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HOUSE BILL 1281

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Fitzgibbon and Stokesbary

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the appointment process for trustees  
2 of rural county library districts in counties with one million or  
3 more residents; amending RCW 27.12.190; and adding a new section to  
4 chapter 27.12 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 27.12.190 and 1982 c 123 s 8 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 The management and control of a library shall be vested in a  
9 board of either five or seven trustees as hereinafter in this section  
10 provided. In cities and towns five trustees shall be appointed by the  
11 mayor with the consent of the legislative body. In counties, rural  
12 county library districts, and island library districts, except as  
13 provided in section 2 of this act, five trustees shall be appointed  
14 by the board of county commissioners. In a regional library district  
15 a board of either five or seven trustees shall be appointed by the  
16 joint action of the legislative bodies concerned. In intercounty  
17 rural library districts a board of either five or seven trustees  
18 shall be appointed by the joint action of the boards of county  
19 commissioners of each of the counties included in a district. The  
20 first appointments for boards comprised of but five trustees shall be  
21 for terms of one, two, three, four, and five years respectively, and

1 thereafter a trustee shall be appointed annually to serve for five  
2 years. The first appointments for boards comprised of seven trustees  
3 shall be for terms of one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven  
4 years respectively, and thereafter a trustee shall be appointed  
5 annually to serve for seven years. No person shall be appointed to  
6 any board of trustees for more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies  
7 shall be filled for unexpired terms as soon as possible in the manner  
8 in which members of the board are regularly chosen.

9 A library trustee shall not receive a salary or other  
10 compensation for services as trustee, but necessary expenses actually  
11 incurred shall be paid from the library funds.

12 A library trustee in the case of a city or town may be removed  
13 only by vote of the legislative body. A trustee of a county library,  
14 a rural county library district library, or an island library  
15 district library may be removed for just cause by the county  
16 commissioners after a public hearing upon a written complaint stating  
17 the ground for removal, which complaint, with a notice of the time  
18 and place of hearing, shall have been served upon the trustee at  
19 least fifteen days before the hearing. A trustee of an intercounty  
20 rural library district may be removed by the joint action of the  
21 board of county commissioners of the counties involved in the same  
22 manner as provided herein for the removal of a trustee of a county  
23 library.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.12  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 In any county with an adopted home rule charter and one million  
27 or more residents, the board of trustees of a rural county library  
28 district will be made up of seven members who are appointed by the  
29 county executive and confirmed by the county legislative authority.  
30 Members shall be residents of either those cities or towns that,  
31 through annexation, have become part of the rural county library  
32 district or unincorporated areas of the county, and that represent  
33 the geographic diversity of the library district. The composition of  
34 an initial seven-member rural county library district board of  
35 trustees will comprise the existing five trustees, who will serve out  
36 their existing terms, and two new trustees, whose positions shall  
37 have initial terms of one and two years respectively. Thereafter a  
38 trustee shall be appointed to serve for five years to fill each

1 expired term. No person may be appointed to any board of trustees for  
2 more than two consecutive terms.

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