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HOUSE BILL 1999

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State of Washington

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By Representatives Gregerson, Stokesbary, Ryu, Hudgins, Cody, Pollet, Santos, Senn, Springer, Fitzgibbon, McBride, Stanford, Kagi, and Slatter

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1 AN ACT Relating to elections in port districts that are  
2 coextensive with a county having a population of over one-half  
3 million; and amending RCW 53.12.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.12.010 and 2002 c 51 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The powers of the port district shall be exercised through a  
8 port commission consisting of three or five members, (~~when~~) or as  
9 otherwise permitted by this title(~~(, five members)~~).

10 (a) Every port district that is not coextensive with a county  
11 having a population of five hundred thousand or more shall be divided  
12 into the same number of commissioner districts as there are  
13 commissioner positions, each having approximately equal population,  
14 unless provided otherwise under subsection (2) of this section.

15 (b) Where a port district with three commissioner positions is  
16 coextensive with the boundaries of a county that has a population of  
17 less than five hundred thousand and the county has three county  
18 legislative authority districts, the port commissioner districts  
19 shall be the county legislative authority districts.

20 (c) In other instances where a port district is divided into  
21 commissioner districts, the port commission shall divide the port

1 district into commissioner districts unless the commissioner  
2 districts have been described pursuant to RCW 53.04.031. The  
3 commissioner districts shall be altered as provided in chapter 53.16  
4 RCW.

5 (d) Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: ~~((a))~~ (i)  
6 Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be  
7 a candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the  
8 commissioner district; and ~~((b))~~ (ii) only the voters of a  
9 commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates  
10 for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Except as provided  
11 in subsection (3) of this section, voters of the entire port district  
12 may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of  
13 the commissioner district.

14 (2)(a) In port districts with five commissioners, two of the  
15 commissioner districts may include the entire port district if  
16 approved by the voters of the district either at the time of  
17 formation or at a subsequent port district election at which the  
18 issue is proposed pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of  
19 commissioners and delivered to the county auditor.

20 (b) In a port district with five commissioners, where two of the  
21 commissioner districts include the entire port district, the port  
22 district may be divided into five commissioner districts if proposed  
23 pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners or  
24 pursuant to a petition by the voters and approved by the voters of  
25 the district at the next general or special election occurring sixty  
26 or more days after the adoption of the resolution. A petition  
27 proposing such an increase must be submitted to the county auditor of  
28 the county in which the port district is located and signed by voters  
29 of the port district at least equal in number to ten percent of the  
30 number of voters in the port district who voted at the last general  
31 election.

32 Upon approval by the voters, the commissioner district boundaries  
33 shall be redrawn into five districts within one hundred twenty days  
34 and submitted to the county auditor pursuant to RCW 53.16.015. The  
35 new commissioner districts shall be numbered one through five and the  
36 three incumbent commissioners representing the three former districts  
37 shall represent commissioner districts one through three. The two at  
38 large incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts  
39 four and five. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries,  
40 more than one of the incumbent commissioners resides in one of the

1 new commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same  
2 commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the numbered  
3 commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder of  
4 their respective terms.

5 (3)(a) Beginning in 2019, any port district with five members  
6 that is coextensive with a county having a population of over one and  
7 one-half million, and with a legislative authority of nine members,  
8 must be divided into the same commissioner districts as the county  
9 legislative authority districts and include the same number of  
10 commissioner positions as the county legislative authority.

11 (b) Each commissioner must reside in the district from which he  
12 or she is elected, and only voters from each district may elect the  
13 commissioner to fill that district's commissioner position. No  
14 commissioner position may be elected at large.

15 (c) Each commissioner elected prior to 2019 with at least two  
16 years remaining in his or her term may complete his or her term for  
17 the new commissioner district in which he or she resides. If, as a  
18 result of redrawing the district boundaries, more than one of the  
19 incumbent commissioners, with at least two years remaining on each of  
20 their terms, reside in one of the new commissioner districts, the  
21 commissioners who reside in the same commissioner district shall  
22 determine by lot which commissioner will represent the district for  
23 the remainder of the term.

24 (d) The initial election under this subsection (3) will include  
25 the election of positions in each of the remaining district positions  
26 as follows:

27 (i) A certain number of positions elected to serve an initial  
28 two-year term, which in addition to any incumbent commissioner's  
29 position, as established in (c) of this subsection (3), provide a  
30 total number of four positions that will expire at the end of 2021;  
31 and

32 (ii) Five positions elected to serve four-year terms.

33 (e) The county auditor must select which district positions will  
34 be two-year or four-year terms for the initial election, pursuant to  
35 (d) of this subsection. All subsequent terms for all positions must  
36 be for four-year terms.

37 (f) Each commissioner must receive the same salary as a member of  
38 the state legislature, as set under RCW 43.03.013.

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