
SENATE BILL 5432

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Swecker, Roach, Hatfield, Zarelli, Kline, Brandland,
Benton and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/19/2007. Referred to Committee on Government
Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing fire protection districts to have
2 additional fire commissioners; and amending RCW 52.14.010, 52.14.015,
3 52.14.013, and 52.14.017.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.14.010 and 1998 c 121 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The affairs of the district shall be managed by a board of fire
8 commissioners composed initially of three registered voters residing in
9 the district except as provided in RCW 52.14.015 and 52.14.020. Each
10 member shall each receive seventy dollars per day or portion thereof,
11 not to exceed six thousand seven hundred twenty dollars per year, for
12 attendance at board meetings and for performance of other services in
13 behalf of the district.

14 In addition, they shall receive necessary expenses incurred in
15 attending meetings of the board or when otherwise engaged in district
16 business, and shall be entitled to receive the same insurance available
17 to all firefighters of the district: PROVIDED, That the premiums for
18 such insurance, except liability insurance, shall be paid by the
19 individual commissioners who elect to receive it.

1 Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her
2 compensation payable under this section as to any month or months
3 during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the
4 secretary as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective,
5 must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to
6 the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver
7 shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

8 The board shall fix the compensation to be paid the secretary and
9 all other agents and employees of the district. The board may, by
10 resolution adopted by unanimous vote, authorize any of its members to
11 serve as volunteer firefighters without compensation. A commissioner
12 actually serving as a volunteer firefighter may enjoy the rights and
13 benefits of a volunteer firefighter.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 52.14.015 and 1994 c 223 s 50 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 In the event a three member board of commissioners of any fire
17 protection district determines by resolution that it would be in the
18 best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners
19 from three to five or seven, or in the event the board is presented
20 with a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident
21 within the district who voted in the last general municipal election
22 calling for such an increase in the number of commissioners of the
23 district, the board shall submit a resolution to the county legislative
24 authority or authorities of the county or counties in which the
25 district is located requesting that an election be held. Upon receipt
26 of the resolution, the legislative authority or authorities of the
27 county or counties shall call a special election to be held within the
28 fire protection district at which election the following proposition
29 shall be submitted to the voters substantially as follows:

30 Shall the board of commissioners of county fire
31 protection district no. be increased from three members to
32 five (or seven) members?

33 Yes
34 No

35 If the fire protection district is located in more than a single
36 county, this proposition shall indicate the name of the district.

1 If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election,
2 the board of commissioners of the fire protection district shall be
3 increased to five or seven members. The two or four additional members
4 shall be appointed in the same manner as provided in RCW 52.14.020.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 52.14.013 and 1994 c 223 s 49 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district may
8 adopt a resolution by unanimous vote causing a ballot proposition to be
9 submitted to voters of the district authorizing the creation of
10 commissioner districts. The board of fire commissioners shall create
11 commissioner districts if the ballot proposition authorizing the
12 creation of commissioner districts is approved by a simple majority
13 vote of the voters of the fire protection district voting on the
14 proposition. Three commissioner districts shall be created for a fire
15 protection district with three commissioners, (~~and~~) five commissioner
16 districts shall be created for a fire protection district with five
17 commissioners, and seven commissioner districts shall be created for a
18 fire protection district with seven commissioners. No two
19 commissioners may reside in the same commissioner district.

20 No change in the boundaries of any commissioner district shall be
21 made within one hundred twenty days next before the date of a general
22 district election, nor within twenty months after the commissioner
23 districts have been established or altered. However, if a boundary
24 change results in one commissioner district being represented by two or
25 more commissioners, those commissioners having the shortest unexpired
26 terms shall be assigned by the commission to commissioner districts
27 where there is a vacancy, and the commissioners so assigned shall be
28 deemed to be residents of the commissioner districts to which they are
29 assigned for purposes of determining whether those positions are
30 vacant.

31 The population of each commissioner district shall include
32 approximately equal population. Commissioner districts shall be
33 redrawn as provided in chapter (~~29.70~~) 29A.76 RCW. Commissioner
34 districts shall be used as follows: (1) Only a registered voter who
35 resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or serve as,
36 a commissioner of the commissioner district; and (2) only voters of a
37 commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for

1 a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire fire
2 protection district may vote at a general election to elect a person as
3 a commissioner of the commissioner district.

4 When a board of fire commissioners that has commissioner districts
5 has been increased to five or seven members under RCW 52.14.015, the
6 board of fire commissioners shall divide the fire protection district
7 into five or seven commissioner districts before it appoints the two or
8 four additional fire commissioners. The two or four additional fire
9 commissioners who are appointed shall reside in separate commissioner
10 districts in which no other fire commissioner resides.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 52.14.017 and 1997 c 43 s 1 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 Except as provided in RCW 52.14.020, in the event a five-member or
14 seven-member board of commissioners of any fire protection district
15 determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the
16 fire protection district to decrease the number of commissioners from
17 five to three or from seven to five, or in the event the board is
18 presented with a petition signed by ten percent of the registered
19 voters resident within the district who voted in the last general
20 municipal election calling for such a decrease in the number of
21 commissioners of the district, the board shall submit a resolution to
22 the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or
23 counties in which the district is located requesting that an election
24 be held. Upon receipt of the resolution, the legislative authority or
25 authorities of the county or counties shall call a special election to
26 be held within the fire protection district at which election the
27 following proposition shall be submitted to the voters substantially as
28 follows:

29 Shall the board of commissioners of county fire
30 protection district no. . . . be decreased from five (seven) members to
31 three (five) members?

32 Yes . . .
33 No . . .

34 If the fire protection district has commissioner districts, the
35 commissioners of the district must pass a resolution, before the
36 submission of the proposition to the voters, to either redistrict from

1 five or seven commissioner districts to three or five commissioner
2 districts or eliminate the commissioner districts. The resolution
3 takes effect upon approval of the proposition by the voters.

4 If the fire protection district is located in more than a single
5 county, this proposition shall indicate the name of the district.

6 If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election,
7 the board of commissioners of the fire protection district shall be
8 decreased to five or three members. The two members shall be decreased
9 in accordance with RCW 52.06.085.

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