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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6415**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Das, Van De Wege, Wellman, Takko, Wilson, C., Hunt, and Billig)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing a permanent fire protection district  
2 benefit charge with voter approval; and amending RCW 52.18.050 and  
3 52.26.220.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.18.050 and 2017 c 196 s 4 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The initial imposition of a benefit charge authorized by  
8 this chapter must be approved by not less than sixty percent of the  
9 voters of the district voting at a general election or at a special  
10 election called by the district for that purpose.

11 (b) An election held for the initial imposition of a benefit  
12 charge must be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on  
13 which the first charge is to be assessed.

14 (c) A benefit charge approved at an election expires in six or  
15 fewer years as authorized by the voters unless subsequently  
16 reapproved by the voters.

17 (2) Ballot measures calling for the initial imposition of a  
18 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the  
19 authorization of a benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed to  
20 vote "No," and the ballot question must be as follows:

1 "Shall . . . . . county fire protection district  
2 No. . . . . be authorized to impose benefit charges each year  
3 for . . . . . (insert number of years not to exceed six) years,  
4 not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its  
5 operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an  
6 additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

7 YES NO  
8

9 (3) (a) The continued imposition of a benefit charge authorized by  
10 this chapter may be approved for six consecutive years, ten  
11 consecutive years, or permanently.

12 A ballot measure calling for the continued imposition of a  
13 benefit charge for six consecutive years or ten consecutive years  
14 must be approved by a majority of the voters of the district voting  
15 at a general election or at a special election called by the district  
16 for that purpose.

17 A ballot measure calling for the continued imposition of a  
18 benefit charge as a permanent benefit charge must be approved by not  
19 less than sixty percent of the voters of the district voting at a  
20 general election or at a special election called by the district for  
21 that purpose.

22 (b) Ballot measures calling for the continued imposition of a  
23 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the  
24 continued imposition of the benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those  
25 opposed to vote "No." The ballot question must be substantially in  
26 the following form:

27 "Shall . . . . . county fire protection district  
28 No. . . . . be authorized to continue voter-authorized  
29 benefit charges . . . . . (insert "each year for six  
30 consecutive years", "each year for ten consecutive years," or  
31 "permanently"), not to exceed an amount equal to sixty  
32 percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from  
33 imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

34 YES NO  
35



1 benefit charge as a permanent benefit charge must be approved by not  
2 less than sixty percent of the voters of the regional fire protection  
3 service authority voting at a general election or at a special  
4 election called by the authority for that purpose.

5 (b) Ballot measures calling for the continued imposition of a  
6 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the  
7 continued imposition of the benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those  
8 opposed to vote "No." The ballot question must be substantially in  
9 the following form:

10 "Shall . . . . the regional fire protection service  
11 authority composed of (insert the participating fire  
12 protection jurisdictions) . . . . be authorized to  
13 continue voter-authorized benefit charges . . . . (insert "  
14 each year for six consecutive years," "each year for ten  
15 consecutive years," or "permanently"), not to exceed an  
16 amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be  
17 prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW  
18 52.26.140 (1) (c) ?

19 YES NO  
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