be held. A special filing period shall be opened  
7 as provided in RCW ((~~29.15.170 and 29.15.180~~)) 29A.24.171 and  
8 29A.24.181. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for the  
9 commissioner of each commissioner district or at-large position shall  
10 be elected as the commissioner of that district. The terms of office  
11 of the initial public hospital district commissioners shall be  
12 staggered, with the length of the terms assigned so that the person or  
13 persons who are elected receiving the greater number of votes being  
14 assigned a longer term or terms of office and each term of an initial  
15 commissioner running until a successor assumes office who is elected at  
16 one of the next three following district general elections the first of  
17 which occurs at least one hundred twenty days after the date of the  
18 election where voters approved the ballot proposition creating the  
19 district, as follows:

20 (a) If the public hospital district will have three commissioners,  
21 the successor to one initial commissioner shall be elected at such  
22 first following district general election, the successor to one initial  
23 commissioner shall be elected at the second following district general  
24 election, and the successor to one initial commissioner shall be  
25 elected at the third following district general election;

26 (b) If the public hospital district will have five commissioners,  
27 the successor to one initial commissioner shall be elected at such  
28 first following district general election, the successors to two  
29 initial commissioners shall be elected at the second following district  
30 general election, and the successors to two initial commissioners shall  
31 be elected at the third following district general election;

32 (c) If the public hospital district will have seven commissioners,  
33 the successors to two initial commissioners shall be elected at such  
34 first following district general election, the successors to ((~~three~~  
35 ~~{two}~~)) two initial commissioners shall be elected at the second  
36 following district general election, and the successors to three  
37 initial commissioners shall be elected at the third following district  
38 general election.

1 The initial commissioners shall take office immediately when they  
2 are elected and qualified. The term of office of each successor shall  
3 be six years. Each commissioner shall serve until a successor is  
4 elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW  
5 (~~29.04.170~~) 29A.20.040.

6 (2) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district  
7 may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the  
8 commissioner district. Voters of the entire public hospital district  
9 may vote at a primary or general election to elect a person as a  
10 commissioner of the commissioner district.

11 If the proposed public hospital district initially will have three  
12 commissioner districts and the public hospital district is county-wide,  
13 and if the county has three county legislative authority districts, the  
14 county legislative authority districts shall be used as public hospital  
15 district commissioner districts. In all other instances the county  
16 auditor of the county in which all or the largest portion of the  
17 proposed public hospital district is located shall draw the initial  
18 public hospital district commissioner districts and designate at-large  
19 positions, if appropriate, as provided in RCW 70.44.054. Each of the  
20 commissioner positions shall be numbered consecutively and associated  
21 with the commissioner district or at-large position of the same number.

22 The commissioners of a public hospital district that is not  
23 coterminous with the boundaries of a county that has three county  
24 legislative authority districts shall at the times required in chapter  
25 (~~29.70~~) 29A.76 RCW and may from time to time redraw commissioner  
26 district boundaries in a manner consistent with chapter (~~29.70~~)  
27 29A.76 RCW.

28 (3) No person may hold office as a commissioner while serving as an  
29 employee of the public hospital district.

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