

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2052

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Local Government

**Title:** An act relating to contracts with community service organizations for public improvements.

**Brief Description:** Concerning contracts with community service organizations for public improvements.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Orwall, Santos, Eslick and Simmons.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Local Government: 1/25/22, 1/28/22 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Expands the projects for which a municipality may contract with a service organization or other association without regard to competitive bidding laws for public works.
- Changes the consideration to be received by the public entity from at least three times the value of the payment to at least two times the value of the payment.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Pollet, Chair; Duerr, Vice Chair; Goehner, Ranking Minority Member; Griffey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Berg, Robertson and Senn.

**Staff:** Elizabeth Allison (786-7129).

**Background:**

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

A county, city, town, school district, metropolitan park district, park and recreation district, port district, or park and recreation service area may, without regard to competitive bidding laws for public works, contract with a chamber of commerce; a service organization; a community, youth, or athletic association; or other similar association located and providing service in its immediate neighborhood for: drawing design plans; making improvements to a park, school playground, public square, or port habitat site; installing equipment or artworks; or providing maintenance services for a facility or facilities such as a community or neighborhood project, or environmental stewardship project.

The contracting association may be reimbursed for its expenses. The contracting association may use volunteers in the project and provide them with clothing or tools, meals or refreshments, accident or injury insurance coverage, and reimbursement of their expenses. The consideration to be received by the public entity through the value of the projects must have a value at least equal to three times that of the payment to the contracting association.

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**Summary of Bill:**

The projects for which a county, city, town, school district, metropolitan park district, park and recreation district, port district, or park and recreation service area may contract without regard to competitive bidding laws are expanded to include making improvements to other public spaces and providing maintenance for equipment or artworks. "Environmental stewardship project" is changed to an "environmental justice stewardship or sustainability project." For consideration to be received by the public entity, the projects must have a value at least equal to two times the payment to the contracting association.

The contracting association may use volunteers to whom no wage or salary compensation is paid.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 24, 2022.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) The three to one match required in current law is a barrier for port programs trying to support community activities that help the airport communities. This match requirement is a heavy lift for smaller organizations. Reducing the match to two to one

would allow more time to deliver community work, expand the universe of applicants for community grants, and broaden the uses for which grants can be provided. Examples of community programs include community gardens, tree planting, and youth volunteers.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Tina Orwall, prime sponsor; Grace Stiller, Weed Warriors; and Hamdi Mohamed, Port of Seattle.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.