
HOUSE BILL 2547

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Ormsby, Manweller, Riccelli, Warnick, and Parker

Read first time 01/21/14. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a less than countywide port
2 district within a county containing no port districts; amending RCW
3 53.04.023; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.04.023 and 1997 c 256 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 A less than countywide port district with an assessed valuation of
8 at least one hundred fifty million dollars may be created: (1) In a
9 county that already has a less than countywide port district located
10 within its boundaries; or (2) under the provisions of section 2 of this
11 act. Except as provided in this section, such a port district shall be
12 created in accordance with the procedure to create a countywide port
13 district.

14 The effort to create such a port district is initiated by the
15 filing of a petition with the county auditor calling for the creation
16 of such a port district, describing the boundaries of the proposed port
17 district, designating either three or five commissioner positions,
18 describing commissioner districts if the petitioners propose that the
19 commissioners represent districts, and providing a name for the

1 proposed port district. The petition must be signed by voters residing
2 within the proposed port district equal in number to at least ten
3 percent of such voters who voted at the last county general election.

4 A public hearing on creation of the proposed port district shall be
5 held by the county legislative authority if the county auditor
6 certifies that the petition contained sufficient valid signatures.
7 Notice of the public hearing must be published in the county's official
8 newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing.
9 After taking testimony, the county legislative authority may make
10 changes in the boundaries of the proposed port district if it finds
11 that such changes are in the public interest and shall determine if the
12 creation of the port district is in the public interest. No area may
13 be added to the boundaries unless a subsequent public hearing is held
14 on the proposed port district.

15 The county legislative authority shall submit a ballot proposition
16 authorizing the creation of the proposed port district to the voters of
17 the proposed port district, at any special election date provided in
18 RCW ((~~29.13.020~~)) 29A.04.330, if it finds the creation of the port
19 district to be in the public interest.

20 The port district shall be created if a majority of the voters
21 voting on the ballot proposition favor the creation of the port
22 district. The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same
23 election, from districts or at large, as provided in the petition
24 initiating the creation of the port district. The election shall be
25 otherwise conducted as provided in RCW 53.12.172, but the election of
26 commissioners shall be null and void if the port district is not
27 created.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Prior to December 31, 2020, a port district
29 comprising territory less than the entire county may be created in a
30 county with no port district. In the creation of such a port district,
31 the initial port commissioners may be elected at the next general
32 election after approval of the ballot proposition submitted to the
33 voters authorizing the creation of a port district. In the creation of
34 a less than countywide port district, all procedures outlined in RCW
35 53.04.023 must be followed, except the requirement to elect
36 commissioners at the same election.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act expires December 31,
2 2020.

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