
SENATE BILL 6415

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Das, Van De Wege, Wellman, Takko, Wilson, C., Hunt, and Billig

Read first time 01/16/20. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (2) Ballot measures calling for the initial imposition of a
17 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the
18 authorization of a benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed to
19 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 or
11 permanently.

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

17 (b) Ballot measures calling for the continued imposition of a
18 benefit charge must be submitted so as to enable voters favoring the
19 continued imposition of the benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those
20 opposed to vote "No." The ballot question must be substantially in
21 the following form:

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

29 YES NO
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