
Local Government & Housing Committee

HB 1457

Brief Description: Limiting the authority of boundary review boards.

Sponsors: Representatives Nelson and Simpson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Makes changes to provisions governing the authority of Boundary Review Boards (Boards) to modify proposals before a Board.
- Prohibits Boards from adding an amount of territory to proposed city or town annexations that exceeds 100 percent of the area within the proposal before a Board.

Hearing Date: 2/2/09

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386)

Background:

Boundary Review Boards.

Boundary Review Boards (Boards) are authorized in statute to guide and control the creation and growth of municipalities in metropolitan areas. While statute provides for the establishment of Boards in counties with at least 210,000 residents, a Board may be created and established in any other county. Board members are appointed by the Governor and local government officials from within the applicable county.

Upon receiving a timely and sufficient request for review, and following an invocation of a Board's jurisdiction, a Board must review and approve, disapprove, or modify proposed actions, including actions pertaining to the creation, incorporation, or change in the boundary of any city, town, or special purpose district. In reaching decisions on proposed actions, Boards must satisfy public hearing requirements and must attempt to achieve objectives prescribed in statute, including the preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities, and the use of physical

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boundaries. Generally, decisions on proposed actions must be made within 120 days of the Board receiving a valid request for review.

Board modifications of proposed actions must adhere to legal requirements and limitations. Examples of these provisions are as follows:

- modifications must be based upon evidence to support a conclusion that the proposed action is inconsistent with one or more prescribed Board objective;
- the amount of territory that Boards may add to town annexation proposals is limited by the size of the original proposal; and
- Boards may not modify the proposed incorporation of a city with an estimated population of 7,500 or more by removing or adding territory from the proposal if that territory constitutes 10 percent or more of the area proposed for incorporation.

Additionally, Board decisions in counties planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) must be consistent with the planning goals of the GMA and other provisions.

Supreme Court Action.

On November 9, 2006, the Washington Supreme Court (Court) ruled in *Interlake Sporting Association, Inc. v. Washington State Boundary Review Board for King County, and City of Redmond*, 158 Wn.2d 545 (2006), that the King County Board exceeded its statutory authority when it required the City of Redmond to annex an area that was more than three times larger than the area the city intended to annex. In its ruling, the Court indicated that Boards may modify or adjust boundaries of proposed actions in ways that do not increase the total acreage of the proposal.

Summary of Bill:

Boards, subject to certain requirements, may modify proposals by adding territory that would increase a proposal's total area. A provision prohibiting Boards from adding an amount of territory to proposed town annexations that is greater than the original proposal is replaced with a provision prohibiting Boards from adding an amount of territory to proposed city or town annexations that constitutes more than 100 percent of the area within the proposal before the Board.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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