

SB 6021 - S AMD 635
By Senator Keiser

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to clarify the
4 limits on public hospital districts to delegate the core legislative
5 powers of the district and its elected board of commissioners to
6 another decision-making body. As a duly constituted public hospital
7 district, elected commissioners must maintain and exercise their
8 authority to carry out core legislative powers, including the power
9 to approve or reject proposed tax levy measures, the issuance of
10 bonds, the appointment of the district's superintendent, and the
11 district's annual budget. The legislature further intends that
12 elected commissioners for a public hospital district may not delegate
13 their core legislative powers to another decision-making body without
14 the approval of the voters in that district.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.44
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 A public hospital district may not enter into an agreement
18 delegating any of the core legislative powers of its elected
19 commissioners to another decision-making body unless a proposition to
20 ratify such an agreement is submitted to the voters of the public
21 hospital district at the next general election. The text of the
22 proposition to ratify the agreement, an explanatory statement
23 describing the measure, and statements for and against the measure
24 must be included in the local voters' pamphlet as provided in RCW
25 29A.32.210 through 29A.32.280. The election must be conducted as
26 provided in Title 29A RCW. The costs of the election must be paid by
27 the public hospital district and the entity to which the powers have
28 been delegated. If the agreement is not ratified by a majority of the
29 votes cast on the proposition, the agreement is terminated.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.44
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) For any public hospital district that has entered into an
4 agreement delegating any of the core legislative powers of its
5 elected commissioners to another decision-making body prior to the
6 effective date of this section, a majority vote of approval from the
7 district's elected commissioners is required for every decision
8 regarding: (a) The approval of a tax levy; (b) the adoption of the
9 district's annual budget; (c) the issuance of bonds; or (d) the
10 appointment or removal of the district's superintendent. If a
11 majority of the district's elected commissioners do not vote to
12 approve the proposed decision, the proposed decision is void unless
13 it is submitted to and approved by the voters of the district at the
14 next general election in the manner described in subsection (2) of
15 this section.

16 (2) The text of the proposition to ratify the decision, an
17 explanatory statement describing the measure, and statements for and
18 against the measure must be included in the local voters' pamphlet as
19 provided in RCW 29A.32.210 through 29A.32.280. The election must be
20 conducted as provided in Title 29A RCW. The costs of the election
21 must be paid by the public hospital district and the entity to which
22 the powers have been delegated. If the decision is not ratified by a
23 majority of the votes cast on the proposition, the decision is void.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.44.007 and 1997 c 332 s 15 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 As used in this chapter, the following words have the meanings
27 indicated:

28 (1) "Core legislative powers" means the power to levy a property
29 tax, to adopt a budget for the public hospital district in compliance
30 with RCW 70.44.060(6), to issue bonds, and to appoint or remove the
31 superintendent of the public hospital district.

32 (2) "Other health care facilities" means nursing home, extended
33 care, long-term care, outpatient and rehabilitative facilities,
34 ambulances, and such other facilities as are appropriate to the
35 health needs of the population served.

36 ((+2)) (3) "Other health care services" means nursing home,
37 extended care, long-term care, outpatient, rehabilitative, health
38 maintenance, and ambulance services and such other services as are
39 appropriate to the health needs of the population served.

1 (~~(3)~~) (4) "Public hospital district" or "district" means public
2 health care service district."

SB 6021 - S AMD **635**
By Senator Keiser

3 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "Relating to" strike the
4 remainder of the title and insert "the core legislative powers of
5 elected commissioners of a public hospital district; amending RCW
6 70.44.007; adding new sections to chapter 70.44 RCW; and creating a
7 new section."

EFFECT: Requires that any agreement by a public hospital district's board of commissioners that delegates core legislative powers to another decision-making body must be ratified by the district's voters or be terminated. Requires that any decisions made under a joint agreement that regard the core legislative powers must be approved by a majority of the district's elected commissioners or, if not approved, must be ratified by the district's voters. If not ratified, the decision is void. Defines core legislative powers as the power to levy a property tax, to adopt a budget, to issue bonds, and to appoint or remove the superintendent of the public hospital district.

--- END ---