

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6008

As of February 17, 2015

Title: An act relating to approval of a tax levy by a public hospital district board.

Brief Description: Concerning approval of a tax levy by a public hospital district board.

Sponsors: Senators Chase, Roach, Hasegawa and Keiser.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Security:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & SECURITY

Staff: Karen Epps (786-7424)

Background: Public hospital districts (Districts) are local government entities that may be created to provide health care facilities and services. Many provide facilities and services in rural areas. Since 1945, when they were authorized in state law, more than 50 Districts have been created in Washington. A District may be county-wide or include areas from one or more counties within its boundaries. However, the boundaries of the District must follow existing precinct boundaries and may not divide a voting precinct. Voters must approve a local ballot proposition to create a District. Each District is governed by a board of elected commissioners (board).

Districts have statutory authority commonly granted to local government entities, including authority to acquire property by eminent domain, adopt a budget, and employ and manage personnel. To finance operations, Districts may levy property taxes, issue bonds, and charge user fees. Districts have statutory authority to contract with other parties, both public and private, to provide facilities and services. Several Districts have entered into joint venture agreements pursuant to that authority.

Summary of Bill: If a District is governed by a board that has both elected and appointed members, the District may not raise revenue by levying property taxes within the District unless approved by a majority of the elected District commissioners.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.