

State of Washington  
46th Legislature  
Regular Session

by Representatives Rohrbach, Barnes  
and Jovanovich

Read first time February 9, 1979, and referred to Committee on Constitution,  
Elections & Governmental Ethics.

1 AN ACT Relating to port district commissioners; amending section  
2 9, chapter 175, Laws of 1959 as amended by section 3,  
3 chapter 51, Laws of 1965 and RCW 53.12.035; and amending  
4 section 10, chapter 17, Laws of 1959 as last amended by  
5 section 7, chapter 51, Laws of 1965 and RCW 53.12.120.

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

7 Section 1. Section 9, chapter 175, Laws of 1959 as  
8 amended by section 3, chapter 51, Laws of 1965 and RCW 53.12.035  
9 are each amended to read as follows:

10 (1) All candidates for district offices in port  
11 districts of class AA and class A counties shall file their  
12 declarations of candidacy with the county auditor of the county  
13 as set forth in RCW 29.21.060, as now or hereafter amended and  
14 in the same manner as candidates for county offices. In port  
15 districts located in a class AA county the declaration may be  
16 for any numbered port commissioner position to be open in the  
17 next port district election. In port districts with five  
18 commissioners in existence on July 1, 1965, the respective  
19 numbered positions shall correspond to the numbers of the county  
20 commissioner districts from which the three original  
21 commissioners in the port districts were elected, with the  
22 central district being numbered one, and with positions four and  
23 five being assigned to the original at large commissioner  
24 positions for which the first incumbents received, respectively,  
25 the greater and lesser number of votes cast.

26 (2) In all port districts in a class AA county, with  
27 three port commissioners there shall be three positions  
28 denominated positions one, two and three, and declarations of  
29 candidacy shall be for a specific position. Where a proposition  
30 for an increased number of port commissioners is on the ballot

1 under RCW 53.12.120 and RCW 53.12.130, the two additional  
2 positions shall be denominated positions four and five, and  
3 candidates for the positions thus proposed to be created shall  
4 file declarations of candidacy for a specific position.

5 (3) In port districts in a class AA county with nine  
6 councilmanic districts, there shall be three port commissioner  
7 districts, each containing three councilmanic districts. If the  
8 port district has five members, the two additional members shall  
9 serve at large in positions as in subsection (1) of this  
10 section.

11 Sec. 2. Section 10, chapter 17, Laws of 1959 as last  
12 amended by section 7, chapter 51, Laws of 1965 and RCW 53.12.120  
13 are each amended to read as follows:

14 In port districts having a population of five hundred  
15 thousand or more, in accordance with the latest United States  
16 census, there shall be submitted to the voters of the district,  
17 at the ~~((first))~~ November, 1979, general election ~~((after-June~~  
18 ~~11, 1963))~~, the proposition of ~~((increasing--the--number--of~~  
19 ~~commissioners--to--five))~~ electing three port commissioners from  
20 commissioner districts and electing two additional commissioners  
21 from the port district at large. At any general election  
22 thereafter, the same proposition may be submitted by resolution  
23 of the port commissioners, by filing a certified copy of the  
24 resolution with the county auditor at least four months prior to  
25 the general election. If the proposition is adopted, the  
26 commission in that port district shall consist of five  
27 commissioners, three in positions numbered as specified in RCW  
28 53.12.035 as now or hereafter amended, ~~((the--additional~~  
29 ~~commissioners--to--take--office--five--days--after--the--election))~~ and  
30 two commissioners chosen at large.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

BILL ANALYSIS

BILL NO. HB 1191

Comp. Meas. \_\_\_\_\_

Status H Local Government

Date January 31, 1980

Steve Lundin

Staff Contact: 753-4808

Committee on Local Gov't

Port district comm. election

Brief Title

Representative Rohrbach

Sponsor

HOUSE BILL 1191

Provides that in all port districts having a population of 500,000 or more (i.e. the Port of Seattle) there shall be submitted to the voters at the November 1979 general election the proposition to elect three port commissioners from commissioner districts and to elect two additional commissioners from the port district at large. Provides that in all port districts in a class AA county with nine councilmanic districts (i.e. the Port of Seattle) there shall be three port commissioner districts, each containing three councilmanic districts. If the port district has five members, which the Port of Seattle has, the additional two members shall serve at large.



# office of program research

WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ROOM 202, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, OLYMPIA, WA 98504, (206) 753-0520

December 17, 1979

## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members, Local Government Committee  
FROM: Steve Lundin  
RE: PORT DISTRICT COMMISSIONS

This memo will provide you with background information on port district commissions and will describe two bills concerning port district commissions which were referred to the House Local Government Committee during the 46th legislative session.

With one exception, each port district is governed by a three-member commission. RCW 53.12.010 provides that, with one exception, each port district shall be divided into three separate commissioner districts. A commissioner is elected from each district. Commissioners of port districts located in class AA counties (i.e. King County) need only be residents of the county in which the port district is located and hence are elected on an at-large basis.

In port districts with over 500,000 population, a proposition must be submitted to the voters of the port district to increase the number of port commissions from 3 to 5, RCW 53.12.120. The Port of Seattle is the only port district located in such a county, and the Port of Seattle has a five-member board of commissioners.

The commissioners of the Port of Seattle are thus a unique body in the state. There are five Port of Seattle commissioners instead of three, and these commissioners are elected on an at-large basis.

HB 1191 (Port district comm. election) by Reps. Rohrbach, Barnes, & Jovanovich

Provides that in port districts in a class AA county (i.e. the Port of Seattle in King County), the port commissioners shall consist of five members with two elected on an at-large basis and three elected from districts. Each commissioner district shall consist of three county council districts. Provides that in any port district with 500,000 population (the Port of Seattle), there shall be an election in the November 1979 general election to determine if the port district shall elect three members from commissioner districts and two members on an at-large basis.

HB 1204 (Port comm. class AA counties) by Rep. Jovanovich

Provides that in the first general election after the bill becomes effective, there shall be an election in port districts located in a class AA county with a council form of government (i.e. the Port of Seattle in King County) to elect a sufficient number of port commissioners to increase the port commission to the number of county council members (i.e. an increase from five to nine members). Each port commissioner is to be a resident of a separate council district, which shall also be a port district commissioner district. The existing port commissioners shall retain their positions until their terms expire. Removes the ability of port commissions in a class AA county with a council form of government to reestablish port commissioner district boundaries at any time up to 30 days prior to the closing of filings for candidacy.

SL:vlp

# BILL DIGEST

## H.B. 1191

H. B. 1191 By Representatives Rohrbach,  
Barnes, Jovanovich

Restructuring the election of port commissioners in AA counties.

Requires port districts in a class AA county with nine councilmanic districts to have three port commissioner districts, each containing three councilmanic districts. Requires a district with five members to have the two additional members serve at large.

Requires port districts with a population of 500,000 or more to vote in the November, 1979 election on the proposition of electing three commissioners from districts and two at large.

Feb 9 First reading.

Feb 12 On motion, referred to  
Constitution, Elections and  
Governmental Ethics.