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## Local Government Committee

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### HB 1620

**Brief Description:** Concerning the number of inhabitants required for incorporation as a city or town.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Fey and Morgan.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Removes the requirement that an area must have at least 3,000 inhabitants, instead of the otherwise standard 1,500, to incorporate if it is within 5 air miles of a city with a population of 15,000 or more.

**Hearing Date:** 2/1/23

**Staff:** Kellen Wright (786-7134).

**Background:**

An unincorporated area in the State of Washington can incorporate into a town or city if certain requirements are met. The area must be contiguous and contain at least 1,500 inhabitants, or at least 3,000 inhabitants if the area is within 5 air miles of a city with 15,000 or more people. A registered voter in the area proposed for incorporation may initiate incorporation proceedings by filing a notice with the county containing information about the proposed city or town and paying a \$100 filing fee. The county boundary review board, or the county legislative authority if there is no boundary review board in the county, must then hold a public meeting on the proposed incorporation. Within 180 days of the meeting, at least 10 percent of the population of the area must sign a petition for incorporation and have it filed with the county auditor.

If these steps are satisfied, an election will be held to determine whether or not the area will

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incorporate. To be eligible to vote in the election, a voter must be qualified to vote in the county and must have resided within the area proposed for incorporation for at least 30 days. If a majority vote in favor of incorporation, the new city or town is incorporated.

**Summary of Bill:**

The requirement that an area within 5 air miles of a city of 15,000 or more must have least 3,000 inhabitants in order for it to incorporate, instead of at least 1,500 inhabitants, is repealed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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