

CHAPTER 291

[House Bill No. 795]

MARRIAGE SOLEMNIZATION

AN ACT Relating to marriages; and amending RCW 26.04.050.

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

Sec. 1. Section 4, page 404, Laws of 1854 as last amended by section 95, chapter 258, Laws of 1984 and RCW 26.04.050 are each amended to read as follows:

The following named officers and persons, active or retired, are hereby authorized to solemnize marriages, to wit: Justices of the supreme court, judges of the court of appeals, judges of the superior courts, superior court commissioners, any regularly licensed or ordained minister or any priest of any church or religious denomination, and judges of courts of limited jurisdiction as defined in RCW 3.02.010.

Passed the House April 21, 1987.

Passed the Senate April 1, 1987.

Approved by the Governor May 8, 1987.

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CHAPTER 292

[Substitute House Bill No. 1012]

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT TERRITORY ANNEXATION—BOUNDARY
CHANGES—PROCEDURES FOR ANNEXATION OF ANOTHER DISTRICT'S
TERRITORY

AN ACT Relating to the annexation of areas currently served by a public utility district; amending RCW 54.12.010 and 54.04.035; and adding a new section to chapter 54.04 RCW.

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

Sec. 1. Section 4, chapter 1, Laws of 1931 as last amended by section 37, chapter 126, Laws of 1979 ex. sess. and RCW 54.12.010 are each amended to read as follows:

Within ten days after such election, the county canvassing board shall canvass the returns, and if at such election a majority of the voters voting upon such proposition shall vote in favor of the formation of such district, the canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of such election, and such public utility district shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington, and the name of such public utility district shall be Public Utility District No. of County. The powers of the public utility district shall be exercised through a commission consisting of three members in three commissioner districts, and five members in five commissioner districts. When the public utility district

is coextensive with the limits of such county, then, at the first election of commissioners and until any change shall have been made in the boundaries of public utility district commissioner districts, one public utility district commissioner shall be chosen from each of the three county commissioner districts of the county in which the public utility district is located if the county is not operating under a "Home Rule" charter. When the public utility district comprises only a portion of the county, with boundaries established in accordance with chapter 54.08 RCW, or when the public utility district is located in a county operating under a "Home Rule" charter, three public utility district commissioner districts, numbered consecutively, having approximately equal population and boundaries, following ward and precinct lines, as far as practicable, shall be described in the petition for the formation of the public utility district, which shall be subject to appropriate change by the county legislative authority if and when they change the boundaries of the proposed public utility district, and one commissioner shall be elected from each of said public utility district commissioner districts. In all five commissioner districts an additional commissioner at large shall be chosen from each of the two at large districts. No person shall be eligible to be elected to the office of public utility district commissioner for a particular district commissioner district unless he is a registered voter of the public utility district commissioner district or at large district from which he is elected.

Except as otherwise provided, the term of office of each public utility district commissioner other than the commissioners at large shall be six years, and the term of each commissioner at large shall be four years. Each term shall be computed in accordance with RCW 29.04.170 following the commissioner's election. One commissioner at large and one commissioner from a commissioner district shall be elected at each general election held in an even-numbered year for the term of four years and six years respectively. All candidates shall be voted upon by the entire public utility district.

When a public utility district is formed, three public utility district commissioners shall be elected at the same election at which the proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether such public utility district shall be formed. If the general election adopting the proposition to create the public utility district was held in an even-numbered year, the commissioner residing in commissioner district number one shall hold office for the term of six years; the commissioner residing in commissioner district number two shall hold office for the term of four years; and the commissioner residing in commissioner district number three shall hold office for the term of two years. If the general election adopting the proposition to create the public utility district was held in an odd-numbered year, the commissioner residing in commissioner district number one shall hold office for the term of five years, the commissioner in district two shall hold office for the term of three years, and the commissioner in district three shall hold office for the term of

one year. The commissioners first to be elected as above provided shall hold office from the first day of the month following the commissioners' election and their respective terms of office shall be computed from the first day of January next following the election.

All public utility district commissioners shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected and have qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170. A filing for nomination for public utility district commissioner shall be accompanied by a petition signed by one hundred registered voters of the public utility district which shall be certified by the county auditor to contain the required number of registered voters, and shall otherwise be filed in accord with the requirements of RCW 29.21.060. At the time of filing such nominating petition, the person so nominated shall execute and file a declaration of candidacy subject to the provisions of RCW 29.21.060, as now or hereafter amended. The petition and each page of the petition shall state whether the nomination is for a commissioner from a particular commissioner district or for a commissioner at large and shall state the districts; otherwise it shall be void. A vacancy in the office of public utility district commissioner shall occur by death, resignation, removal, conviction of a felony, nonattendance at meetings of the public utility district commission for a period of sixty days unless excused by the public utility district commission, by any statutory disqualification, or by any permanent disability preventing the proper discharge of his duty. In the event of a vacancy in said office, such vacancy shall be filled at the next general election held in an even-numbered year, the vacancy in the interim to be filled by appointment by the remaining commissioners. If more than one vacancy exists at the same time in a three commissioner district, or more than two in a five commissioner district, a special election shall be called by the county canvassing board upon the request of the remainder, or, that failing, by the county election board, such election to be held not more than forty days after the occurring of such vacancies.

A majority of the persons holding the office of public utility district commissioner at any time shall constitute a quorum of the commission for the transaction of business, and the concurrence of a majority of the persons holding such office at the time shall be necessary and shall be sufficient for the passage of any resolution, but no business shall be transacted, except in usual and ordinary course, unless there are in office at least a majority of the full number of commissioners fixed by law.

The boundaries of the public utility district commissioners' district may be changed only by the public utility district commission, and shall be examined every ten years to determine substantial equality of population, but said boundaries shall not be changed oftener than once in four years, and only when all members of the commission are present. Whenever territory is added to a public utility district under RCW 54.04.035, the boundaries of the public utility commissioners' districts shall be changed to include such

additional territory. The proposed change of the boundaries of the public utility district commissioners' district must be made by resolution and after public hearing. Notice of the time of a public hearing thereon shall be published for two weeks prior thereto. Upon a referendum petition signed by ten percent of the qualified voters of the public utility district being filed with the county auditor, the county legislative authority shall submit such proposed change of boundaries to the voters of the public utility district for their approval or rejection. Such petition must be filed within ninety days after the adoption of resolution of the proposed action. The validity of said petition shall be governed by the provisions of chapter 54.08 RCW.

Sec. 2. Section 1, chapter 101, Laws of 1983 and RCW 54.04.035 are each amended to read as follows:

In addition to other powers authorized in Title 54 RCW, public utility districts may annex territory as provided in this section.

The boundaries of a public utility district may be enlarged and new contiguous territory added pursuant to the procedures for annexation by cities and towns provided in RCW 35.13.015 through ~~((35.13.160))~~ 35.13.110. The provisions of these sections concerning community municipal corporations, review boards, and comprehensive plans, however, do not apply to public utility district annexations. For purposes of conforming with such procedures, the public utility district is deemed to be the city or town and the board of commissioners is deemed to be the city or town legislative body.

Annexation procedures provided in this section may only be used to annex territory ~~((; not located in another public utility district;))~~ that is both: (1) Contiguous to the annexing public utility district; and (2) located within the service area of the annexing public utility district. As used in this section, a public utility district's "service area" means those areas whether located within or outside of the annexing public utility district's boundaries that ~~((are))~~ were generally served with electrical energy by the annexing public utility district on January 1, 1987. Such service area may, or may not, ~~((be))~~ have been recognized in an agreement made under chapter 54.48 RCW, but no area may be included within such service area ~~((shall not be provided))~~ that was generally served with electrical energy on January 1, 1987, by another public utility as defined in RCW 54.48.010. An area proposed to be annexed may be located in the same or a different county as the annexing public utility district.

If an area proposed to be annexed is located within the boundaries of another public utility district, annexation may be initiated only upon petition of registered voters residing in the area in accordance with RCW 35.13.020 and adoption by the boards of commissioners of both districts of identical resolutions stating (a) the boundaries of the area to be annexed, (b) a determination that annexation is in the public interest of the residents of the area to be annexed as well as the public interest of their respective

districts, (c) approval of annexation by the board, (d) the boundaries of the districts after annexation, (e) the disposition of any assets of the districts in the area to be annexed, (f) the obligations to be assumed by the annexing district, (g) apportionment of election costs, and (h) that voters in the area to be annexed will be advised of lawsuits that may impose liability on the annexed territory and the possible impact of annexation on taxes and utility rates.

If annexation is approved, the area annexed shall cease to be a part of the one public utility district at the same time that it becomes a part of the other district. The annexing public utility district shall assume responsibility for providing the area annexed with the services provided by the other public utility district in the area annexed.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 54.04 RCW to read as follows:

When territory has been added to a public utility district in accordance with RCW 54.04.035, the supervisor of elections and other officers of the county in which the public utility district first operated shall coordinate elections, the levy and collection of taxes, and other necessary duties with the appropriate county officials of the other county.

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CHAPTER 293

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 373]

RURAL DEVELOPMENT—STUDY ON OFFICE-INTENSIVE INDUSTRY FEASIBILITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

AN ACT Relating to rural development; amending RCW 80.36.380; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. It is the intent of the legislature to:

- (1) Promote economic development in the rural community through the use of telecommunications;
- (2) Find ways to diversify the rural economy by using information-intensive service-sector type businesses; and
- (3) Find ways to use telecommunications applications to stimulate the economy in agricultural areas.

The legislature therefore directs the department of community development, and the utilities and transportation commission, to investigate the feasibility of introducing office-intensive industry into agriculturally based rural communities in Washington state.