

The facilities and properties of a public transportation benefit area system whose vehicles will operate primarily within the rights of way of public streets, roads, or highways, may be acquired, developed, and operated without the corridor and design hearings which are required by RCW 35.58-.273, as now or hereafter amended, for mass transit facilities operating on a separate right of way.

(3) To fix rates, tolls, fares, and charges for the use of such facilities and to establish various routes and classes of service. Fares or charges may be adjusted or eliminated for any distinguishable class of users including, but not limited to, senior citizens, handicapped persons, and students.

In the event any person holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Washington utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.68.040 has operated under such certificate for a continuous period of one year prior to the date of certification and is offering service within the public transportation benefit area on the date of the certification by the county canvassing board that a majority of votes cast authorize a tax to be levied and collected by the public transportation benefit area authority, such authority may by purchase or condemnation acquire at the fair market value, from the person holding the existing certificate for providing the services, that portion of the operating authority and equipment representing the services within the area of public operation. The person holding such existing certificate may require the public transportation benefit area authority to initiate such purchase of those assets of such person, existing as of the date of the county canvassing board certification, within sixty days after the date of such certification.

Passed the Senate February 27, 1981.

Passed the House April 9, 1981.

Approved by the Governor April 17, 1981.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 17, 1981.

CHAPTER 26

[Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 3150]

LIBRARY DISTRICTS—CITY AND TOWN ANNEXATION—TRUSTEE REMOVAL—1981 BOUNDARIES

AN ACT Relating to library districts; amending section 2, chapter 119, Laws of 1935 as last amended by section 5, chapter 353, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 27.12.010; amending section 8, chapter 119, Laws of 1935 as last amended by section 3, chapter 122, Laws of 1965 and RCW 27.12.190; amending section 1, chapter 353, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 27.12.360; amending section 84.09.030, chapter 15, Laws of 1961 and RCW 84-.09.030; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 2, chapter 119, Laws of 1935 as last amended by section 5, chapter 353, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 27.12.010 are each amended to read as follows:

As used in this act, unless the context requires a different meaning:

(1) "Governmental unit" means any county, city, town, rural county library district or intercounty rural library district;

(2) "Legislative body" means the body authorized to determine the amount of taxes to be levied in a governmental unit; in rural county library districts and in intercounty rural library districts the legislative body shall be the board of library trustees of the district;

(3) "Library" means a free public library supported in whole or in part with money derived from taxation; and

(4) "Regional library" means a free public library maintained by two or more counties or other governmental units as provided in RCW 27.12.080; and

(5) "Rural county library district" means a library serving all the area of a county not included within the area of incorporated cities and towns: **PROVIDED**, That any city or town with a population of ~~((eight))~~ one hundred thousand ~~((five hundred))~~ or less at the time of annexation may be included therein as provided in RCW 27.12.360 through 27.12.390; and

(6) "Intercounty rural library district" means a municipal corporation organized to provide library service for all areas outside of incorporated cities and towns within two or more counties: **PROVIDED**, That any city or town with a population of ~~((eight))~~ one hundred thousand ~~((five hundred))~~ or less at the time of annexation may be included therein as provided in RCW 27.12.360 through 27.12.390.

Sec. 2. Section 8, chapter 119, Laws of 1935 as last amended by section 3, chapter 122, Laws of 1965 and RCW 27.12.190 are each amended to read as follows:

The management and control of a library shall be vested in a board of either five or seven trustees as hereinafter in this section provided. In cities and towns five trustees shall be appointed by the mayor with the consent of the legislative body. In counties and rural county library districts five trustees shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners. In a regional library district a board of either five or seven trustees shall be appointed by the joint action of the legislative bodies concerned. In intercounty rural library districts a board of either five or seven trustees shall be appointed by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of each of the counties included in a district. The first appointments for boards comprised of but five trustees shall be for terms of one, two, three, four, and five years respectively, and thereafter a trustee shall be appointed annually to serve for five years. The first appointments for boards comprised of seven trustees shall be for terms of one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven years respectively, and thereafter a trustee shall be appointed annually to serve for seven years. No person shall be appointed to any board of trustees for more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms as soon as possible in the manner in which members of the board are regularly

chosen. A library trustee shall not receive a salary or other compensation for services as trustee, but necessary expenses actually incurred shall be paid from the library funds. A library trustee in the case of a city or town may be removed only by vote of the legislative body. A trustee of a county library or a rural county library district library may be removed for just cause by the county commissioners after a public hearing upon a written complaint stating the ground for removal, which complaint, with a notice of the time and place of hearing, shall have been served upon the trustee at least fifteen days before the hearing. A trustee of an intercounty rural library district may be removed by the joint action of the board of county commissioners of the counties involved in the same manner as provided herein for the removal of a trustee of a county library.

Sec. 3. Section 1, chapter 353, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 27.12-.360 are each amended to read as follows:

Any city or town with a population of (~~eight~~) one hundred thousand (~~five hundred~~) or less at the time of annexation may become a part of any rural county library district or intercounty rural library district lying contiguous thereto by annexation in the following manner: The inclusion of such a city or town may be initiated by the adoption of an ordinance by the legislative authority thereof stating its intent to join the library district and finding that the public interest will be served thereby. Before adoption, the ordinance shall be submitted to the library board of the city or town for its review and recommendations. If no library board exists in the city or town, the state librarian shall be notified of the proposed ordinance. If the board of trustees of the rural library district or intercounty rural library district concurs in the annexation, notification thereof shall be transmitted to the legislative authority or authorities of the counties in which the city or town is situated.

Sec. 4. Section 84.09.030, chapter 15, Laws of 1961 and RCW 84.09-.030 are each amended to read as follows:

For the purposes of property taxation and the levy of property taxes the boundaries of counties, cities and all other taxing districts shall be the established official boundaries of such districts existing on the first day of March of the year in which the levy is made, and no such levy shall be made for any taxing district whose boundaries were not duly established on the first day of March of such year: PROVIDED, That for the year 1981 only the boundaries of library districts shall be the established official boundaries existing on the first day of October. In any case where any instrument setting forth the official boundaries of any newly established taxing district, or setting forth any change in such boundaries, is required by law to be filed in the office of the county auditor or other county official, said instrument shall be filed in triplicate. The officer with whom such instrument is filed shall transmit two copies to the county assessor.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate March 13, 1981.

Passed the House April 9, 1981.

Approved by the Governor April 17, 1981.

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CHAPTER 27

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 3158]

TORT ACTIONS—PRODUCT LIABILITY—CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE—CONTRIBUTION

AN ACT Relating to tort actions; amending section 2, chapter 138, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW 4.22.020; creating new sections; adding new sections to Title 7 RCW as a new chapter thereof; adding new sections to chapter 4.22 RCW as a part thereof; and repealing section 1, chapter 138, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW 4.22.010.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. PREAMBLE. Tort reform in this state has for the most part been accomplished in the courts on a case-by-case basis. While this process has resulted in significant progress and the harshness of many common law doctrines has to some extent been ameliorated by decisional law, the legislature has from time to time felt it necessary to intervene to bring about needed reforms such as those contained in the 1973 comparative negligence act.

The purpose of this amendatory act is to enact further reforms in the tort law to create a fairer and more equitable distribution of liability among parties at fault.

Of particular concern is the area of tort law known as product liability law. Sharply rising premiums for product liability insurance have increased the cost of consumer and industrial goods. These increases in premiums have resulted in disincentives to industrial innovation and the development of new products. High product liability premiums may encourage product sellers and manufacturers to go without liability insurance or pass the high cost of insurance on to the consuming public in general.

It is the intent of the legislature to treat the consuming public, the product seller, the product manufacturer, and the product liability insurer in a balanced fashion in order to deal with these problems.

It is the intent of the legislature that the right of the consumer to recover for injuries sustained as a result of an unsafe product not be unduly