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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2151**

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**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Ormsby, P. Sullivan, B. Sullivan and Dunshee)

READ FIRST TIME 2/28/07.

1            AN ACT Relating to authorizing qualified electors to divide  
2 optional municipal code cities into wards; and amending RCW 35A.12.180.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 35A.12.180 and 1994 c 223 s 34 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            At any time not within three months previous to a municipal general  
7 election, the council of a noncharter code city organized under this  
8 chapter may divide the city into wards or change the boundaries of  
9 existing wards. The qualified electors or the council of a noncharter  
10 code city located east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range that  
11 has an estimated population greater than eighty thousand but less than  
12 one hundred eighty thousand and is intersected by Interstate 90 may  
13 divide the city into wards or change the boundaries of existing wards  
14 at any time not within three months previous to a municipal general  
15 election. No change in the boundaries of wards shall affect the term  
16 of any councilmember, and councilmembers shall serve out their terms in  
17 the wards of their residences at the time of their elections:  
18 PROVIDED, That if this results in one ward being represented by more  
19 councilmembers than the number to which it is entitled those having the

1 shortest unexpired terms shall be assigned by the council to wards  
2 where there is a vacancy, and the councilmembers so assigned shall be  
3 deemed to be residents of the wards to which they are assigned for  
4 purposes of those positions being vacant. The representation of each  
5 ward in the city council shall be in proportion to the population as  
6 nearly as is practicable.

7 Wards shall be redrawn as provided in chapter ((29.70)) 29A.76 RCW.  
8 Wards shall be used as follows: (1) Only a resident of the ward may be  
9 a candidate for, or hold office as, a councilmember of the ward; and  
10 (2) only voters of the ward may vote at a primary to nominate  
11 candidates for a councilmember of the ward. Voters of the entire city  
12 may vote at the general election to elect a councilmember of a ward,  
13 unless the city had prior to January 1, 1994, limited the voting in the  
14 general election for any or all council positions to only voters  
15 residing within the ward associated with the council positions. If a  
16 city had so limited the voting in the general election to only voters  
17 residing within the ward, then the city shall be authorized to continue  
18 to do so.

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