
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1347

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, Holy, and Ormsby)

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a countywide port district
2 within a county containing no port districts; amending RCW 53.12.172;
3 adding a new section to chapter 53.04 RCW; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 53.04
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Prior to December 31, 2020, in a county with no port
9 district, a port district coextensive with the limits of such county
10 may be created by a ballot proposition submitted to the voters
11 authorizing the creation of the port district. Notwithstanding RCW
12 53.12.172(2), the initial port commissioners may be elected at the
13 next general election after approval of the port district under this
14 section. All procedural requirements in RCW 53.04.020 must be
15 followed, except the requirement to elect port commissioners at the
16 same election. No taxes may be levied by a port district created
17 under this section until after the election of the port commissioners
18 for such district.

19 (2) This section expires December 31, 2020.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 53.12.172 and 2015 c 53 s 80 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) In every port district the term of office of each port
4 commissioner (~~shall~~) must be four years in each port district that
5 is countywide with a population of one hundred thousand or more, or
6 either six or four years in all other port districts as provided in
7 RCW 53.12.175, and until a successor is elected and qualified and
8 assumes office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280.

9 (2) Except as provided otherwise in section 1 of this act, the
10 initial port commissioners (~~shall~~) must be elected at the same
11 election as when the ballot proposition is submitted to voters
12 authorizing the creation of the port district. If the port district
13 is created the persons elected at this election (~~shall~~) must serve
14 as the initial port commission. No primary shall be held. The person
15 receiving the greatest number of votes for commissioner from each
16 commissioner district (~~shall~~) must be elected as the commissioner
17 of that district.

18 (3) The terms of office of the initial port commissioners shall
19 be staggered as follows in a port district that is countywide with a
20 population of one hundred thousand or more: (a) The two persons who
21 are elected receiving the two greatest numbers of votes shall be
22 elected to four-year terms of office if the election is held in an
23 odd-numbered year, or three-year terms of office if the election is
24 held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until successors
25 are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW
26 29A.60.280; and (b) the other person who is elected shall be elected
27 to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-
28 numbered year, or a one-year term of office if the election is held
29 in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until a successor is
30 elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW
31 29A.60.280.

32 (4) The terms of office of the initial port commissioners in all
33 other port districts shall be staggered as follows: (a) The person
34 who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be
35 elected to a six-year term of office if the election is held in an
36 odd-numbered year or to a five-year term of office if the election is
37 held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until a
38 successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance
39 with RCW 29A.60.280; (b) the person who is elected receiving the next
40 greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of

1 office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or to a three-
2 year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year,
3 and shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified and
4 assumes office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280; and (c) the other
5 person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office
6 if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of
7 office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and shall
8 hold office until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes
9 office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280.

10 (5) The initial port commissioners shall take office immediately
11 after being elected and qualified, but the length of their terms
12 shall be calculated from the first day in January in the year
13 following their elections.

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