

# Title 53

## PORT DISTRICTS

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### Chapter 53.04 RCW FORMATION

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**53.04.010 Port districts authorized—Purposes—Powers—Public hearing.** (1) Port districts are hereby authorized to be established in the various counties of the state for the purposes of acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, development and regulation within the district of harbor improvements, rail or motor vehicle transfer and terminal facilities, water transfer and terminal facilities, air transfer and terminal facilities, or any combination of such transfer and terminal facilities, and other commercial transportation, transfer, handling, storage and terminal facilities, and industrial improvements.

(2) Powers of a port district that is located in a county that has a contiguous border with another state, and a population between fifty and seventy thousand, shall be exercised within the district, except as otherwise provided by statute or pursuant to an interlocal cooperation agreement with another public agency as defined in chapter 39.34 RCW. In addition to other requirements of chapter 39.34 RCW, such an interlocal cooperation agreement may involve the exercise of a port district's powers for a port district that is located in a county that has contiguous borders with another state, and a population between fifty and seventy thousand, outside the boundaries of the state of Washington in whole or in part only if found, by resolution of the port district commission exercising such authority, to be reasonably necessary for the effective exercise of the port district's statutory powers and for the benefit of the inhabitants of the district and the state of Washington. The resolution may be adopted only after a public

hearing of which notice has been published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district at least ten days in advance. [1999 c 306 § 2; 1963 c 147 § 1; 1911 c 92 § 1; RRS § 9688.]

**Purpose—1999 c 306:** "Article VIII, section 8 of the Washington state Constitution authorizes the use of public funds by port districts in such manner as the legislature may prescribe for industrial development or trade promotion. The legislature recognizes a growing need for a Washington port district that is located in a county that has a contiguous border with another state, and a population between fifty and seventy thousand, to participate with other public agencies of this state and an adjoining state to attract, encourage, and develop industry and promote trade on both sides of their borders, for the economic benefit to the state of Washington. RCW 53.08.240 authorizes agreements between two or more port districts for the exercise of powers both within and outside their districts, and further authorizes contracts by port districts with other governmental entities. The interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW, also authorizes joint agreements and contracts between port districts and other state and local public agencies including political subdivisions of other states. However, there is uncertainty as to whether or not a port district that is located in a county that has a contiguous border with another state, and a population between fifty and seventy thousand, may exercise industrial development or trade promotion powers outside the district or state boundaries except jointly with another Washington port district.

The purpose of this act is to define and clarify the authority of a Washington port district that is located in a county that has a contiguous border with another state, and a population between fifty and seventy thousand, to exercise those powers jointly or in cooperation with other public agencies when found to be necessary and beneficial to the people of this state." [1999 c 306 § 1.]

*Establishment of harbor lines: State Constitution Art. 15 § 1 (Amendment 15).*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.04.015 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Authorized—Purposes.** In areas which lack appropriate bodies of water so that harbor improvements cannot be established, port districts are hereby authorized to be established under the laws of the state, for the purposes for which port districts may be established under RCW 53.04.010, and such port districts shall have all of the powers, privileges and immunities conferred upon all other port districts under the laws of this state, including the same powers and rights relating to municipal airports that other port districts now have or hereafter may be granted. [1963 c 147 § 2; 1959 c 94 § 1.]

**53.04.016 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Authority an additional and concurrent method.** RCW 53.04.015 shall not be construed to repeal, amend or modify any law heretofore enacted providing a method of harbor improvement, regulation or control; acquisition, maintenance and operation of municipal airports; or industrial development; but shall be held to be an additional and concurrent method providing such purposes. [1959 c 94 § 2.]

**53.04.017 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Elections.** All elections with respect to any such port districts authorized by RCW 53.04.015 and 53.04.016 shall be held, conducted and the results canvassed in the same manner and at the same time as now or hereafter provided by law for other port districts. [1959 c 94 § 3.]

**53.04.020 Formation of countywide district.** At any general election or at any special election which may be

called for that purpose, the county legislative authority of any county in this state may, or on petition of ten percent of the registered voters of such county based on the total vote cast in the last general county election, shall, by resolution submit to the voters of such county the proposition of creating a port district coextensive with the limits of such county. Such petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall within fifteen days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof, and for such purpose the county auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of the officers of any incorporated city or town in such proposed port district. If such petition be found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing the same, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days, when the same shall be returned to the county auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine the same and attach his or her certificate thereto. No person having signed such petition shall be allowed to withdraw his or her name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor. Whenever such petition shall be certified to as sufficient, the county auditor shall forthwith transmit the same, together with his or her certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the legislative authority of the county, who shall submit such proposition at the next general election or, if such petition so requests, the county legislative authority shall, at their first meeting after the date of such certificate, by resolution, call a special election to be held in accordance with RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330. The notice of election shall state the boundaries of the proposed port district and the object of such election. In submitting the question to the voters for their approval or rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot substantially in the following terms:

"Port of . . . . ., Yes." (giving the name of the principal seaport city within such proposed port district, or if there be more than one city of the same class within such district, such name as may be determined by the legislative authority of the county).

"Port of . . . . ., No." (giving the name of the principal seaport city within such port district, or if there be more than one city of the same class within such district, such name as may be determined by the legislative authority of the county). [2015 c 53 § 77; 1992 c 147 § 1; 1990 c 259 § 15; 1986 c 262 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 157 § 1; 1913 c 62 § 1; 1911 c 92 § 2; RRS § 9689. Formerly RCW 53.04.020 through 53.04.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.04.023 Formation of less than countywide district.** A less than countywide port district with an assessed valuation of at least one hundred fifty million dollars may be created: (1) In a county that already has a less than countywide port district located within its boundaries; or (2) under the provisions of \*RCW 53.04.025. Except as provided in this section, such a port district shall be created in accordance with the procedure to create a countywide port district.

The effort to create such a port district is initiated by the filing of a petition with the county auditor calling for the creation of such a port district, describing the boundaries of the proposed port district, designating either three or five commissioner positions, describing commissioner districts if the petitioners propose that the commissioners represent districts, and providing a name for the proposed port district.

The petition must be signed by voters residing within the proposed port district equal in number to at least ten percent of such voters who voted at the last county general election.

A public hearing on creation of the proposed port district shall be held by the county legislative authority if the county auditor certifies that the petition contained sufficient valid signatures. Notice of the public hearing must be published in the county's official newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing. After taking testimony, the county legislative authority may make changes in the boundaries of the proposed port district if it finds that such changes are in the public interest and shall determine if the creation of the port district is in the public interest. No area may be added to the boundaries unless a subsequent public hearing is held on the proposed port district.

The county legislative authority shall submit a ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the proposed port district to the voters of the proposed port district, at any special election date provided in RCW 29A.04.330, if it finds the creation of the port district to be in the public interest.

The port district shall be created if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot proposition favor the creation of the port district. The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same election, from districts or at large, as provided in the petition initiating the creation of the port district. The election shall be otherwise conducted as provided in RCW 53.12.172, but the election of commissioners shall be null and void if the port district is not created. [2014 c 15 § 1; 1997 c 256 § 1; 1994 c 223 § 84; 1993 c 70 § 1; 1992 c 147 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 53.04.025 expired December 31, 2020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.04.031 Initiating petition, commissioner district descriptions—Initial election of commissioners.** Three commissioner districts, each with approximately the same population, shall be described in the petition proposing the creation of a port district under RCW 53.04.020, if the process to create the port district was initiated by voter petition, or shall be described by the county legislative authority, if the process to initiate the creation of the port district was by action of the county legislative authority. However, commissioner districts shall not be described if the commissioner districts of the proposed port district shall be the same as the county legislative authority districts.

The initial port commissioners shall be elected as provided in RCW 53.12.172. [1994 c 223 § 83.]

**53.04.060 District declared formed.** Within five days after an election held under the provisions of RCW 53.04.020, the board of county commissioners shall canvass the returns, and if at such election a majority of the voters voting upon the proposition shall vote in favor of the formation of the district, the board of county commissioners shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of such election, and the port district shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington and the name of such port district shall be "Port of . . . ." (inserting the name appearing on the ballot). [1959 c 17 § 2. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

(2021 Ed.)

**53.04.070 Expense of election.** All expenses of elections for the formation of such port districts shall be paid by the county holding such election, and such expenditure is hereby declared to be for a county purpose, and the money paid out for such purpose shall be repaid to such county by the port district, if formed. [1959 c 17 § 6. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.04.080 Annexation of territory—Petition—Election.** At any general election or at any special election which may be called for that purpose the county legislative authority of any county in this state in which there exists a port district which is not coextensive with the limits of the county, shall on petition of the commissioners of such port district, by resolution, submit to the voters residing within the limits of any territory which the existing port district desires to annex or include in its enlarged port district, the proposition of enlarging the limits of such existing port districts so as to include therein the whole of the territory embraced within the boundaries of such county, or such territory as may be described in the petition by legal subdivisions. Such petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall forthwith transmit the same to the county legislative authority, who shall submit such proposition at the next general election, or, if such petition so request, the county legislative authority, shall at their first meeting after the date of filing such petition, by resolution, call a special election to be held in accordance with RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330. The notice of election shall state the boundaries of the proposed enlarged port district and the object of the special election. In submitting the question to the voters of the territory proposed to be annexed or included for their approval or rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballots substantially in the following terms:

"Enlargement of the port of . . . . ., yes." (Giving the name of the port district which it is proposed to enlarge);

"Enlargement of the port of . . . . ., no." (Giving the name of the port district which it is proposed to enlarge).

Such election, whether general or special, shall be held in each precinct wholly or partially embraced within the limits of the territory proposed to be annexed or included and shall be conducted and the votes cast thereat counted, canvassed, and the returns thereof made in the manner provided by law for holding general or special county elections. [2015 c 53 § 78; 1990 c 259 § 16; 1935 c 16 § 1; 1921 c 130 § 1; RRS § 9707. Formerly RCW 53.04.080 and 53.04.090.]

*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

**53.04.085 Petition for annexation to port district.** If an area, not currently part of an existing port district desires to be annexed to a port district in the same county, upon receipt of a petition bearing the names of ten percent of the registered voters residing within the proposed boundaries of the area desiring to be annexed who voted in the last general municipal election, the commissioners of such port district shall petition the county legislative authority to annex such territory, as provided in RCW 53.04.080. [1990 c 259 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 157 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.04.100 Order of annexation—Liability of area annexed.** If a majority of all the votes cast at any such election upon the proposition of enlarging such port district shall be for the "Enlargement of the port of . . . . ., yes" then and in that event the board of county commissioners shall enter an order declaring such port district enlarged so as to embrace within the limits thereof the territory described in the petition for such election, and thereupon the boundaries of said port district shall be so enlarged and the commissioners thereof shall have jurisdiction over the whole of said district as enlarged to the same extent, and with like power and authority, as though the additional territory had been originally embraced within the boundaries of the existing port district: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That none of the lands or property embraced within the territory added to and incorporated within such port district shall be liable to assessment for the payment of any outstanding bonds, warrants or other indebtedness of such original port district, but such outstanding bonds, warrants or other indebtedness, together with interest thereon, shall be paid exclusively from assessments levied and collected on the lands and property embraced within the boundaries of the preexisting port district. [1921 c 130 § 2; RRS § 9708.]

**53.04.110 Change of name.** Any port district now existing or which may hereafter be organized under the laws of the state of Washington is hereby authorized to change its corporate name under the following conditions and in the following manner:

(1) On presentation of a petition to the commissioners of any port district now existing or which may hereafter be established under the laws of the state of Washington, signed by at least ten percent of the total number of voters of the port district who voted at the last general port election and asking that the corporate name of the port district be changed, it shall be the duty of the commissioners to submit to the voters of the port district the proposition as to whether the corporate name of the port shall be changed. The proposition shall be submitted at the next general port election according to RCW 29A.04.330.

(2) The petition shall contain the present corporate name of the port district and the corporate name which is proposed to be given to the port district.

(3) On submitting the proposition to the voters of the port district it shall be the duty of the port commissioners to cause to be printed on the official ballot used at the election the following proposition:

"Shall the corporate name, 'Port of . . . . . ' be changed to 'Port of . . . . . ' . . . . . YES  
 "Shall the corporate name, 'Port of . . . . . ' be changed to 'Port of . . . . . ' . . . . . NO"

(4) At the time when the returns of the general election shall be canvassed by the commissioners of the port district, it shall be the duty of the commissioners to canvass the vote upon the proposition so submitted, recording in their record the result of the canvass.

(5) Should a majority of the registered voters of the port district voting at the general port election vote in favor of the proposition it shall be the duty of the port commissioners to

certify the fact to the auditor of the county in which the port district shall be situated and to the secretary of state of the state of Washington, under the seal of the port district. On and after the filing of the certificate with the county auditor as aforesaid and with the secretary of state of the state of Washington, the corporate name of the port district shall be changed, and thenceforth the port district shall be known and designated in accordance therewith. [2006 c 344 § 35; 1998 c 240 § 1; 1990 c 259 § 18; 1929 c 140 § 1; RRS § 9689-1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.04.120 Transfer of port district property to adjacent district—Procedure—Boundary changes—Jurisdiction.** Property may be acquired and owned by any port district, at least one boundary of which property is contiguous to or within one-quarter air mile of such port district and is also located in an adjacent port district, and such property may be transferred to the owning port district upon unanimous resolution of the boards of commissioners of both port districts authorizing the same. The resolution of the port district within which such property is located shall be a resolution to permit the acquisition and to make the transfer, while the resolution of the port district which owns the property shall be a resolution to acquire and own the property and to accept the transferred property. Upon the filing of both official resolutions with the legislative authority and the auditor of the county or counties within which such port districts lie, together with maps showing in reasonable detail the boundary changes made, such acquisition and ownership shall be lawful and such transfer shall be effective and the commissioners of the port district acquiring, owning and receiving such property shall have jurisdiction over the whole of said enlarged port district to the same extent, and with like power and authority, as though the additional territory had been owned by and originally embraced within the boundaries of the port district. [1979 c 72 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 91 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.04.150 Alternative annexation methods—Petition for resolution—Districts authorized to use—Petition requirements.** A port district that is less than countywide, and that is located in a county with a population of less than ninety thousand and located in either the Interstate 5 or Interstate 90 corridor, may petition for annexation of an area that is contiguous to its boundaries, is not located within the boundaries of any other port district, and contains no registered voters. The petition must be in writing, addressed to and filed with the port commission, and signed by the owners of not less than seventy-five percent of the property value in the area to be annexed, according to the assessed value for general taxation. The petition must contain a legal description of the property according to government legal subdivisions or legal plats, or a sufficient metes and bounds description, and must be accompanied by a plat outlining the boundaries of the property to be annexed. [2000 c 200 § 2; 1999 c 250 § 2.]

**Intent—1999 c 250 §§ 2-5:** "The legislature intends annexation procedures set forth in sections 2 through 5 of this act to be alternative methods available to port districts that are less than countywide. The legislature does not intend the alternative procedures to supersede any other method authorized by chapter 53.04 RCW or other law for annexation of territory to a port district." [1999 c 250 § 1.]

**53.04.160 Alternative annexation methods—Petition for resolution—Where filed—Commission's duties.** If a petition meeting the requirements set forth in RCW 53.04.150 is filed with the commission, the commission shall determine a date, time, and location for a hearing on the petition and shall provide public notice of that hearing and its nature by publishing the notice in one issue of a newspaper of general circulation in the district and by posting the notice in three public places within the territory proposed for annexation. The commission may require proof of a petition's authenticity before complying with notice requirements imposed by this section and may require the signers of a petition to bear the costs of publishing and posting notice. [1999 c 250 § 3.]

**Intent—1999 c 250 §§ 2-5:** See note following RCW 53.04.150.

**53.04.170 Alternative annexation methods—Petition for resolution—Hearing—Resolution.** At the hearing, the commission may determine to annex all or any portion of the proposed area described in the petition. Following the hearing, the commission shall by resolution approve or disapprove annexation. Upon passage of the resolution, the commission shall file, with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located, a certified copy of the resolution. On the date fixed in the resolution, the area annexed becomes part of the district. [1999 c 250 § 4.]

**Intent—1999 c 250 §§ 2-5:** See note following RCW 53.04.150.

**53.04.180 Alternative annexation methods—Annexation by written consent—Districts authorized to use—Resolution.** (1) By a majority vote of the commission, and with the written consent of all the owners of the property to be annexed, a port commission of a district that is less than countywide, and that is located in a county with a population of less than ninety thousand and located in either the Interstate 5 or Interstate 90 corridor, may annex, for industrial development or other port district purposes, property contiguous to the district's boundaries and not located within the boundaries of any other port district.

(2) The written consent required by subsection (1) of this section must contain a full and correct legal description of the property to be annexed, must include the signature of all owners of the property to be annexed, and must be addressed to and filed with the commission.

(3) If the commission approves annexation under this section, it shall do so by resolution and shall file a certified copy of the resolution with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located. Upon the date fixed in the resolution, the area annexed becomes part of the district. [2000 c 200 § 1; 1999 c 250 § 5.]

**Intent—1999 c 250 §§ 2-5:** See note following RCW 53.04.150.

**53.04.190 Alternative annexation methods—Outstanding indebtedness.** No property within the territory annexed under RCW 53.04.150 through 53.04.180 may be taxed or assessed for the payment of any outstanding indebtedness of the port district as it existed before the annexation unless another law requires the tax or assessment. [1999 c 250 § 6.]

(2021 Ed.)

**Chapter 53.06 RCW  
COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS**

Sections

- 53.06.010 Declaration of necessity.
- 53.06.020 Actions required of commissions—Joint reports to governor and legislature.
- 53.06.030 Washington public ports association as coordinating agency—Purposes, powers, and duties.
- 53.06.040 Dues and assessments may be paid to association from district funds.
- 53.06.050 Further action by commissions authorized—Meetings.
- 53.06.060 Financial records of association and any nonprofit corporation utilized by port districts subject to audit by state auditor.
- 53.06.070 Federation of Washington ports authorized—Purposes.
- 53.06.080 Implementation of economic development programs—Use of nonprofit corporations—Transfer of funds.
- 53.06.090 Nonprofit corporations—Legislative recognition.

**53.06.010 Declaration of necessity.** The necessity and desirability of coordinating the administration programs and operations of all the port districts in this state is recognized and declared as a matter of legislative determination. [1961 c 31 § 1.]

**53.06.020 Actions required of commissions—Joint reports to governor and legislature.** It shall be the duty of the port district commissions in the state to take such action to effect the coordination of the administrative programs and operations of each port district in the state and to submit to the governor and the legislature biennially a joint report or joint reports containing the recommendations for procedural changes which would increase the efficiency of the respective port districts. [1994 c 75 § 1; 1989 c 425 § 3; 1961 c 31 § 2.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.06.030 Washington public ports association as coordinating agency—Purposes, powers, and duties.** The port district commissions in this state are empowered to designate the Washington public ports association as a coordinating agency through which the duties imposed by RCW 53.06.020 may be performed, harmonized or correlated. The purposes of the Washington public ports association shall be:

(1) To initiate and carry on the necessary studies, investigations and surveys required for the proper development and improvement of the commerce and business generally common to all port districts, and to assemble and analyze the data thus obtained and to cooperate with the state of Washington, port districts both within and without the state of Washington, and other operators of terminal and transportation facilities for this purpose, and to make such expenditures as are necessary for these purposes, including the proper promotion and advertising of all such properties, utilities and facilities;

(2) To establish coordinating and joint marketing bodies comprised of association members, including but not limited to establishment of a federation of Washington ports as described in RCW 53.06.070, as may be necessary to provide effective and efficient marketing of the state's trade, tourism, and travel resources;

(3) To exchange information relative to port construction, maintenance, operation, administration and management;

(4) To promote and encourage port development along sound economic lines;

(5) To promote and encourage the development of transportation, commerce and industry;

(6) To operate as a clearinghouse for information, public relations and liaison for the port districts of the state and to serve as a channel for cooperation among the various port districts and for the assembly and presentation of information relating to the needs and requirements of port districts to the public. [1989 c 425 § 4; 1961 c 31 § 3.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.06.040 Dues and assessments may be paid to association from district funds.** Each port district which designates the Washington public ports association as the agency through which the duties imposed by RCW 53.06.020 may be executed is authorized to pay dues and/or assessments to said association from port district funds in any calendar year. [2010 c 198 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 55; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 3; 1961 c 31 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.06.050 Further action by commissions authorized—Meetings.** The port district commissions are authorized to take such further action as they deem necessary to comply with the intent of this chapter, including the attendance at state and district meetings which may be required to formulate the reports provided for in RCW 53.06.020. [1961 c 31 § 5.]

**53.06.060 Financial records of association and any nonprofit corporation utilized by port districts subject to audit by state auditor.** The financial records of the Washington public ports association shall be subject to audit by the state auditor. The financial records of any nonprofit corporation utilized by port districts shall be subject to audit by the state auditor to determine compliance with the contractual terms and conditions under which payments or reimbursements are received under chapter 53.06 RCW. [2000 c 198 § 4; 1995 c 301 § 74; 1961 c 31 § 6.]

**53.06.070 Federation of Washington ports authorized—Purposes.** The Washington public ports association is authorized to create a federation of Washington ports to enable member ports to strengthen their international trading capabilities and market the region's products worldwide. Such a federation shall maintain the authority of individual ports and have the following purposes:

(1) To operate as an export trading company under the provisions enumerated in chapter 53.31 RCW;

(2) To provide a network to market the services of the members of the Washington public ports association;

(3) To provide expertise and assistance to businesses interested in export markets;

(4) To promote cooperative efforts between ports and local associate development organizations to assist local economic development efforts and build local capacity; and

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(5) To assist in the efficient marketing of the state's trade, tourism, and travel resources. [1994 c 75 § 2; 1989 c 425 § 2.]

**Findings—1989 c 425:** "The legislature finds: (1) That the continuous development of Washington's ports should be a long-term goal for the state of Washington; (2) that Washington's ports are a valuable economic development resource, whose strength as a combined, coordinated entity for the purpose of trade and tourism development would far exceed their individual strength's in those areas; and (3) that, therefore, the ports should work together as a federation, coordinating their efforts further still with other public entities as well as the private sector.

The legislature concurs with the 1989 report of the economic development board on a long-term economic development strategy for Washington state as follows: (a) Competition for tourism dollars, as well as dollars to purchase Washington's goods and services, is global in nature and to compete, the state must identify its unique market niches, and market its trade, travel, and tourism assets aggressively; (b) the ports of the state of Washington are an integral part of the technological and physical infrastructure needed to help the state compete in the international marketplace; and (c) links among public agencies, associate development organizations, including ports, universities, and industry-oriented organizations must be strengthened in an effort to improve coordination, prevent duplication, and build local capacity." [1989 c 425 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.06.080 Implementation of economic development programs—Use of nonprofit corporations—Transfer of funds.** Port districts are authorized to utilize the services of a nonprofit corporation for the purposes of providing training, education, and general improvement to the public sector management skills necessary to implement the economic development programs of port districts. Actions taken under this section must be implemented pursuant to the powers granted in chapter 39.84 RCW. Any nonprofit corporation utilized pursuant to this section must be a tax exempt nonprofit corporation, may be a nonprofit corporation created by the Washington public ports association, and must be created for the sole purposes of education and training for port district officials and employees. Port districts are authorized to transfer to a qualified nonprofit corporation utilized pursuant to this section any funds received from an industrial development corporation created by a port district under RCW 39.84.130.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the receipt of additional public or private funds by a nonprofit corporation established under this section. The coordination of these programs and the transfers and expenditures of funds shall be deemed to be for industrial development and trade promotion as provided for in Article VIII, section 8 of the Washington state Constitution. [2000 c 198 § 1.]

**53.06.090 Nonprofit corporations—Legislative recognition.** In carrying out the purposes described in this and other chapters of this title, the legislature recognizes that any nonprofit corporation created or re-created for the purposes of this chapter, is a private nonprofit corporation contracting to provide services to which port districts may subscribe. [2000 c 198 § 3.]

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**53.08.005 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commission" means the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

(2) "Retail telecommunications services" means the sale, lease, license, or indivisible right of use of telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities directly to end users.

(3) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as contained in RCW 80.04.010.

(4) "Telecommunications facilities" means lines, conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, crossarms, receivers, transmitters, instruments, machines, appliances, instrumentalities and all devices, real estate, easements, apparatus, property, and routes used, operated, owned, or controlled by any entity to facilitate the provision of telecommunications services.

(5) "Wholesale telecommunications services" means the provision of telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for resale to an entity authorized to provide telecommunications services. Wholesale telecommunications services includes the provision of unlit or dark optical fiber for resale, but not the provision of lit optical fiber. [2021 c 294 § 8; 2018 c 169 § 1; 2000 c 81 § 6.]

**Short title—2021 c 294:** See note following RCW 54.16.330.

**Findings—2000 c 81:** "The legislature makes the following findings:

(1) Access to telecommunications facilities and services is essential to the economic well-being of both rural and urban areas.

(2) Many persons and entities, particularly in rural areas, do not have adequate access to telecommunications facilities and services.

(3) Public utility districts and rural port districts may be well-positioned to construct and operate telecommunications facilities." [2000 c 81 § 1.]

**53.08.010 Acquisition of property—Levy of assessments.** A port district may acquire by purchase, for cash or on deferred payments for a period not exceeding twenty years, or by condemnation, or both, all lands, property, property rights, leases, or easements necessary for its purposes and may exercise the right of eminent domain in the acquire-

ment or damaging of all such lands, property, and property rights, and may levy and collect assessments upon property for the payment of all damages and compensation in carrying out its purposes, and such right shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same procedure as provided for cities of the first class insofar as consistent with this title, and in connection therewith the county treasurer shall perform the duties of the treasurers of such cities. [1983 c 24 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 2. Prior: 1953 c 171 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16 (Amendment 9).*

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**53.08.020 Acquisition and operation of facilities.** A port district may construct, condemn, purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, conduct, and operate sea walls, jetties, piers, wharves, docks, boat landings, and other harbor improvements, warehouses, storehouses, elevators, grain-bins, cold storage plants, terminal icing plants, bunkers, oil tanks, ferries, canals, locks, tidal basins, bridges, subways, tramways, cableways, conveyors, administration buildings, fishing terminals, together with modern appliances and buildings for the economical handling, packaging, storing, and transporting of freight and handling of passenger traffic, rail and motor vehicle transfer and terminal facilities, water transfer and terminal facilities, air transfer and terminal facilities, and any combination of such transfer and terminal facilities, commercial transportation, transfer, handling, storage and terminal facilities, and improvements relating to industrial and manufacturing activities within the district, and in connection with the operation of the facilities and improvements of the district, it may perform all customary services including the handling, weighing, measuring and reconditioning of all commodities received. A port district may also construct, condemn, purchase, acquire, add to and maintain facilities for the freezing or processing of goods, agricultural products, meats or perishable commodities. A port district may also construct, purchase and operate belt line railways, but shall not acquire the same by condemnation. [1963 c 147 § 3; 1961 c 126 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 3. Prior: 1953 c 171 § 2; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Essential rail assistance account, distribution of moneys to port districts: RCW 47.76.250.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.030 Operation of foreign trade zones.** A district may apply to the United States for permission to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones: (1) Within the district; and (2) on property adjacent to but outside the district if the property is beyond the boundaries of any existing foreign trade zone grantee and is not currently designated as a foreign trade zone: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent such zones from being operated and financed by a private corporation(s) on behalf of such district acting as zone sponsor: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when the money so raised is to be used exclusively for the purpose of acquiring land for sites and constructing warehouses, storage plants, and other facilities to be constructed within the

zone for use in the operation and maintenance of the zones, the district may contract indebtedness and issue general bonds therefor in an amount, in addition to the three-fourths of one percent hereinafter fixed, of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, such additional indebtedness only to be incurred with the assent of three-fifths of the voters of the district voting thereon. [2011 c 11 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 196 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 31; 1955 c 65 § 4. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Foreign trade zones: Chapter 24.46 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.040 Improvement of lands for industrial and commercial purposes—Providing sewer and water utilities—Providing pollution control facilities.** (1) A district may improve its lands by dredging, filling, bulkheading, providing waterways or otherwise developing such lands for industrial and commercial purposes. A district may also acquire, construct, install, improve, and operate sewer and water utilities to serve its own property and other property owners under terms, conditions, and rates to be fixed and approved by the port commission. A district may also acquire, by purchase, construction, lease, or in any other manner, and may maintain and operate other facilities for the control or elimination of air, water, or other pollution, including, but not limited to, facilities for the treatment and/or disposal of industrial wastes, and may make such facilities available to others under terms, conditions and rates to be fixed and approved by the port commission.

(2) Such conditions and rates shall be sufficient to reimburse the port for all costs, including reasonable amortization of capital outlays caused by or incidental to providing such other pollution control facilities.

(3) No part of such costs of providing any pollution control facility to others shall be paid out of any tax revenues of the port.

(4) No port shall enter into an agreement or contract to provide sewer and/or water utilities or pollution control facilities if substantially similar utilities or facilities are available from another source (or sources) which is able and willing to provide such utilities or facilities on a reasonable and nondiscriminatory basis unless such other source (or sources) consents thereto.

(5) In the event that a port elects to make such other pollution control facilities available to others, it shall do so by lease, lease-purchase agreement, or other agreement binding such user to pay for the use of said facilities for the full term of the revenue bonds issued by the port for the acquisition of said facilities, and said payments shall at least fully reimburse the port for all principal and interest paid by it on said bonds and for all operating or other costs, if any, incurred by the port in connection with said facilities. However, where there is more than one user of any such facilities, each user shall be responsible for its pro rata share of such costs and payment of principal and interest. Any port intending to provide pollution control facilities to others shall first survey the port district to ascertain the potential users of such facilities and the extent of their needs. The port shall conduct a public hearing upon



the proposal and shall give each potential user an opportunity to participate in the use of such facilities upon equal terms and conditions.

(6) "Pollution control facility," as used in this section and RCW 53.08.041, includes programs and activities that are intended to reduce air pollution from vehicles used in cargo transport to, from, and within district facilities; and programs and activities that are intended to reduce air pollution from cargo vessels within the district. Use of district funds for these purposes are deemed a governmental and public function, exercised for a public purpose and as a public necessity for promoting cleaner air; provided however, the provisions of subsections (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this section relating to condition, rates, other providers, and cost recovery do not apply to this subsection's subset of port pollution control facilities. [2018 c 148 § 2; 2007 c 348 § 103; 1989 c 298 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 54 § 1; 1967 c 131 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 5. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**Findings—2018 c 148:** "(1) The legislature finds that clean fuels and vehicles protect public health by reducing toxic air and climate change emissions.

(2) The legislature also finds that to encourage clean fuels and vehicles, the state should develop policies and incentives that help businesses gain greater access to affordable clean fuels and vehicles. These policies and incentives should include incentives for replacement of the most polluting diesel engines, especially in trucks calling on the state's largest seaports.

(3) The legislature also finds that while the state, in 2007, sought to allow port districts to use tax revenue to support this type of equipment, the statute is confusing and further clarification is needed for port districts to avoid litigation and audit risk." [2018 c 148 § 1.]

**Findings—2007 c 348:** See RCW 43.325.005.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.041 Pollution control facilities or other industrial development actions—Validation—Implementation of Article 8, section 8 of the Constitution.** All actions heretofore taken by port districts in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, and the provisions of chapter 6, Laws of 1975 hereby made applicable thereto, relating to pollution control facilities or other industrial development, including, but not limited to, all bonds issued for such purposes, shall be deemed to have been taken pursuant to Article 8, section 8 of the Washington state Constitution and are hereby declared to be valid, legal and binding in all respects. All provisions of Title 53 RCW directly or indirectly relating to pollution control facilities or other industrial development are hereby found and declared to be legislation implementing the provisions of Article 8, section 8 of the Washington state Constitution. [1975 c 6 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.043 Powers relative to systems of sewerage.** A port district may exercise all the powers relating to systems of sewerage authorized by RCW 35.67.010 and 35.67.020 for cities and towns. [1997 c 447 § 15.]

**Finding—Purpose—1997 c 447:** See note following RCW 70.05.074.

**53.08.045 Facilities constructed under authority of chapter subject to taxation of leasehold interest.** Facilities constructed by a port district under authority of this chapter

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will be subject to taxation of leasehold interest pursuant to applicable laws as now or hereafter enacted. [1972 ex.s. c 54 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.047 Chapter not to be construed as restricting or limiting powers of district under other laws.** Neither this chapter nor anything herein contained shall be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any powers which a district might otherwise have under any laws of this state, but shall be construed as cumulative. [1972 ex.s. c 54 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.049 Community revitalization financing—Public improvements.** In addition to other authority that a port district possesses, a port district may provide any public improvement as defined under RCW 39.89.020, but this additional authority is limited to participating in the financing of the public improvements as provided under RCW 39.89.050.

This section does not limit the authority of a port district to otherwise participate in the public improvements if that authority exists elsewhere. [2001 c 212 § 18.]

**53.08.050 Local improvement districts—Assessments—Bonds.** (1) A district may establish local improvement districts within the district, and levy special assessments, in annual installments extending over a period not exceeding ten years on all property specially benefited by the local improvement, on the basis of special benefits, to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of the local improvement, and issue local improvement bonds to be paid from local improvement assessments. The levy and collection of such assessments and issuance of such bonds shall be as provided for the levy and collection of local improvement assessments and the issuance of local improvement bonds by cities and towns, insofar as consistent with this title: PROVIDED, That the duties of the treasurers of such cities and towns in connection therewith shall be performed by the county treasurer. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 132; 1955 c 65 § 6. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Cities*

*issuance of local improvement bonds: Chapter 35.45 RCW.*

*levy and collection of local improvement assessments: Chapters 35.44, 35.49 RCW.*

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

*Public lands subject to local assessments: RCW 79.44.010.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.055 Local improvement districts—Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district shall contain a statement

that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 8.]

**53.08.060 Improvement of waters and waterways.** A district may improve navigable and nonnavigable waters of the United States and the state of Washington within the district; create and improve for harbor purposes new waterways within the district; and regulate and control all such waters and all natural or artificial waterways within the district and remove obstructions therefrom, and straighten, widen, deepen, and otherwise improve any water, watercourses, bays, lakes or streams, whether navigable or otherwise, flowing through or located within the district. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 8; 1955 c 65 § 7. Prior: 1943 c 171 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**53.08.070 Rates and charges—Government contracts.** A district may fix, without right of appeal therefrom the rates of wharfage, dockage, warehousing, and port and terminal charges upon all improvements owned and operated by it, and the charges of ferries operated by it.

It may fix, subject to state regulation, rates of wharfage, dockage, warehousing, and all necessary port and terminal charges upon all docks, wharves, warehouses, quays, and piers owned by it and operated under lease from it.

Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a port district may enter into any contract for wharfage, dockage, warehousing, or port or terminal charges, with the United States or any governmental agency thereof or with the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof under such terms as the commission may, in its discretion, negotiate. [1995 c 146 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 8. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Utilities and transportation commission: Chapter 80.01 RCW.*

**53.08.080 Lease of property—Authorized—Duration.** A district may lease all lands, wharves, docks and real and personal property owned and controlled by it, for such purposes and upon such terms as the port commission deems proper: PROVIDED, That no lease shall be for a period longer than fifty years with option for extensions for up to an additional thirty years, except where the property involved is or is to be devoted to airport purposes the port commission may lease said property for such period as may equal the estimated useful life of such work or facilities, but not to exceed seventy-five years: PROVIDED FURTHER, That where the property is held by the district under lease from the United States government or the state of Washington, or any agency or department thereof, the port commission may sublease said property, with option for extensions, up to the total term and extensions thereof permitted by such lease, but in any event not to exceed ninety years. [1989 c 298 § 2; 1983 c 64 § 1; 1973 c 87 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1959 c 157 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 9. Prior: 1953 c 243 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Lease of*

*county property for airport purposes: RCW 36.34.180.  
municipal property for airport purposes: RCW 14.08.120.  
Restrictions on leases of harbor areas: State Constitution Art. 15 § 2.*

**53.08.085 Lease of property—Security for rent.** Every lease of all lands, wharves, docks, and real and personal property of a port district for a term of more than one year shall have the rent secured by rental insurance, bond, or other security satisfactory to the port commission, in an amount equal to one-sixth the total rent, but in no case shall such security be less than an amount equal to one year's rent or more than an amount equal to three years' rent. Evidence of the existence of such insurance, bonds, or security shall be on file with the commission at all times during the term of the lease: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall prevent the port commission from requiring additional security on leases or provisions thereof, or on other agreements to use port facilities: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any security agreement may provide for termination on the anniversary date of such agreement on not less than one year's written notice to the port if said lease is not in default at the time of said notice: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if the security as required herein is not maintained throughout the full term of the lease, said lease shall be considered in default: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the port commission may in its discretion waive the rent security requirement or lower the amount of such requirement on the lease of real and/or personal port property. [1981 c 125 § 1; 1977 c 41 § 1; 1973 c 87 § 2.]

**53.08.090 Sale of property.** (1) A port commission may, by resolution, authorize the managing official of a port district to sell and convey port district property of ten thousand dollars or less in value. The authority shall be in force for not more than one calendar year from the date of resolution and may be renewed from year to year. Prior to any such sale or conveyance the managing official shall itemize and list the property to be sold and make written certification to the commission that the listed property is no longer needed for district purposes. Any large block of the property having a value in excess of ten thousand dollars shall not be broken down into components of ten thousand dollars or less value and sold in the smaller components unless the smaller components be sold by public competitive bid. A port district may sell and convey any of its real or personal property valued at more than ten thousand dollars when the port commission has, by resolution, declared the property to be no longer needed for district purposes, but no property which is a part of the comprehensive plan of improvement or modification thereof shall be disposed of until the comprehensive plan has been modified to find the property surplus to port needs. The comprehensive plan shall be modified only after public notice and hearing provided by RCW 53.20.010.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to repeal or modify procedures for property sales within industrial development districts as set forth in chapter 53.25 RCW.

(2) The ten thousand dollar figures in subsection (1) of this section shall be adjusted annually based upon the governmental price index established by the department of revenue under \*RCW 82.14.200. [1994 c 26 § 1; 1981 c 262 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 30 § 1; 1965 c 23 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 10. Prior: 1943

c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.14.200 was repealed by 2012 c 198 § 26.

*Restriction on sale of harbor rights and property: State Constitution Art. 15 § 1 (Amendment 15).*

**53.08.091 Sale of property—Contract sales—Terms and conditions.** Except in cases where the full purchase price is paid at the time of the purchase, every sale of real property or personal property under authority of RCW 53.08.090 or 53.25.110 shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) The purchaser shall enter into a contract with the district in which the purchaser shall covenant that he or she will make the payments of principal and interest when due, and that he or she will pay all taxes and assessments on such property. Upon failure to make payments of principal, interest, assessments, or taxes when due all rights of the purchaser under said contract may, at the election of the district, after notice to said purchaser, be declared to be forfeited. When the rights of the purchaser are declared forfeited, the district shall be released from all obligation to convey land covered by the contract, and in the case of personal property, the district shall have all rights granted to a secured party under \*chapter 62A.9 RCW;

(2) The district may, as it deems advisable, extend the time for payment of principal and interest due or to become due;

(3) The district shall notify the purchaser in each instance when payment is overdue, and that the purchaser is liable to forfeiture if payment is not made within thirty days from the time the same became due, unless the time be extended by the district;

(4) Not less than four percent of the total purchase price shall be paid on the date of execution of the contract for sale and not less than four percent shall be paid annually thereafter until the full purchase price has been paid, but any purchaser may make full payment at any time. All unpaid deferred payments shall draw interest at a rate not less than six percent per annum.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to supersede other provisions of law more specifically governing sales of port district property. It is the purpose of this section to provide additional authority and procedures for sale of port district property no longer needed for port purposes. [2010 c 8 § 16001; 1982 c 75 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 11 § 1; 1965 c 23 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 62A.9 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2000 c 250 § 9A-901, effective July 1, 2001. For later enactment, see chapter 62A.9A RCW.

**53.08.092 Sale of property—Taxes and assessments against property sold by contract.** A copy of all contract sales of port district property shall be filed with the county assessor within thirty days after the first payment is received by the port. The assessor shall place such property on the tax rolls of the county and the purchaser of such property shall become liable for all levies and assessments against such property. The port shall not be liable for any taxes or assessments, but if any outstanding taxes are not paid the property may be sold by the county as with other property with delin-

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quent taxes due. Any amounts accruing from such a sale by the county, not required to pay outstanding and delinquent taxes or assessments and foreclosure costs, shall be paid to the port district. [1965 c 23 § 3.]

**53.08.110 Gifts—Improvement.** Port commissioners of any port district are hereby authorized to accept for and on behalf of said port district gifts of real and personal property and to expend in improvements and betterment such amount as may be necessary. [1921 c 39 § 4; RRS § 9705.]

**53.08.120 Contracts for labor and material—Small works roster.** (1) All material and work required by a port district not meeting the definition of public work in RCW 39.04.010(4) may be procured in the open market or by contract and all work ordered may be done by contract or day labor.

(2)(a) All such contracts for work meeting the definition of "public work" in RCW 39.04.010(4), the estimated cost of which exceeds three hundred thousand dollars, shall be awarded using a competitive bid process. The contract must be awarded at public bidding upon notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district at least thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received, calling for bids upon the work, plans and specifications for which shall then be on file in the office of the commission for public inspection. The same notice may call for bids on such work or material based upon plans and specifications submitted by the bidder. The competitive bidding requirements for purchases or public works may be waived pursuant to RCW 39.04.280 if an exemption contained within that section applies to the purchase or public work.

(b) For all contracts related to work meeting the definition of "public work" in RCW 39.04.010(4) that are estimated at three hundred thousand dollars or less, a port district may let contracts using the small works roster process under RCW 39.04.155 in lieu of advertising for bids. Whenever possible, the managing official shall invite at least one proposal from a minority contractor who shall otherwise qualify under this section.

When awarding such a contract for work, when utilizing proposals from the small works roster, the managing official shall give weight to the contractor submitting the lowest and best proposal, and whenever it would not violate the public interest, such contracts shall be distributed equally among contractors, including minority contractors, on the small works roster.

(c) Any port district may construct any public work, as defined in RCW 39.04.010, by contract without calling for bids whenever the estimated cost of the work or improvement, including cost of materials, supplies, and equipment, will not exceed the sum of forty thousand dollars. A "public works project" means a complete project. The restrictions in this subsection do not permit the division of the project into units of work or classes of work to avoid calling for bids. The port district managing official shall make his or her best effort to reach out to qualified contractors, including certified minority and woman-owned contractors.

(3)(a) A port district may procure public works with a unit priced contract under this section or RCW 39.04.010(2) for the purpose of completing anticipated types of work

based on hourly rates or unit pricing for one or more categories of work or trades.

(b) For the purposes of this section, unit priced contract means a competitively bid contract in which public works are anticipated on a recurring basis to meet the business or operational needs of a port district, under which the contractor agrees to a fixed period indefinite quantity delivery of work, at a defined unit price, for each category of work.

(c) Unit priced contracts must be executed for an initial contract term not to exceed three years, with the port district having the option of extending or renewing the unit priced contract for one additional year.

(d) Invitations for unit priced bids shall include, for purposes of the bid evaluation, estimated quantities of the anticipated types of work or trades, and specify how the port district will issue or release work assignments, work orders, or task authorizations pursuant to a unit priced contract for projects, tasks, or other work based on the hourly rates or unit prices bid by the contractor. Contracts must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as per RCW 39.04.010. Whenever possible, the port district must invite at least one proposal from a minority or woman contractor who otherwise qualifies under this section.

(e) Unit priced contractors shall pay prevailing wages for all work that would otherwise be subject to the requirements of chapter 39.12 RCW. Prevailing wages for all work performed pursuant to each work order must be the prevailing wage rates in effect at the beginning date for each contract year. Unit priced contracts shall have prevailing wage rates updated annually. Intents and affidavits for prevailing wages paid shall be submitted annually for all work completed within the previous twelve-month period of the unit priced contract. [2018 c 149 § 2; 2009 c 74 § 2; 2008 c 130 § 1; 2000 c 138 § 210; 1999 c 29 § 1; 1998 c 278 § 6; 1993 c 198 § 13; 1988 c 235 § 1; 1982 c 92 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 47 § 1; 1955 c 348 § 2. Prior: 1921 c 179 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 5, part; RRS § 9693, part.]

**Findings—2018 c 149:** "(1) The legislature finds that unit priced contracting is a decades old, proven practice used at ports for competitively bid maintenance and repair work that is common but unpredictable in its timing and scope. Unit priced contracting is an efficient mechanism to maintain essential services to port customers, often on short notice or in emergency situations.

(2) The legislature also finds that unit priced contracting ensures that necessary work is performed safely and at a competitive rate by qualified contractors, and also saves public money because of additional costs that would be incurred by bidding each work order separately.

(3) The legislature also finds that, in order to avoid litigation and audit risk, statutory clarification is needed regarding the authority for port districts to engage in unit priced contracting.

(4) The legislature also finds that flexibility for small projects produces a more efficient process." [2018 c 149 § 1.]

**Purpose—Part headings not law—2000 c 138:** See notes following RCW 39.04.155.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.130 Notice—Award of contract—Low bidder claiming error.** The notice shall state generally the nature of the work to be done and require that bids be sealed and filed with the commission at a time specified therein. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid proposal deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or surety bid bond to the commission for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied

by such bid proposal deposit. At the time and place named the bids shall be publicly opened and read and the commission shall proceed to canvass the bids and, except as otherwise in this section provided, shall let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon plans and specifications on file, or to the best bidder submitting his or her own plans and specifications. If, in the opinion of the commission, all bids are unsatisfactory, they may reject all of them and readvertise, and in such case all such bid proposal deposits shall be returned to the bidders; but if the contract is let, then all bid proposal deposits shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder which shall be retained until a contract is entered into for the purchase of such materials or doing such work, and a bond given to the port district for the performance of the contract and otherwise conditioned as required by law, with sureties satisfactory to the commission, in an amount to be fixed by the commission, but not in any event less than twenty-five percent of the contract price. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with his or her bid and furnish such bond within ten days from the date at which he or she is notified that he or she is the successful bidder, the check or money order and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the port district or the port district shall recover the amount of the surety bid bond. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project. [1996 c 18 § 11; 1971 ex.s. c 258 § 2; 1955 c 348 § 3. Prior: 1921 c 179 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 5, part; RRS § 9693, part.]

*Contractor's bond: Chapter 39.08 RCW.*

*Lien on public works, retained percentage of contractor's earnings: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.135 Construction projects over forty thousand dollars—Contracting out.** Port districts shall determine if any construction project over forty thousand dollars can be accomplished less expensively by contracting out. If contracting out is less expensive, the port district may contract out such project. [1982 c 92 § 2.]

**53.08.140 Leases or contracts without bond.** Port districts may enter into leases and contracts of every kind and nature with the United States of America or any of its departments, the state of Washington or any of its departments, or its political subdivisions or with any municipal corporation or quasi municipal corporation of the state of Washington, without requiring said port district or public bodies to provide bonds to secure the performance thereof. All such leases or contracts heretofore entered into are hereby ratified. [1943 c 136 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9710.]

**53.08.150 Notices when no newspaper in county.** Notices required in port districts in which no newspaper is published may be given by publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the county. [1921 c 39 § 3; RRS § 9704.]

**53.08.160 Studies, investigations, surveys—Promotion of facilities.** All port districts organized under the provisions of this act shall be, and they are hereby, authorized

and empowered to initiate and carry on the necessary studies, investigations and surveys required for the proper development, improvement and utilization of all port properties, utilities and facilities, and for industrial development within the district when such agricultural and industrial development is carried out by a public agency, institution, or body for a public purpose, and to assemble and analyze the data thus obtained and to cooperate with the state of Washington, other port districts and other operators of terminal and transportation facilities for these purposes, and to make such expenditures as are necessary for said purposes, and for the proper promotion, advertising, improvement and development of such port properties, utilities and facilities: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That nothing in this section shall authorize a port district to develop its properties as an agricultural or dairy farm. [1973 1st ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1947 c 24 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9692A.]

**53.08.170 Employment—Wages—Benefits—Agents—Insurance for port district commissioners.** The port commission shall have authority to create and fill positions, to fix wages, salaries and bonds thereof, to pay costs and assessments involved in securing or arranging to secure employees, and to establish such benefits for employees, including holiday pay, vacations or vacation pay, retirement and pension benefits, medical, surgical or hospital care, life, accident, or health disability insurance, and similar benefits, already established by other employers of similar employees, as the port commissioner shall by resolution provide: PROVIDED, That any district providing insurance benefits for its employees in any manner whatsoever may provide health and accident insurance, life insurance with coverage not to exceed that provided district employees, and business related travel, liability, and errors and omissions insurance, for its commissioners, which insurance shall not be considered to be compensation.

Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, the port commission shall have authority to provide or pay such benefits directly, or to provide for such benefits by the purchase of insurance policies or entering into contracts with and compensating any person, firm, agency or organization furnishing such benefits, or by making contributions to vacation plans or funds, or health and welfare plans and funds, or pension plans or funds, or similar plans or funds, already established by other employers of similar employees and in which the port district is permitted to participate for particular classifications of its employees by the trustees or other persons responsible for the administration of such established plans or funds: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no port district employee shall be allowed to apply for admission to or be accepted as a member of the state employees' retirement system after January 1, 1965, if admission to such system would result in coverage under both a private pension system and the state employees' retirement system, it being the purpose of this proviso that port districts shall not at the same time contribute for any employee to both a private pension or retirement plan and to the state employees' retirement system. The port commission shall have authority by resolution to utilize and compensate agents for the purpose of paying, in the name and by the check of such agent or agents or otherwise, wages, salaries and other benefits to employees, or particular classifications

thereof, and for the purpose of withholding payroll taxes and paying over tax moneys so withheld to appropriate government agencies, on a combined basis with the wages, salaries, benefits, or taxes of other employers or otherwise; to enter into such contracts and arrangements with and to transfer by warrant such funds from time to time to any such agent or agents so appointed as are necessary to accomplish such salary, wage, benefit, or tax payments as though the port district were a private employer, notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary. The funds of a port district transferred to such an agent or agents for the payment of wages or salaries of its employees in the name or by the check of such agent or agents shall be subject to garnishment with respect to salaries or wages so paid, notwithstanding any provision of the law relating to municipal corporations to the contrary.

Notwithstanding any provision in this section, the governing body of a port district may enter into an agreement in writing with one or more of its officers or employees or a group of such officers and employees, authorizing deductions from the officer's or employee's salary or wages of the amount of any premium specified in writing by the officer or employee, for contribution to any private pension plan, without loss of eligibility for membership in the state employees' retirement system, and may agree to remit that amount to the management of such private pension plan. However, no port district funds shall be contributed or paid to such private plan. When such authorized deductions are certified by the port commission to the port district's auditor, the auditor shall draw and issue a proper warrant or warrants, or check or checks if that method of payment is authorized by statute, directly to and in favor of the person, firm, corporation, or organization named in the authorization, for the total amount authorized to be deducted from the payroll, together with a list identifying the officers and employees for whom the payment is made.

Nothing in this section may be invoked to invalidate any private pension plan or any public or private contributions or payments thereto, or exclude members of any such private pension plan from membership in the state employees' retirement system, if such private plan was in operation on December 31, 2001. [2002 c 362 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 30 § 22; 1987 c 50 § 1; 1985 c 81 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 6 § 1; 1965 c 20 § 1; 1955 c 64 § 1.]

*Garnishment: Chapter 6.27 RCW.*

*Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized: RCW 41.04.180.*

*Hospitalization and medical insurance not deemed additional compensation: RCW 41.04.190.*

*Payroll deductions: RCW 41.04.020.*

*Prevailing wages on public works: Chapter 39.12 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.175 Commissioners, officers, and employees—Reimbursement of expenses.** Employees, officers, and commissioners of port districts shall, when engaged in official business of the port district, be entitled to receive their necessary and reasonable travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf of the port district. Reimbursement of such expenses may be granted, whether incurred within or without the port district, when submitted on a voucher with appropriate evidence of payment by such employee or official. [1965 c 101 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.176 Commissioners, officers, and employees—Regulation of expenses.** Each port district shall adopt a resolution (which may be amended from time to time) which shall establish the basic rules and regulations governing methods and amount of reimbursement payable to such port officials and employees for travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf of the district. The resolution shall, among other things, establish procedures for approving such expenses; set forth the method of authorizing the direct purchase of transportation; the form of the voucher; and requirements governing the use of credit cards issued in the name of the port district. Such regulations may provide for payment of per diem in lieu of actual expenses when travel requires overnight lodging: PROVIDED, That in all cases any per diem payment shall not exceed the United States general service administration's per diem rates. The state auditor shall, as provided by general law, cooperate with the port district in establishing adequate procedures for regulating and auditing the reimbursement of all such expenses. [2015 c 29 § 1; 1965 c 101 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.180 Federal old age and survivors' insurance for employees.** As used in RCW 53.08.180 through 53.08.200, the term "employees" shall be as defined in RCW 41.48.020 and no distinction shall be made for the purposes of coverage under the social security act, between persons employed by a port district on a casual or temporary basis, or on a regular or steady basis, or between persons paid hourly wages and persons paid wages on a weekly, monthly, or other periodic basis. It being the intent of RCW 53.08.180 through 53.08.200 that all employees shall be entitled to the coverage of the federal social security act for work performed in the service of a port district, which is not covered by the state employees' retirement system. [1955 c 219 § 1.]

*Public employees' retirement system: Chapter 41.40 RCW.*

**53.08.190 Federal old age and survivors' insurance for employees—Plan for extension of benefits.** Each port district, which has not previously done so, shall within thirty days of June 8, 1955, submit for approval by the governor a plan for extending the benefits of Title II of the federal social security act, as amended, in conformity with applicable provisions of said act as set forth in chapter 41.48 RCW, to employees of such port district who are employed in positions not covered by the employees' retirement system of the state of Washington. The plan required to be submitted by this section shall be as set forth in RCW 41.48.050 and shall be in conformance therewith. [1955 c 219 § 2.]

**53.08.200 Federal old age and survivors' insurance for employees—Contributions.** All port districts are authorized to make contributions on employees' wages, and to impose upon their employees contributions with respect to their wages in accordance with RCW 41.48.030 through 41.48.050. [1955 c 219 § 3.]

**53.08.205 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** The board of commissioners of each port district

may purchase liability insurance with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1973 c 125 § 4.]

**53.08.208 Actions against officer, employee, or agent—Defense and costs provided by port district—Exception.** Whenever any action, claim, or proceeding is instituted against any person who is or was an officer, employee, or agent of a port district established under this title arising out of the performance or failure of performance of duties for, or employment with any such district, the commission of the district may grant a request by such person that the attorney of the district's choosing be authorized to defend said claim, suit or proceeding, and the costs of defense, attorney's fees, and any obligation for payment arising from such action may be paid from the district's funds: PROVIDED, That costs of defense and/or judgment or settlement against such person shall not be paid in any case where the court has found that such person was not acting in good faith or within the scope of his or her employment with or duties for the district. [2010 c 8 § 16002; 1975 c 60 § 1.]

**53.08.220 Regulations authorized—Adoption as part of ordinance or resolution of city or county, procedure—Enforcement—Penalty for violation.** (1) A port district may formulate all needful regulations for the use by tenants, agents, servants, licensees, invitees, suppliers, passengers, customers, shippers, business visitors, and members of the general public of any properties or facilities owned or operated by it, and request the adoption, amendment, or repeal of such regulations as part of the ordinances of the city or town in which such properties or facilities are situated, or as part of the resolutions of the county, if such properties or facilities be situated outside any city or town. The port commission shall make such request by resolution after holding a public hearing on the proposed regulations, of which at least ten days' notice shall be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the port district. Such regulations must conform to and be consistent with federal and state law. As to properties or facilities situated within a city or town, such regulations must conform to and be consistent with the ordinances of the city or town. As to properties or facilities situated outside any city or town, such regulations must conform to and be consistent with county resolutions. Upon receiving such request, the governing body of the city, town, or county, as the case may be, may adopt such regulations as part of its ordinances or resolutions, or amend or repeal such regulations in accordance with the terms of the request.

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any violation of the regulations described in subsection (1) of this section is a misdemeanor which shall be redressed in the same manner as other police regulations of the city, town, or county, and it shall be the duty of all law enforcement officers to enforce such regulations accordingly.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, violation of such a regulation relating to traffic including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction.

(c) Violation of such a regulation equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 286; 1979 ex.s. c 136 § 103; 1961 c 38 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.230 Making motor vehicle and other police regulations applicable to district property—Filing plat with county auditor—Duty of law enforcement officers.**

A port district may at its option file with the county auditor a plat of any of its properties or facilities, showing thereon such private streets, alleys, access roads, parking areas, parks and other places as the port district may wish to have treated as public for purposes of motor vehicle or other police regulations. Such plat may be amended at any time by the filing of an amendatory plat, and may be vacated at any time by the filing of a resolution of vacation. So long as any such plat or amendatory plat is on file and not vacated, the motor vehicle or other police regulations of the state, and the motor vehicle regulations of the city, town or county, as the case may be, in which the areas described in the plat are situated, shall apply to such areas as though they were public streets, alleys, access roads, parking areas, parks or other places, and it shall be the duty of all state and local law enforcement officers to enforce such regulations accordingly. [1961 c 38 § 2.]

**53.08.240 Joint exercise of powers and joint acquisition of property—Contracts with other governmental entities.**

(1) Any two or more port districts shall have the power, by mutual agreement, to exercise jointly all powers granted to each individual district, and in the exercise of such powers shall have the right and power to acquire jointly all lands, property, property rights, leases, or easements necessary for their purposes, either entirely within or partly within or partly without or entirely without such districts: PROVIDED, That any two or more districts so acting jointly, by mutual agreement, shall not acquire any real property or real property rights in any other port district without the consent of such district.

(2) A district may enter into any contract with the United States, or any state, county, or municipal corporation, or any department of those entities, for carrying out any of the powers that each of the contracting parties may by law exercise separately.

(3)(a) A port district that is located in a county that has a contiguous border with another state, and a population between fifty and seventy thousand, may enter into any contract that each of the contracting parties may by law exercise separately with, including but not limited to, municipal corporations of adjoining states.

(b) In addition to other powers granted by statute, a port district that is located in a county that has a contiguous border with another state, and a population between fifty and seventy thousand, may enter into agreements with the United States or any of its agencies, or with any state, or with any municipal corporation of this state or of an adjoining state, for exercising jointly or cooperatively within or outside the district, in whole or in part, any of the powers that each of the contracting parties may by law exercise separately, for the

promotion or development of trade or industry. Such powers may be exercised outside the boundaries of this state only after a public hearing of which notice has been published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district at least ten days in advance, and pursuant to findings and a resolution by the port district's commission that: (i) The undertaking and the district's participation in it will substantially benefit the district and the state of Washington; and (ii) the districts' share of the cost will not exceed an amount calculated by dividing the total cost of the undertaking by the number of participants. [1999 c 306 § 3; 1961 c 24 § 1.]

**Purpose—1999 c 306:** See note following RCW 53.04.010.

**53.08.245 Economic development programs authorized—Job training and education.**

(1) It shall be in the public purpose for all port districts to engage in economic development programs. In addition, port districts may contract with nonprofit corporations and private and public entities that provide training systems as defined in RCW 28C.18.010 and promote workforce diversity in furtherance of this and other acts relating to economic development.

(2)(a) Economic development programs may include: Occupational job training and placement, job advancement and job retention, preapprenticeship training, or occupational education programs associated with port tenants, customers, and local economic development related to port tenants or port-related economic activities that are sponsored by a port and operated by a nonprofit, private, or public entity.

(b) Ports seeking to engage in activities or contracts pursuant to this subsection shall, by resolution, declare that port-related workforce development provides a substantial public benefit consistent with the port commission's economic development goals, and is consistent with ongoing worker training initiatives in place in the port district.

(c) As a contract condition, a sponsoring port must require any entity that operates programs such as those described in (a) of this subsection to submit annually quantitative information on program outcomes including: The number of workers trained, recruited, placed in jobs, and retained; the types of jobs and range of compensation; the number and types of businesses that are served; and any other tangible benefits realized by the port, the workers, businesses, and the public. [2019 c 117 § 1; 2010 c 195 § 1; 1985 c 125 § 1.]

**53.08.255 Tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities authorized.**

(1) Any port district in this state, acting through its commission, has power to expend moneys and conduct promotion of resources and facilities in the district or general area by advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information to attract visitors and encourage tourist expansion.

(2)(a) Any port district is authorized either individually or jointly with any other municipality, or person, or any combination thereof, to acquire and to operate tourism-related facilities.

(b) When exercising the authority granted under (a) of this subsection, a port district may exercise any of the powers granted to a municipality under RCW 67.28.120, 67.28.130 through 67.28.170, and 67.28.220, but may not exercise powers granted to municipalities under RCW 67.28.180 and 67.28.181 or other powers granted to municipalities under

chapter 67.28 RCW. The definitions contained in RCW 67.28.080 apply to the exercise of authority by a port district under (a) of this subsection, and for that purpose the term "municipality" includes a port district.

(c) Port districts may not use this section as the authority for the exercise of the power of eminent domain. [2007 c 476 § 1; 1984 c 122 § 10.]

**53.08.260 Park and recreation facilities.** A port district may construct, improve, maintain, and operate public park and recreation facilities when such facilities are necessary to more fully utilize boat landings, harbors, wharves and piers, air, land, and water passenger and transfer terminals, waterways, and other port facilities authorized by law pursuant to the port's comprehensive plan of harbor improvements and industrial development. [1965 c 81 § 1.]

*Harbor improvement plan: RCW 53.20.010.*

**53.08.270 Park and recreation facilities—Approval of other agencies.** Before undertaking any such plan for the acquisition and operation of any park or recreational facility the proposed plan therefor shall be first submitted in writing to the director of the parks and recreation commission and to the governing body of any county or municipal park agency having jurisdiction in the area. The state director and/or such county or municipal park agency shall examine the port's proposed plan, and may disapprove such proposed plan if it is found to be in conflict with state or local park and recreation plans for the same area. If such proposed port plan is disapproved the port district shall not proceed further with such plan. If the state director or the governing body of the county or municipal agency does not respond in writing to the port within sixty days, it shall be deemed that approval has been granted. [1965 c 81 § 2.]

**53.08.280 Police officers—Appointment authorized—Jurisdiction.** Any port district operating an airport with a police department as authorized by RCW 14.08.120 or designated as a port of entry by the federal government is authorized to appoint police officers with full police powers to enforce all applicable federal, state, or municipal statutes, rules, regulations, or ordinances upon any port-owned or operated properties or operations: PROVIDED, That such police officers must have successfully graduated from a recognized professional police academy or training institution. [1981 c 97 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 62 § 1.]

**53.08.290 Intermodal movement of interstate and foreign cargo—Restrictions.** In addition to the other powers under this chapter, a port district, in connection with the operation of facilities and improvements of the district, may perform all necessary activities related to the intermodal movement of interstate and foreign cargo: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall authorize a port district to engage in the transportation of commodities by motor vehicle for compensation outside the boundaries of the port district. A port district may, by itself or in conjunction with public or private entities, acquire, construct, purchase, lease, contract for, provide, and operate rail services, equipment, and facilities inside or outside the port district: PROVIDED, That such authority may only be exercised outside the boundaries of the

port district if such extraterritorial rail services, equipment, or facilities are found, by resolution of the commission of the port district exercising such authority, to be reasonably necessary to link the rail services, equipment, and facilities within the port district to an interstate railroad system; however, if such extraterritorial rail services, equipment, or facilities are in or are to be located in one or more other port districts, the commission of such other port district or districts must consent by resolution to the proposed plan of the originating port district which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no port district shall engage in the manufacture of railcars for use off port property. [1981 c 47 § 1; 1980 c 110 § 2.]

**Purpose—1980 c 110:** "The purpose of this act is to:

(1) Clarify existing law as to the authority of port districts to perform certain cargo movement activities and to contract for or otherwise provide facilities for rail service for the movement of such cargo; and

(2) Provide authority for port districts to assist in development of the recreation-tourism industry by acquiring and operating certain watercraft in limited areas." [1980 c 110 § 1.]

**53.08.295 Passenger-carrying vessels.** A port district may acquire, lease, construct, purchase, maintain, and operate passenger-carrying vessels on Puget Sound, interstate navigable rivers of the state, and intrastate waters of adjoining states. Service provided shall be under terms, conditions, and rates to be fixed and approved by the port commission. Operation of such vessels shall be subject to applicable state and federal laws pertaining to such service. [2008 c 45 § 4; 1980 c 110 § 3.]

**Purpose—1980 c 110:** See note following RCW 53.08.290.

**53.08.310 Moorage facilities—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this section, RCW 53.08.480, and 53.08.320.

(1) "Moorage facility" means any properties or facilities owned or operated by a moorage facility operator which are capable of use for the moorage or storage of vessels.

(2) "Moorage facility operator" means any port district, city, town, metropolitan park district, or county which owns and/or operates a moorage facility.

(3) "Owner" means every natural person, firm, partnership, corporation, association, or organization, or agent thereof, with actual or apparent authority, who expressly or impliedly contracts for use of a moorage facility.

(4) "Port charges" mean charges of a moorage facility operator for moorage and storage, and all other charges owing or to become owing under a contract between a vessel owner and the moorage facility operator, or under an officially adopted tariff including, but not limited to, costs of sale and related legal expenses.

(5) "Transient vessel" means a vessel using a moorage facility and which belongs to an owner who does not have a moorage agreement with the moorage facility operator. Transient vessels include, but are not limited to: Vessels seeking a harbor of refuge, day use, or overnight use of a moorage facility on a space-as-available basis. Transient vessels may also include vessels taken into custody under RCW 79.100.040.

(6) "Vessel" means every species of watercraft or other artificial contrivance capable of being used as a means of



transportation on water and which does not exceed two hundred feet in length. "Vessel" includes any trailer used for the transportation of watercraft. [2014 c 195 § 205; 1986 c 260 § 1; 1983 c 188 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Findings—Intent—2014 c 195:** See notes following RCW 79.100.170 and 79.100.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.320 Moorage facilities—Rules authorized—Port charges, delinquency—Abandoned vessels, public sale.** A moorage facility operator may adopt all rules necessary for rental and use of moorage facilities and for the expeditious collection of port charges. The rules may also establish procedures for the enforcement of these rules by port district, city, county, metropolitan park district or town personnel. The rules shall include the following:

(1) Procedures authorizing moorage facility personnel to take reasonable measures, including the use of chains, ropes, and locks, or removal from the water, to secure vessels within the moorage facility so that the vessels are in the possession and control of the moorage facility operator and cannot be removed from the moorage facility. These procedures may be used if an owner mooring or storing a vessel at the moorage facility fails, after being notified that charges are owing and of the owner's right to commence legal proceedings to contest that such charges are owing, to pay the port charges owed or to commence legal proceedings. Notification shall be by registered mail to the owner at his or her last known address. In the case of a transient vessel, or where no address was furnished by the owner, the moorage facility operator need not give such notice prior to securing the vessel. At the time of securing the vessel, an authorized moorage facility employee shall attach to the vessel a readily visible notice. The notice shall be of a reasonable size and shall contain the following information:

- (a) The date and time the notice was attached;
- (b) A statement that if the account is not paid in full within ninety days from the time the notice is attached, the vessel may be sold at public auction to satisfy the port charges; and
- (c) The address and telephone number where additional information may be obtained concerning release of the vessel.

After a vessel is secured, the operator shall make a reasonable effort to notify the owner by registered mail in order to give the owner the information contained in the notice.

(2) Procedures authorizing moorage facility personnel at their discretion to move moored vessels ashore for storage within properties under the operator's control or for storage with private persons under their control as bailees of the moorage facility, if the vessel is, in the opinion of port personnel a nuisance, if the vessel is in danger of sinking or creating other damage, or is owing port charges. Costs of any such procedure shall be paid by the vessel's owner. If the owner is not known, or unable to reimburse the moorage facility operator for the costs of these procedures, the mooring facility operators may seek reimbursement of ninety percent of all reasonable and auditable costs from the derelict vessel removal account established in RCW 79.100.100.

(3) If a vessel is secured under subsection (1) of this section or moved ashore under subsection (2) of this section, the owner who is obligated to the moorage facility operator for port charges may regain possession of the vessel by:

(a) Making arrangements satisfactory with the moorage facility operator for the immediate removal of the vessel from the moorage facility or for authorized moorage; and

(b) Making payment to the moorage facility operator of all port charges, or by posting with the moorage facility operator a sufficient cash bond or other acceptable security, to be held in trust by the moorage facility operator pending written agreement of the parties with respect to payment by the vessel owner of the amount owing, or pending resolution of the matter of the charges in a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction. After entry of judgment, including any appeals, in a court of competent jurisdiction, or after the parties reach agreement with respect to payment, the trust shall terminate and the moorage facility operator shall receive so much of the bond or other security as is agreed, or as is necessary to satisfy any judgment, costs, and interest as may be awarded to the moorage facility operator. The balance shall be refunded immediately to the owner at his or her last known address.

(4) If a vessel has been secured by the moorage facility operator under subsection (1) of this section and is not released to the owner under the bonding provisions of this section within ninety days after notifying or attempting to notify the owner under subsection (1) of this section, the vessel shall be conclusively presumed to have been abandoned by the owner.

(5) If a vessel moored or stored at a moorage facility is abandoned, the moorage facility operator may, by resolution of its legislative authority, authorize the public sale of the vessel by authorized personnel to the highest and best bidder for cash as prescribed by this subsection (5). Either a minimum bid may be established or a letter of credit may be required, or both, to discourage the future reabandonment of the vessel.

(a) Before the vessel is sold, the owner of the vessel shall be given at least twenty days' notice of the sale in the manner set forth in subsection (1) of this section if the name and address of the owner is known. The notice shall contain the time and place of the sale, a reasonable description of the vessel to be sold, and the amount of port charges owed with respect to the vessel. The notice of sale shall be published at least once, more than ten but not more than twenty days before the sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the moorage facility is located. Such notice shall include the name of the vessel, if any, the last known owner and address, and a reasonable description of the vessel to be sold. The moorage facility operator may bid all or part of its port charges at the sale and may become a purchaser at the sale.

(b) Before the vessel is sold, any person seeking to redeem an impounded vessel under this section may commence a lawsuit in the superior court for the county in which the vessel was impounded to contest the validity of the impoundment or the amount of the port charges owing. Such lawsuit must be commenced within ten days of the date the notification was provided pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, or the right to a hearing shall be deemed waived and the owner shall be liable for any port charges owing the

moorage facility operator. In the event of litigation, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(c) The proceeds of a sale under this section shall first be applied to the payment of port charges. The balance, if any, shall be paid to the owner. If the owner cannot in the exercise of due diligence be located by the moorage facility operator within one year of the date of the sale, the excess funds from the sale shall revert to the derelict vessel removal account established in RCW 79.100.100. If the sale is for a sum less than the applicable port charges, the moorage facility operator is entitled to assert a claim for a deficiency.

(d) In the event no one purchases the vessel at a sale, or a vessel is not removed from the premises or other arrangements are not made within ten days of sale, title to the vessel will revert to the moorage facility operator.

(6) The rules authorized under this section shall be enforceable only if the moorage facility has had its tariff containing such rules conspicuously posted at its moorage facility at all times. [2011 c 247 § 3; 2002 c 286 § 23; 1986 c 260 § 2; 1985 c 7 § 124; 1983 c 188 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.330 Streets, roads, and highways—Construction, upgrading, improvement, and repair authorized.** Any port district in this state, acting through its commission, may expend port funds toward construction, upgrading, improvement, or repair of any street, road, or highway that serves port facilities. [1990 c 5 § 1.]

**53.08.340 Streets, roads, and highways—Expenditure of funds.** The funds authorized by RCW 53.08.330 may be expended by the port commission in conjunction with any plan of improvements undertaken by the state of Washington, an adjoining state, or a county or municipal government of either, in combination with any of said public entities, and without regard to whether expenditures are made for a road located within the state of Washington or an adjoining state. [1990 c 5 § 2.]

**53.08.360 Annexation of port district property—Transfer of employees engaged in firefighting.** (1) When a port district provides its own fire protection services with port district employees, and port district property is included as part of an annexation, incorporation, consolidation, or merger by a city, town, or fire protection district, and fire protection services for this port district property will be furnished by the city, town, or fire protection district, an eligible employee may transfer employment to the city, town, or fire protection district in the same manner and under the same conditions that a firefighter may transfer employment into a fire protection district pursuant to RCW 52.04.111, 52.04.121, and 52.04.131.

(2) "Eligible employee" means an employee of the port district who (a) was at the time of the annexation, merger, consolidation, or incorporation employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions which are to be performed by the fire department of the city, town, or fire protection district, (b) will, as a direct consequence of the annexation, merger, consolidation, or incorporation, be separated from the employ of the port district, and (c) can

perform the duties and meet the minimum requirements of the position to be filled. [1994 c 74 § 2.]

**Intent—1994 c 74:** "The legislature recognizes that it passed comprehensive legislation in 1986 to provide protection to firefighters who risk losing their jobs as a result of an annexation, incorporation, merger, or consolidation by a city, town, or fire protection district. The legislation did not, however, grant these same protections to firefighters who are employed by port districts. It is the intent of the legislature that firefighters who are employed by port districts should have the same transfer rights as other local government firefighters in the event of an annexation, consolidation, merger, or incorporation by a city, town, or fire protection district." [1994 c 74 § 1.]

**53.08.370 Telecommunications facilities—Construct, purchase, acquire, etc.—Purposes—Limitations—Eminent domain (as amended by 2021 c 293).** (1) A port district in existence on June 8, 2000, may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, handle, provide, add to, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain any telecommunications facilities within or without the district's limits for the following purposes:

(a) For the district's own use; ~~(and)~~

(b) For the provision of wholesale telecommunications services within or without the district's limits ~~(. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize port districts to provide telecommunications services to end users); or~~

(c) For the provision of retail telecommunications services as authorized in this section.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section, a port district providing wholesale telecommunications services under this section shall ensure that rates, terms, and conditions for such services are not unduly or unreasonably discriminatory or preferential. Rates, terms, and conditions are discriminatory or preferential when a port district offering such rates, terms, and conditions to an entity for wholesale telecommunications services does not offer substantially similar rates, terms, and conditions to all other entities seeking substantially similar services.

(3) When a port district establishes a separate utility function for the provision of wholesale telecommunications services, it shall account for any and all revenues and expenditures related to its wholesale telecommunications facilities and services separately from revenues and expenditures related to its internal telecommunications operations. Any revenues received from the provision of wholesale telecommunications services must be dedicated to the utility function that includes the provision of wholesale telecommunications services for costs incurred to build and maintain the telecommunications facilities until such time as any bonds or other financing instruments executed after June 8, 2000, and used to finance the telecommunications facilities are discharged or retired.

(4) When a port district establishes a separate utility function for the provision of wholesale telecommunications services, all telecommunications services rendered by the separate function to the district for the district's internal telecommunications needs shall be charged at its true and full value. A port district may not charge its nontelecommunications operations rates that are preferential or discriminatory compared to those it charges entities purchasing wholesale telecommunications services.

(5) A port district shall not exercise powers of eminent domain to acquire telecommunications facilities or contractual rights held by any other person or entity to telecommunications facilities.

(6) Except as otherwise specifically provided, a port district may exercise any of the powers granted to it under this title and other applicable laws in carrying out the powers authorized under this section. Nothing in chapter 81, Laws of 2000 limits any existing authority of a port district under this title.

(7) A port district that has not exercised the authorities provided in this section prior to June 7, 2018, must develop a business case plan before exercising the authorities provided in this section. The port district must procure an independent qualified consultant to review the business case plan, including the use of public funds in the provision of wholesale telecommunications services. Any recommendations or adjustments to the business case plan made during third-party review must be received and either rejected or accepted by the port commission in an open meeting.

(8) A port district with telecommunications facilities for use in the provision of wholesale telecommunications in accordance with subsection (1)(b) of this section may be subject to local leasehold excise taxes under RCW 82.29A.040.

(9)(a) A port district under this section may select a telecommunications company to operate all or a portion of the port district's telecommunications facilities.

(b) For the purposes of this section "telecommunications company" means any for-profit entity owned by investors that sells telecommunications services to end users.

(c) Nothing in this subsection (9) is intended to limit or otherwise restrict any other authority provided by law.

(10)(a) A port district may provide retail telecommunications services to end users in unserved areas.

(b) A port district must notify and consult with the governor's statewide broadband office within 30 days of its decision to provide retail telecommunications services to unserved areas. The governor's statewide broadband office must post notices received from a port district pursuant to this subsection on its public website.

(c) Any port district that intends to provide retail telecommunications services to unserved areas must submit a telecommunications infrastructure and service plan to the governor's statewide broadband office that will be published on the office's website. Submission of plans will enable the governor's statewide broadband office: (i) To better understand infrastructure deployment; (ii) to potentially allocate funding for unserved areas; (iii) to advance the state policy objectives; (iv) to determine whether the plan aligns with state policy objectives and broadband priorities; (v) to measure progress toward serving those in unserved areas; (vi) to report on the feasibility and sustainability of the project; and (vii) to confirm that the project is within an unserved area. The telecommunications infrastructure and service plans shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) Map and description of how the deployment of proposed broadband infrastructure will achieve at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed and then increases to be consistent with the stated long-term state broadband speed goals for unserved areas;

(B) Project timeline prioritization of unserved areas; and

(C) Description of potential state and federal funding available to provide service to the unserved area.

(d) A port district that exercises its authority under (a) of this subsection to provide retail telecommunications services may use state funds, federal funds appropriated through the state, or federal funds dedicated for projects in unserved areas to fund projects identified in the submitted telecommunications infrastructure and service plan required in (c) of this subsection.

(e) A port district providing retail telecommunications services under this subsection must operate an open access network.

(f) Provisions in this subsection do not apply to the provision of wholesale telecommunications services authorized in this section.

(g) For the purposes of this subsection:

(i) "Open access network" means a network that, during the useful life of the infrastructure, ensures service providers may use network services and facilities at rates, terms, and conditions that are not discriminatory or preferential between providers, and employs accountable interconnection arrangements published and available publicly.

(ii) "Unserved areas" means areas of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service of speeds at a minimum of 100 megabits per second download and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload. [2021 c 293 § 3; 2019 c 365 § 10; 2018 c 169 § 2; 2000 c 81 § 7.]

**Findings—2021 c 293:** See note following RCW 54.16.330.

**53.08.370 Telecommunications facilities—Construct, purchase, acquire, etc.—Purposes—Limitations—Eminent domain (as amended by 2021 c 294).** (1) A port district in existence on June 8, 2000, may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, handle, provide, add to, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain any telecommunications facilities within or without the district's limits for the following purposes:

(a) For the district's own use; ~~(and)~~

(b) For the provision of wholesale telecommunications services within or without the district's limits ~~(Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize port districts to provide telecommunications services to end users); or~~

(c) For the provision of retail telecommunications services as authorized by this section.

(2) Except as provided in subsection ~~((9))~~ (8) of this section, a port district providing wholesale or retail telecommunications services under this section shall ensure that rates, terms, and conditions for such services are not unduly or unreasonably discriminatory or preferential. Rates, terms, and conditions are discriminatory or preferential when a port district offering such rates, terms, and conditions to an entity for wholesale or retail telecommunications services does not offer substantially similar rates, terms, and conditions to all other entities seeking substantially similar services.

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(3) When a port district establishes a separate utility function for the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications services, it shall account for any and all revenues and expenditures related to its wholesale or retail telecommunications facilities and services separately from revenues and expenditures related to its internal telecommunications operations. Any revenues received from the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications services must be dedicated to the utility function that includes the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications services for costs incurred to build and maintain the telecommunications facilities until such time as any bonds or other financing instruments executed after June 8, 2000, and used to finance the telecommunications facilities are discharged or retired.

(4) When a port district establishes a separate utility function for the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications services, all telecommunications services rendered by the separate function to the district for the district's internal telecommunications needs shall be charged at its true and full value. A port district may not charge its nontelecommunications operations rates that are preferential or discriminatory compared to those it charges entities purchasing wholesale or retail telecommunications services.

(5) A port district shall not exercise powers of eminent domain to acquire telecommunications facilities or contractual rights held by any other person or entity to telecommunications facilities.

(6) Except as otherwise specifically provided, a port district may exercise any of the powers granted to it under this title and other applicable laws in carrying out the powers authorized under this section. Nothing in chapter 81, Laws of 2000 limits any existing authority of a port district under this title.

~~(7) (A port district that has not exercised the authorities provided in this section prior to June 7, 2018, must develop a business case plan before exercising the authorities provided in this section. The port district must procure an independent qualified consultant to review the business case plan, including the use of public funds in the provision of wholesale telecommunications services. Any recommendations or adjustments to the business case plan made during third-party review must be received and either rejected or accepted by the port commission in an open meeting.~~

~~(8))~~ (8) A port district with telecommunications facilities for use in the provision of wholesale or retail telecommunications in accordance with subsection (1) ~~((b))~~ of this section may be subject to local leasehold excise taxes under RCW 82.29A.040.

~~((9))~~ (8)(a) A port district under this section may select a telecommunications company to operate all or a portion of the port district's telecommunications facilities.

(b) For the purposes of this section "telecommunications company" means any for-profit entity owned by investors that sells telecommunications services to end users.

(c) Nothing in this subsection ~~((9))~~ (8) is intended to limit or otherwise restrict any other authority provided by law.

(9) A port district may provide retail telecommunications services within or without the district's limits. [2021 c 294 § 9; 2019 c 365 § 10; 2018 c 169 § 2; 2000 c 81 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 53.08.370 was amended twice during the 2021 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Short title—2021 c 294:** See note following RCW 54.16.330.

**Findings—2019 c 365:** See note following RCW 43.330.532.

**Findings—2000 c 81:** See note following RCW 53.08.005.

**53.08.375 Retail telecommunications services—Reporting requirements.** (1) Before providing retail telecommunications services, a port district must report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the port district:

(a) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(b) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(c) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(d) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the port district;

(e) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(f) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(g) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(2) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on their website.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed. [2021 c 294 § 10.]

**Short title—2021 c 294:** See note following RCW 54.16.330.

**53.08.380 Wholesale telecommunications services—Petition for review of rates, terms, conditions.** (1) A person or entity that has requested wholesale telecommunications services from a port district may petition the commission under the procedures set forth in RCW 80.04.110 (1) through (3) if it believes the district's rates, terms, and conditions are unduly or unreasonably discriminatory or preferential. The person or entity shall provide the district notice of its intent to petition the commission and an opportunity to review within thirty days the rates, terms, and conditions as applied to it prior to submitting its petition. In determining whether a district is providing discriminatory or preferential rates, terms, and conditions, the commission may consider such matters as service quality, technical feasibility of connection points on the district's telecommunications facilities, time of response to service requests, system capacity, and other matters reasonably related to the provision of wholesale telecommunications services. If the commission, after notice and hearing, determines that a port district's rates, terms, and conditions are unduly or unreasonably discriminatory or preferential, it shall issue a final order finding noncompliance with this section and setting forth the specific areas of apparent noncompliance. An order imposed under this section shall be enforceable in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) The commission may order a port district to pay a share of the costs incurred by the commission in adjudicating or enforcing this section.

(3) Without limiting other remedies at law or equity, the commission and prevailing party may also seek injunctive relief to compel compliance with an order.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the commission's authority and jurisdiction with respect to actions, proceedings, or orders permitted or contemplated for a state commission under the federal telecommunications act of 1996, P.L. 104-104 (110 Stat. 56). [2018 c 169 § 3; 2000 c 81 § 9.]

**Findings—2000 c 81:** See note following RCW 53.08.005.

**53.08.390 Grays Harbor pilotage district—Conditions on pilotage service.** A countywide port district located in part or in whole within the Grays Harbor pilotage district,

as defined by RCW 88.16.050(2), may commence pilotage service with the following powers and subject to the conditions contained in this section.

(1) Persons employed to perform the pilotage service of a port district must be licensed under chapter 88.16 RCW to provide pilotage.

(2) Before establishing pilotage service, a port district shall give at least sixty days' written notice to the chair of the board of pilotage commissioners to provide pilotage.

(3) A port district providing pilotage service under this section requiring additional pilots may petition the board of pilotage commissioners to qualify and license as a pilot a person who has passed the examination and is on the waiting list for the training program for the district. If there are no persons on the waiting list, the board shall solicit applicants and offer the examination.

(4) In addition to the power to employ or contract with pilots, a port district providing pilotage services under this section has such other powers as are reasonably necessary to accomplish the purpose of this section including, but not limited to, providing through ownership or contract pilots launches, dispatcher services, or ancillary tug services required for operations or safety.

(5)(a) A port district providing pilotage services under this section may recommend to the utilities and transportation commission tariffs for pilotage services provided under chapter 88.16 RCW, and may recommend to the board of pilotage commissioners rules of service governing its pilotage services for consideration and adoption consistent with RCW 88.16.035. The rules of service, rates, and tariffs recommended by the port district must have been approved in open meetings of the port district thirty or more days after published notice in a newspaper of general circulation and after mailing a copy of the notice to: (i) The utilities and transportation commission for rate and tariff consideration, or (ii) the chair of the board of pilotage commissioners for rules of service consideration. The port district shall release its pilotage budget, including the five-year capital spending plan, prior year pilotage financial statement, and the proposed pilotage tariff, no later than thirty days prior to a public hearing. The port district shall receive public comments for thirty days before the port district commission may approve and recommend the pilotage tariff, rates, or rules of service.

(b) The port district must include a charge in its tariff until such time as the pilot retirement agreement expenses for Grays Harbor pilotage district pilots employed prior to October 1, 2001, are no longer owed. The port district shall determine the charge owed as pilot retirement agreement expenses. The charge must be sufficient to cover costs associated with the pilot retirement agreement expenses for Grays Harbor pilots employed prior to October 1, 2001. The revenue collected from the charge must be deposited into an account maintained by the port district solely for the pilot retirement agreement expenses of the Grays Harbor pilots employed prior to October 1, 2001. Under no circumstances shall the port district be obligated to fund or pay for any portion of the retirement agreement expenses for Grays Harbor pilots employed prior to October 1, 2001.

(6) A pilot providing pilotage services under this section must comply with all requirements of the pilotage act, chap-

ter 88.16 RCW, and all rules adopted thereunder. [2018 c 107 § 2; 2010 c 8 § 16003; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 22 § 1.]

**Effective date—2018 c 107:** See note following RCW 88.16.055.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.400 District may exercise powers of community renewal agency.** A port district may enter into a contract with any city, town, or county for the purpose of exercising any powers of a community renewal agency under chapter 35.81 RCW. [2002 c 218 § 27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.410 Abandoned or derelict vessels.** A port district has the authority, subject to the processes and limitation outlined in chapter 79.100 RCW, to store, strip, use, auction, sell, salvage, scrap, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict vessel found on or above publicly or privately owned aquatic lands within the jurisdiction of the port district. [2002 c 286 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.08.420 Cooperative watershed management.** In addition to the authority provided in this chapter, a port district may participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 § 16.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 327:** See note following RCW 39.34.190.

**53.08.440 Web site for contract database—Requirements.** By January 1, 2010, each port with more than ten million dollars in annual gross revenues, excluding grant and loan funds, shall maintain a database on a public web site of all contracts, including public works and personal services. At a minimum, the database shall identify the contractor, the purpose of the contract, effective dates and periods of performance, the cost of the contract and funding source, any modifications to the contract, and whether the contract was competitively procured or awarded on a sole source basis. [2008 c 130 § 3.]

**53.08.450 Property outside jurisdiction—Future property development—Communication plan.** (1) If a port district purchases property for a facility outside the port's jurisdiction, the port district or districts with responsibility for the future property development and use must prepare and implement a communication plan within sixty days after contracting with a site planning consultant. The communication plan must be reasonably calculated to provide property owners and other affected and interested individuals information for review and comment. The plan shall be made available through the planning and predesign phase. The communication plan shall include information about:

(a) The type and scale of proposed uses on the site;

(b) The type and scale of business and industrial activities that the development is likely to later attract to the site and to the nearby area;

(c) The general character and scope of potential impacts on air and water quality, noise, and local and state transpor-

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tation infrastructure, including state highways, local roads, rail, and shipping.

(2) Information included in the communication plan under subsection (1) of this section may be made available by means of web pages, office inspection and copying of materials, one or more property tours, and public meetings that allow interested citizens to comment to port officials on several occasions over time as the development plans evolve.

(3) Environmental mitigation, habitat restoration, and dredged material disposal projects are exempt from the requirements of this section. [2008 c 130 § 4.]

**53.08.460 Transfer of ownership of port district-owned vessel—Review of vessel's physical condition.** (1) Prior to transferring ownership of a vessel owned by a port district and used primarily to conduct port business, the port district shall conduct a thorough review of the physical condition of the vessel, the vessel's operating capability, and any containers and other materials that are not fixed to the vessel.

(2) If the port district determines that the vessel is in a state of advanced deterioration or poses a reasonably imminent threat to human health or safety, including a threat of environmental contamination, the port district may: (a) Not transfer the vessel until the conditions identified under this subsection have been corrected; or (b) permanently dispose of the vessel by landfill, deconstruction, or other related method.

(3) Vessels taken into custody under chapter 79.100 RCW are not subject to this section or RCW 53.08.470. [2013 c 291 § 21.]

**53.08.470 Transfer of ownership of port district-owned vessel—Further requirements.** (1) Following the inspection required under RCW 53.08.460 and prior to transferring ownership of a port district-owned vessel, a port district shall obtain the following from the transferee:

(a) The purposes for which the transferee intends to use the vessel; and

(b) Information demonstrating the prospective owner's intent to obtain legal moorage following the transfer, in the manner determined by the port district.

(2)(a) The port district shall remove any containers or other materials that are not fixed to the vessel and contain hazardous substances, as defined under RCW 70A.305.020.

(b) However, the port district may transfer a vessel with:

(i) Those containers or materials described under (a) of this subsection where the transferee demonstrates to the port district's satisfaction that the container's or material's presence is consistent with the anticipated use of the vessel; and

(ii) A reasonable amount of fuel as determined by the port district, based on factors including the vessel's size, condition, and anticipated use of the vessel including initial destination following transfer.

(c) The port district may consult with the department of ecology in carrying out the requirements of this subsection.

(3) Prior to sale, and unless the vessel has a title or valid marine document, the port district is required to apply for a certificate of title for the vessel under RCW 88.02.510 and register the vessel under RCW 88.02.550. [2021 c 65 § 59; 2013 c 291 § 22.]

**Explanatory statement—2021 c 65:** See note following RCW 53.54.030.

**53.08.480 Insurance requirements.** (1) Every moorage facility operator must:

(a) Obtain and maintain insurance coverage for the moorage facility;

(b) Require, as a condition of moorage, all vessels other than transient vessels to provide proof of marine insurance to the moorage facility.

(2) Unless rules adopted by the department of natural resources require otherwise, insurance maintained by moorage facility operators and required of moored vessels must:

(a) Provide coverage at liability limits of at least three hundred thousand dollars per occurrence; and

(b) Include, at a minimum, general, legal, and pollution liability coverage.

(3) The purchaser of marine insurance under this section may satisfy the requirements of this section through the purchase of multiple policies as necessary.

(4) The requirement under this section for moorage facility operators to require proof of marine insurance from mooring vessels applies whenever a moorage facility operator enters an initial or renewal moorage agreement after June 12, 2014. The moorage facility operator is not required to verify independently whether a mooring vessel's insurance policy meets the requirements of this section and is not responsible for any change in insurance coverage applicable to the vessel that occurs after the initial agreement is entered into or in the time period between agreement renewals.

(5) Any moorage facility operator that the department has determined has failed to satisfy the requirements of this section is not eligible for reimbursement from the derelict vessel removal account under RCW 79.100.100. [2014 c 195 § 203.]

**Findings—Intent—2014 c 195:** See notes following RCW 79.100.170 and 79.100.180.

## Chapter 53.12 RCW

### COMMISSIONERS—ELECTIONS

#### Sections

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*Elections: Title 29A RCW.*

*Redistricting by local governments and municipal corporations—Census information for—Plan, prepared when, criteria for, hearing on, request for review of, certification, remand—Sanctions when review request frivolous: RCW 29A.76.010.*

#### 53.12.005 Definition—"Gross operating revenue."

For purposes of this chapter, "gross operating revenue" means the total of all revenues received by a port district. [1992 c 147 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### 53.12.010 Port commission—Number of commissioners, districts.

(1) The powers of the port district shall be exercised through a port commission consisting of three or, when permitted by this title, five members. Every port district that is not coextensive with a county having a population of five hundred thousand or more shall be divided into the same number of commissioner districts as there are commissioner positions, each having approximately equal population, unless provided otherwise under subsection (2) of this section. Where a port district with three commissioner positions is coextensive with the boundaries of a county that has a population of less than five hundred thousand and the county has three county legislative authority districts, the port commissioner districts shall be the county legislative authority districts. In other instances where a port district is divided into commissioner districts, the port commission shall divide the port district into commissioner districts unless the commissioner districts have been described pursuant to RCW 53.04.031. The commissioner districts shall be altered as provided in chapter 53.16 RCW.

Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner district; and (b) only the voters of a commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire port district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district.

(2)(a) In port districts with five commissioners, two of the commissioner districts may include the entire port district if approved by the voters of the district either at the time of formation or at a subsequent port district election at which the issue is proposed pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners and delivered to the county auditor.

(b) In a port district with five commissioners, where two of the commissioner districts include the entire port district, the port district may be divided into five commissioner districts if proposed pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners or pursuant to a petition by the voters and approved by the voters of the district at the next general or special election occurring sixty or more days after the adoption of the resolution. A petition proposing such an increase must be submitted to the county auditor of the county in which the port district is located and signed by voters of the port district at least equal in number to ten percent of the number of voters in the port district who voted at the last general election.

Upon approval by the voters, the commissioner district boundaries shall be redrawn into five districts within one hundred twenty days and submitted to the county auditor pursuant to RCW 53.16.015. The new commissioner districts

shall be numbered one through five and the three incumbent commissioners representing the three former districts shall represent commissioner districts one through three. The two at large incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts four and five. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries more than one of the incumbent commissioners resides in one of the new commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the numbered commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder of their respective terms. [2002 c 51 § 1; 1994 c 223 § 81; 1992 c 146 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 128; 1965 c 51 § 1; 1959 c 17 § 3. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2; 1911 c 92 § 3; RRS § 9690.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

#### **53.12.021 Elimination of commissioner districts.**

Any less than countywide port district that uses commissioner districts may cease using commissioner districts as provided in this section.

A ballot proposition authorizing the elimination of commissioner districts shall be submitted to the voters of a less than countywide port district that is divided into commissioner districts if (1) a petition is submitted to the port commission proposing that the port district cease using commissioner districts, that is signed by registered voters of the port district equal in number to at least ten percent of the number of voters who voted at the last district general election; or (2) the port commissioners adopt a resolution proposing that the port district cease using commissioner districts. The port commission shall transfer the petition or resolution immediately to the county auditor who shall, when a petition is submitted, review the signatures and certify its sufficiency. A ballot proposition authorizing the elimination of commissioner districts shall be submitted at the next district general election occurring sixty or more days after a petition with sufficient signatures was submitted. If the ballot proposition authorizing the port district to cease using commissioner districts is approved by a simple majority vote, the port district shall cease using commissioner districts at all subsequent elections. [1994 c 223 § 82.]

**53.12.061 Elections to conform with general election law.** All elections relating to a port district shall conform with general election law, except as expressly provided in Title 53 RCW. [1992 c 146 § 5.]

**53.12.115 Increasing number of commissioners—Resolution, petition—Ballot proposition.** A ballot proposition shall be submitted to the voters of any port district authorizing an increase in the number of port commissioners to five whenever the port commission adopts a resolution proposing the increase in number of port commissioners or a petition proposing such an increase has been submitted to the county auditor of the county in which the port district is located that has been signed by voters of the port district at least equal in number to ten percent of the number of voters in the port district who voted at the last general election. The ballot proposition shall be submitted at the next general or special election occurring sixty or more days after the petition was submitted or resolution was adopted.

At the next general or special election following the election in which an increase in the number of port commissioners was authorized, candidates for the two additional port commissioner positions shall be elected as provided in RCW 53.12.130, and the voters may be asked to approve the nomination of commissioners from district-wide commissioner districts as permitted in RCW 53.12.010(2). [1994 c 223 § 86; 1992 c 146 § 7.]

**53.12.120 Increasing number of commissioners—Population requirements—Ballot proposition—Election of added commissioners.** When the population of a port district that has three commissioners reaches five hundred thousand, in accordance with the latest United States regular or special census or with the official state population estimate, there shall be submitted to the voters of the district, at the next district general election or at a special port election called for that purpose, the proposition of increasing the number of commissioners to five.

At the next district general election following the election in which an increase in the number of port commissioners was authorized, candidates for the two additional port commissioner positions shall be elected as provided in RCW 53.12.130. [1994 c 223 § 87; 1992 c 146 § 8; 1982 c 219 § 1; 1965 c 51 § 7; 1959 c 175 § 3; 1959 c 17 § 10. Prior: 1953 c 198 § 1; 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.12.130 Increasing number of commissioners—Election of additional commissioners—Commencement and terms of office.** Two additional port commissioners shall be elected at the next district general election following the election at which voters authorized the increase in port commissioners to five members.

The port commissioners shall divide the port district into five commissioner districts prior to the first day of June in the year in which the two additional commissioners shall be elected, unless the voters approved the nomination of the two additional commissioners from district-wide commissioner districts as permitted in RCW 53.12.010(2). The new commissioner districts shall be numbered one through five and the three incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts one through three. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries two or three of the incumbent commissioners reside in one of the new commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the first three numbered commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder of their respective terms. A primary shall be held to nominate candidates from districts four and five where necessary and commissioners shall be elected from commissioner districts four and five at the general election. The persons elected as commissioners from commissioner districts four and five shall take office immediately after qualification as defined under RCW 29A.04.133.

In a port district where commissioners are elected to four-year terms of office, the additional commissioner thus elected receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office and the other additional commissioner thus elected shall be elected to a term of office of two years, if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or the

additional commissioner thus elected receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a term of office of three years and the other shall be elected to a term of office of one year, if the election is held in an even-numbered year. In a port district where the commissioners are elected to six-year terms of office, the additional commissioner thus elected receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office and the other additional commissioner shall be elected to a four-year term of office, if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or the additional commissioner receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a term of office of five-years and the other shall be elected to a three-year term of office, if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The length of terms of office shall be computed from the first day of January in the year following this election.

Successor commissioners from districts four and five shall be elected to terms of either six or four years, depending on the length of terms of office to which commissioners of that port district are elected. [2015 c 53 § 79; 1994 c 223 § 88; 1992 c 146 § 9; 1965 c 51 § 8; 1959 c 17 § 11. Prior: 1953 c 198 § 2; 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.12.135 Voluntary change to electoral system.** The port commission may authorize a change to its electoral system pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040. [2018 c 113 § 209.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2018 c 113:** See RCW 29A.92.005 and 29A.92.900.

**53.12.140 Vacancies.** A vacancy in the office of port commissioner shall occur as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW or by nonattendance at meetings of the port commission for a period of sixty days unless excused by the port commission. A vacancy on a port commission shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 54; 1959 c 17 § 9. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.12.172 Port commissioner terms of office.** (1) In every port district the term of office of each port commissioner shall be four years in each port district that is county-wide with a population of one hundred thousand or more, or either six or four years in all other port districts as provided in RCW 53.12.175, and until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280.

(2) The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same election as when the ballot proposition is submitted to voters authorizing the creation of the port district. If the port district is created the persons elected at this election shall serve as the initial port commission. No primary shall be held. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for commissioner from each commissioner district shall be elected as the commissioner of that district.

(3) The terms of office of the initial port commissioners shall be staggered as follows in a port district that is county-wide with a population of one hundred thousand or more: (a) The two persons who are elected receiving the two greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or three-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered

year, and shall hold office until successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280; and (b) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280.

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

(5) The initial port commissioners shall take office immediately after being elected and qualified, but the length of their terms shall be calculated from the first day in January in the year following their elections. [2015 c 53 § 80; 1994 c 223 § 85. Prior: 1992 c 146 § 2; (1992 c 146 § 14 repeal deleted by 1994 c 223 § 93); 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 34; 1951 c 68 § 2; prior: (i) 1935 c 133 § 2; RRS § 9691A-2. (ii) 1935 c 133 § 3; RRS § 9691A-3. (iii) 1935 c 133 § 4; RRS § 9691A-4. (iv) 1935 c 133 § 5; RRS § 9691A-5. (v) 1935 c 133 § 6; RRS § 9691A-6. (vi) 1935 c 133 § 7; RRS § 9691A-7.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29A.60.280(1).

**53.12.175 Reducing port commissioner terms—Ballot proposition.** A ballot proposition to reduce the terms of office of port commissioners from six years to four years shall be submitted to the voters of any port district that otherwise would have commissioners with six-year terms of office upon either resolution of the port commissioners or petition of voters of the port district proposing the reduction in terms of office, which petition has been signed by voters of the port district equal in number to at least ten percent of the number of voters in the port district voting at the last general election. The petition shall be submitted to the county auditor. If the petition was signed by sufficient valid signatures, the ballot proposition shall be submitted at the next general election that occurs sixty or more days after the adoption of the resolution or submission of the petition.

If the ballot proposition reducing the terms of office of port commissioners is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the proposition, the commissioner or commissioners who are elected at that election shall be elected to four-year terms of office. The terms of office of the other commissioners shall not be reduced, but each successor



shall be elected to a four-year term of office. [2013 c 160 § 1; 1994 c 223 § 89; 1992 c 146 § 3.]

**53.12.221 Terms—Districts covering entire county with populations of one hundred thousand or more.** Port commissioners of countywide port districts with populations of one hundred thousand or more who are holding office as of June 11, 1992, shall retain their positions for the remainder of their terms until their successors are elected and qualified, and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. Their successors shall be elected to four-year terms of office except as otherwise provided in RCW 53.12.130. [2015 c 53 § 81; 1992 c 146 § 4.]

**53.12.245 Organization of commission—Powers and duties—Record of proceedings.** The port commission shall organize by the election of its own members of a president and secretary, shall by resolution adopt rules governing the transaction of its business and shall adopt an official seal. All proceedings of the port commission shall be by motion or resolution recorded in a book or books kept for such purpose, which shall be public records. [1955 c 348 § 6.]

*Public records: Title 40 RCW, chapter 42.56 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.12.246 Quorum.** A majority of the persons holding the office of port commissioner at any time shall constitute a quorum of the port 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 unless there are in office at least a majority of the full number of commissioners fixed by law. [1959 c 17 § 12. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690.]

**53.12.260 Compensation.** (1) Each commissioner of a port district shall receive ninety dollars, as adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management in subsection (4) of this section, per day or portion thereof spent (a) in actual attendance at official meetings of the port district commission, or (b) in performance of other official services or duties on behalf of the district. The total per diem compensation of a port commissioner shall not exceed eight thousand six hundred forty dollars in a year, as adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management in subsection (4) of this section, or ten thousand eight hundred dollars in any year, as adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management in subsection (4) of this section, for a port district with gross operating income of twenty-five million or more in the preceding calendar year.

(2) Port commissioners shall receive additional compensation as follows: (a) Each commissioner of a port district with gross operating revenues of twenty-five million dollars or more in the preceding calendar year shall receive a salary of five hundred dollars per month, as adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management in subsection (4) of this section; and (b) each commissioner of a port district with gross operating revenues of from one million dollars to less than twenty-five million dollars in the preceding calendar year shall receive a salary of two hundred dollars per month,

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as adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) In lieu of the compensation specified in this section, a port commission may set compensation to be paid to commissioners.

(4) For any commissioner who has not elected to become a member of public employees retirement system before May 1, 1975, the compensation provided pursuant to this section shall not be considered salary for purposes of the provisions of any retirement system created pursuant to the general laws of this state nor shall attendance at such meetings or other service on behalf of the district constitute service as defined in RCW 41.40.010(37): PROVIDED, That in the case of a port district when commissioners are receiving compensation and contributing to the public employees retirement system, these benefits shall continue in full force and effect notwithstanding the provisions of this section and RCW 53.12.265.

The dollar thresholds for salaries and per diem compensation established in this section must be adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management every five years, beginning January 1, 2024, based upon changes in the consumer price index during that time period. "Consumer price index" means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer price index, for Washington state, for wage earners and clerical workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor and statistics, United States department of labor. If the bureau of labor and statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people, covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and including all items shall be used for the adjustments for inflation in this section. The office of financial management must calculate the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the office of the code reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

A person holding office as commissioner for two or more special purpose districts shall receive only that per diem compensation authorized for one of his or her commissioner positions as compensation for attending an official meeting or conducting official services or duties while representing more than one of his or her districts. However, such commissioner may receive additional per diem compensation if approved by resolution of all boards of the affected commissions. [2020 c 83 § 3; 2011 c 152 § 1; 2007 c 469 § 3; 1998 c 121 § 3; 1992 c 146 § 12; 1985 c 330 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 187 § 1.]

**53.12.265 Waiver of compensation.** A commissioner of any port district may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under RCW 53.12.260 as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the secretary of the commission. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which said compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made. [2010 c 8 § 16004; 1975 1st ex.s. c 187 § 2.]

**53.12.270 Delegation of powers to managing official of port district—Waiver of competitive bidding require-**

**ments.** (1) The commission may delegate to the managing official of a port district such administrative powers and duties of the commission as it may deem proper for the efficient and proper management of port district operations. Any such delegation shall be authorized by appropriate resolution of the commission, which resolution must also establish guidelines and procedures for the managing official to follow.

(2) The commission shall establish, by resolution, policies to comply with RCW 39.04.280 that set forth the conditions by which competitive bidding requirements for public works contracts may be waived. [2008 c 130 § 18; 1975 1st ex.s. c 12 § 1.]

### Chapter 53.16 RCW

#### REVISION OF COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

##### Sections

- 53.16.015 Redrawing commissioner district boundaries—Conditions.
- 53.16.020 Notice of hearing on revision.
- 53.16.030 Change of district boundaries—Effect on term of office.

**53.16.015 Redrawing commissioner district boundaries—Conditions.** The port commission of a port district that uses commissioner districts may redraw the commissioner district boundaries as provided in chapter 29A.76 RCW or RCW 29A.92.040 or 29A.92.110 at any time and submit the redrawn boundaries to the county auditor if the port district is not coterminous with a county that has the same number of county legislative authority districts as the port has port commissioners. The new commissioner districts shall be used at the next election at which a port commissioner is regularly elected that occurs at least one hundred eighty days after the redrawn boundaries have been submitted. Each commissioner district shall encompass as nearly as possible the same population. [2019 c 454 § 9; 2015 c 53 § 82; 1994 c 223 § 90; 1992 c 146 § 10.]

**Retroactive application—Effective date—2019 c 454:** See notes following RCW 29A.92.050.

**53.16.020 Notice of hearing on revision.** The revision of boundary lines provided for in this chapter shall be made only at a meeting of the board of port commissioners with attendance of all of the members of the commission, which meeting shall be public, following notice of said meeting, and the purpose thereof published in a newspaper of general circulation within the port district, or, if there be no such newspaper published within the district, in a newspaper published at the county seat of the county in which such port district is located. Such notice shall be published not less than twice, the date of the first publication to be not less than fifteen nor more than twenty days prior to the date fixed for said hearing, and shall state the time, place and purpose of the hearing. [1933 c 145 § 3; RRS § 9708-3.]

**53.16.030 Change of district boundaries—Effect on term of office.** Any change of boundary lines provided for in this chapter shall not affect the term for which a commissioner shall hold office at the time the change is made. If the port district commission is redrawing the commissioner district boundaries pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040 or 29A.92.110, each commissioner position is subject to elec-

tion at the next general election. [2019 c 454 § 10; 1992 c 146 § 11; 1933 c 145 § 4; RRS § 9704-8.]

**Retroactive application—Effective date—2019 c 454:** See notes following RCW 29A.92.050.

### Chapter 53.18 RCW

#### EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS—COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ARBITRATION

##### Sections

- 53.18.010 Definitions.
- 53.18.015 Application of public employees' collective bargaining act.
- 53.18.020 Agreements authorized.
- 53.18.030 Criteria for choice of employee organization—Procedures for resolution of controversy.
- 53.18.040 Incidental powers of district.
- 53.18.050 Agreements—Authorized provisions.
- 53.18.060 Restraints on agreement.

**53.18.010 Definitions.** "Port district" shall mean a municipal corporation of the state of Washington created pursuant to Title 53 RCW. Said port districts may also be herein-after referred to as the "employer."

"Employee" shall include all port employees except managerial and administrative personnel, and their confidential assistants.

"Employee organization" means any lawful association, labor organization, union, federation, council, or brotherhood, having as its primary purpose the representation of employees on matters of employment relations.

"Employment relations" includes, but is not limited to, matters concerning wages, salaries, hours, vacation, sick leave, holiday pay and grievance procedures. [2018 c 251 § 1; 1967 c 101 § 1.]

**53.18.015 Application of public employees' collective bargaining act.** Port districts and their employees shall be covered by the provisions of chapter 41.56 RCW except as provided otherwise in this chapter. [1983 c 287 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.18.020 Agreements authorized.** Port districts may enter into labor agreements or contracts with employee organizations on matters of employment relations: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize any employee, or employee organization to cause or engage in a strike or stoppage of work or slowdown or similar activity against any port district. [1967 c 101 § 2.]

**53.18.030 Criteria for choice of employee organization—Procedures for resolution of controversy.** In determining which employee organization will represent them, employees shall have maximum freedom in exercising their right of self-organization.

Controversies as to the choice of employee organization within a port shall be submitted to the public employment relations commission. Employee organizations may agree with the port district to independently resolve jurisdictional disputes: PROVIDED, That when no other procedure is available the procedures of RCW 49.08.010 shall be followed in resolving such disputes. In such case the chair of the public employment relations commission shall, at the request of any employee organization, arbitrate any dispute between

employee organizations and enter a binding award in such dispute. [2010 c 8 § 16005; 1975 1st ex.s. c 296 § 38; 1967 c 101 § 3.]

*Powers and duties of public employment relations commission: Chapter 41.58 RCW.*

**53.18.040 Incidental powers of district.** Port districts exercising the authority granted by RCW 53.18.020 may take any of the following actions as incidental thereto: Make necessary expenditures; act jointly with other ports or employers; engage technical assistance; make appearances before and utilize the services of state or federal agencies, boards, courts, or commissions; make retroactive payments of wages where provided by agreements; and exercise all other necessary powers to carry this chapter into effect, including the promulgation of rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. [1967 c 101 § 4.]

**53.18.050 Agreements—Authorized provisions.** A labor agreement signed by a port district may contain:

(1) Provisions that the employee organization chosen by a majority of the employees in a grouping or unit will be recognized as the representative of all employees in the classification included in such grouping or unit;

(2) Maintenance of membership provisions including dues cross-check arrangements as provided in RCW 41.56.095; and

(3) Provisions providing for binding arbitration, the expenses being equally borne by the parties, in matters of contract interpretation and the settlement of jurisdictional disputes. [2019 c 230 § 24; 1967 c 101 § 5.]

**53.18.060 Restraints on agreement.** No labor agreement or contract entered into by a port district shall:

(1) Restrict the right of the port district in its discretion to hire;

(2) Limit the right of the port to secure its regular or steady employees from the local community;

(3) Include within the same agreements: (a) Port security personnel and (b) port supervisory personnel; and

(4) Include within the same bargaining unit: (a) Port professional personnel and (b) port supervisory personnel. [2018 c 251 § 2; 1967 c 101 § 6.]

**Chapter 53.19 RCW**

**PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS**

Sections

53.19.005	Intent.
53.19.010	Definitions.
53.19.020	Exceptions.
53.19.030	Emergency contracts.
53.19.040	Sole source contracts.
53.19.050	Compliance with chapter—Civil penalties—Auditing—Prosecution.
53.19.060	Changes in scope of work—Amendments to contracts.
53.19.070	Application of chapter restricted.
53.19.080	Management of contracts—Guidelines.
53.19.090	Commission policies—Ports to follow.
53.19.100	Training course.

**53.19.005 Intent.** The legislature hereby establishes a policy of open competition for all personal service contracts entered into by port districts unless specifically exempted

under this chapter. It is further the intent to provide differentiation between the competitive procurement procedures for personal and professional services contracts. [2008 c 130 § 5.]

**53.19.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commission" means the elected oversight body of an individual port.

(2) "Competitive solicitation" means a documented formal process providing an equal and open opportunity to qualified parties and culminating in a selection based on criteria, in which criteria other than price may be the primary basis for consideration. The criteria may include such factors as the consultant's fees or costs, ability, capacity, experience, reputation, responsiveness to time limitations, responsiveness to solicitation requirements, quality of previous performance, and compliance with statutes and rules relating to contracts or services.

(3) "Consultant" means an independent individual or firm contracting with a port to perform a service or render an opinion or recommendation according to the consultant's methods and without being subject to the control of the port except as to the result of the work. The port monitors progress under the contract and authorizes payment.

(4) "Emergency" means a set of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the port that either:

(a) Present a real, immediate threat to the proper performance of essential functions; or

(b) May result in material loss or damage to property, bodily injury, or loss of life if immediate action is not taken.

(5) "Evidence of competition" means documentation demonstrating that the port has solicited responses from multiple firms in selecting a consultant.

(6) "Personal service" means professional or technical expertise provided by a consultant to accomplish a specific study, project, task, or other work statement which may not reasonably be required in connection with a public works project meeting the definition in RCW 39.04.010(4). "Personal service" does not include purchased services as defined under subsection (8) of this section or professional services procured using the competitive selection requirements in chapter 39.80 RCW.

(7) "Personal service contract" means an agreement, or any amendment thereto, with a consultant for the rendering of personal services to the port.

(8) "Purchased services" means services provided by a vendor to accomplish routine, continuing, and necessary functions. "Purchased services" includes, but is not limited to, services for equipment maintenance and repair; operation of a physical plant; security; computer hardware and software maintenance; data entry; key punch services; and computer time-sharing, contract programming, and analysis.

(9) "Sole source" means a consultant providing professional or technical expertise of such a unique nature that the consultant is clearly and justifiably the only practicable source to provide the service. The justification shall be based on the uniqueness of the service, sole availability at the location required, or warranty or defect correction service obligations of the consultant. [2008 c 130 § 6.]

**53.19.020 Exceptions.** All personal service contracts shall be entered into pursuant to competitive solicitation, except for:

- (1) Emergency contracts;
- (2) Sole source contracts;
- (3) Contract amendments;
- (4) Contracts between a consultant and a port of less than fifty thousand dollars. However, contracts of fifty thousand dollars or greater but less than two hundred thousand dollars shall have documented evidence of competition. Ports shall not structure contracts to evade these requirements; and
- (5) Other specific contracts or classes or groups of contracts exempted from the competitive solicitation process by the commission when it has been determined that a competitive solicitation process is not appropriate or cost-effective. [2008 c 130 § 7.]

**53.19.030 Emergency contracts.** Emergency contracts shall be filed with the commission and made available for public inspection within seven working days following the commencement of work or execution of the contract, whichever occurs first. Documented justification for emergency contracts shall be provided to the commission when the contract is filed. [2008 c 130 § 8.]

**53.19.040 Sole source contracts.** (1) Sole source contracts shall be filed with the commission and made available for public inspection prior to the proposed starting date of the contract. Documented justification for sole source contracts shall be provided to the commission when the contract is filed. For sole source contracts of fifty thousand dollars or more, documented justification shall include evidence that the port attempted to identify potential consultants.

(2) The commission shall ensure that the costs, fees, or rates negotiated in filed sole source contracts of fifty thousand dollars or more are reasonable. [2008 c 130 § 9.]

**53.19.050 Compliance with chapter—Civil penalties—Auditing—Prosecution.** A port commissioner or employee shall not expend any funds for personal service contracts subject to this chapter unless the port has complied with the competitive procurement and other requirements of this chapter. The port commissioner or employee executing the personal service contracts is responsible for compliance with the requirements of this chapter. Willful and intentional failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter subjects the port commissioner or employee to a civil penalty in the amount of three hundred dollars. A consultant who knowingly violates this chapter in seeking or performing work under a personal services contract is subject to a civil penalty of three hundred dollars or twenty-five percent of the amount of the contract, whichever is greater. The state auditor is responsible for auditing violations of this chapter through its regular financial and accountability audits. The attorney general is responsible for prosecuting violations of this chapter. [2008 c 130 § 10.]

**53.19.060 Changes in scope of work—Amendments to contracts.** (1) Substantial changes in the scope of work specified in the contract or which are substantial additions to the scope of work specified in the formal solicitation docu-

ment shall be submitted to the commission for a determination as to whether the change warrants the work to be awarded as a new contract.

(2) An amendment or amendments to personal service contracts, if the value of the amendment or amendments, whether singly or cumulatively, exceeds fifty percent of the value of the original contract must be filed with the commission and made available for public inspection prior to the proposed starting date of services under the amendments. [2008 c 130 § 11.]

**53.19.070 Application of chapter restricted.** This chapter does not apply to:

- (1) Contracts specifying a fee of less than fifty thousand dollars;
- (2) Contracts awarded to companies that furnish a service where the tariff is established by the utilities and transportation commission or other public entity;
- (3) Intergovernmental agreements awarded to any governmental entity, whether federal, state, or local and any department, division, or subdivision thereof;
- (4) Contracts awarded for services to be performed for a standard fee, when the standard fee is established by the contracting agency or any other governmental entity and a like contract is available to all qualified applicants;
- (5) Contracts for services that are necessary to the conduct of collaborative research if prior approval is granted by the funding source;
- (6) Contracts for professional services which are entered into under chapter 39.80 RCW; and
- (7) Contracts for the employment of expert witnesses for the purposes of litigation or legal services to supplement the expertise of port staff. [2008 c 130 § 12.]

**53.19.080 Management of contracts—Guidelines.**

(1) The municipal research [and] services center, in cooperation with the Washington public ports association, shall develop guidelines for the effective and efficient management of personal service contracts by all ports. The guidelines must, at a minimum, include:

- (a) Accounting methods, systems, measures, and principles to be used by ports and consultants;
- (b) Precontract procedures for selecting potential consultants based on their qualifications and ability to perform;
- (c) Incorporation of performance measures and measurable benchmarks in contracts, and the use of performance audits;
- (d) Uniform contract terms to ensure contract performance and compliance with port, state, and federal standards;
- (e) Proper payment and reimbursement methods to ensure that the port receives full value for taxpayer moneys, including cost settlements and cost allowance;
- (f) Postcontract procedures, including methods for recovering improperly spent or overspent moneys for disallowance and adjustment;
- (g) Adequate contract remedies and sanctions to ensure compliance;
- (h) Monitoring, fund tracking, risk assessment, and auditing procedures and requirements;
- (i) Financial reporting, record retention, and record access procedures and requirements;

(j) Procedures and criteria for terminating contracts for cause or otherwise; and

(k) Any other subject related to effective and efficient contract management.

(2) The municipal research [and] services center shall submit a status report on the guidelines required by subsection (1) of this section to the governor and the appropriate standing committees of the legislature no later than December 1, 2008.

(3) The Washington public ports association shall publish a guidebook for use by ports containing the guidelines developed under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The municipal research [and] services center and the Washington public ports association shall each make the guidelines available on their web sites. [2008 c 130 § 13.]

**53.19.090 Commission policies—Ports to follow.** (1) A port entering into or amending personal service contracts shall follow the policies adopted by the commission, which shall be based on guidelines developed pursuant to RCW 53.19.080.

(2) This section applies to ports entering into or renewing contracts after January 1, 2010. [2008 c 130 § 14.]

**53.19.100 Training course.** The Washington public ports association shall provide a training course for port personnel responsible for executing and managing personal service contracts. The course must contain training on effective and efficient contract management under the guidelines established under RCW 53.19.080. Port districts shall require port employees responsible for executing or managing personal service contracts to complete the training course to the satisfaction of the commission. [2008 c 130 § 15.]

**Chapter 53.20 RCW  
HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS**

Sections

- 53.20.010 Adoption of harbor improvement plan.
- 53.20.020 Improvement to follow plans adopted.
- 53.20.030 Improvements—Ownership of.
- 53.20.040 Fifty percent of cost of local improvement may be paid from general fund.
- 53.20.050 Local improvements upon majority petition.

*Joint improvement of navigable rivers: RCW 88.32.240 and 88.32.250.*

**53.20.010 Adoption of harbor improvement plan.** It shall be the duty of the port commission of any port district, before creating any improvements hereunder, to adopt a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvement in the port district, after a public hearing thereon, of which notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the port district, and no expenditure for the carrying on of any harbor improvements shall be made by the port commission other than the necessary salaries, including engineers, clerical and office expenses of the port district, and the cost of engineering, surveying, preparation and collection of data necessary for the making and adoption of a general scheme of harbor improvements in the port district, unless and until the comprehensive scheme of harbor improvement has been so officially adopted by the port com-

mission. [1985 c 469 § 51; 1943 c 166 § 3; 1913 c 62 § 6; 1911 c 92 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9694.]

**53.20.020 Improvement to follow plans adopted.** When such general plans shall have been adopted or approved, as aforesaid, every improvement to be made by said commission shall be made substantially in accordance therewith unless and until such general plans shall have been officially changed by the port commission after a public hearing thereon, of which at least ten days' notice shall be published in a newspaper in general circulation in such port district. [1947 c 24 § 1; 1913 c 62 § 7; 1911 c 92 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9695.]

**53.20.030 Improvements—Ownership of.** No improvements shall be acquired or constructed, by the port district, unless such improvements shall, when completed, be the property of such port district, the county in which such port district is located, any city within such port district, the state of Washington or the United States of America, and the funds of such port district may be expended in the acquirement or construction of any harbor improvement embraced in such general plan adopted as in this chapter provided in conjunction with the county in which such port district is located, any city in such port district, the state of Washington or the United States of America, or all or any of them. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 9; 1913 c 62 § 8; 1911 c 92 § 8; RRS § 9696.]

**53.20.040 Fifty percent of cost of local improvement may be paid from general fund.** Whenever any improvement shall be ordered, payment for which shall be made in part from assessments against property specially benefited, not more than fifty percent of the cost thereof shall ever be borne by the entire port district, nor shall any sum be contributed by it to any improvement acquired or constructed with or by any other body, exceed [exceeding] such amount, unless a majority vote of the electors of the port district shall consent to or ratify the making of such expenditure. [1911 c 92 § 11; RRS § 9698.]

**53.20.050 Local improvements upon majority petition.** Whenever a petition signed by one hundred freeholders in the district to be therein described, shall be filed with the port commission, asking that any portion of the general plan adopted be ordered, and defining the boundaries of a local improvement district to be assessed in whole or in part to pay the cost thereof, it shall be the duty of the port commission to fix a date for hearing on the petition, after which it may alter the boundaries of the proposed district and prepare and adopt detail plans of any such local improvement, declare the estimated cost thereof, what proportion of the cost shall be borne by the proposed local improvement district, and what proportion of the cost, if any, but in any event not to exceed fifty percent, shall be borne by the entire port district. At any time within two years thereafter, upon petition of the owners of a majority of the lands in the proposed local improvement district, fixed by the port commission, as shown in the office of the auditor of the county, asking that the improvement be ordered, the port commission shall forthwith by resolution order the improvement, provide the general funds of the port district to be applied thereto, acquire all lands necessary

therefor, pay all damages caused thereby, and commence in the name of the port district such eminent domain proceedings and supplemental assessment or reassessment proceedings to pay all eminent domain awards as may be necessary to entitle the port district to proceed with such work, and shall thereafter proceed with the work, and shall make and file with the county treasurer its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property situated within the local improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property in the local improvement district from the improvement. Before the approval of the roll a notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the local improvement district, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the clerk of the port commission, and fixing a time not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice within which protests must be filed with the clerk of the port commission against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing shall be held by the commission on the protests. After the hearing the port commission may alter any and all assessments shown on the roll and may then by resolution approve the same, but in the event of any assessment being raised a new notice similar to the first notice shall be given, after which final approval of the roll may be made by the port commission. Any person feeling aggrieved by any such assessments shall perfect an appeal to the superior court of the county within ten days after the approval in the manner now provided by law for appeals from assessments levied by cities of the first class in this state. Engineering and office expenses in all cases shall be borne by the general district. [1985 c 469 § 52; 1911 c 92 § 10; RRS § 9697. Formerly RCW 53.20.050 through 53.20.080.]

*Appeal from assessments: RCW 35.44.200 through 35.44.270.*

*Special assessments for local improvement: State Constitution Art. 7 § 9.*

### Chapter 53.25 RCW

#### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS— MARGINAL LANDS

##### Sections

53.25.010	Marginal lands—Declaration of policies and purposes.
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**53.25.010 Marginal lands—Declaration of policies and purposes.** It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the legislature of the state of Washington, that it is in the public interest to employ the power of eminent domain and advance and expend public moneys for the purposes herein contained, and to provide for means by which marginal area properties may be developed or redeveloped in accordance with the legislative policies hereinafter stated:

(1) A sound development of the economic security of the peoples of the state of Washington is dependent upon proper development and redevelopment of marginal properties, and the general welfare of the inhabitants of the port districts in which they exist require the remedying of such injurious conditions marginal properties are now subjected to.

(2) The development and redevelopment of such marginal area properties cannot be accomplished by private enterprise alone without public participation and assistance in the acquisition of land and planning and in the financing of land assembly in the work of clearance, development and redevelopment, and in the making of improvements necessary therefor.

(3) To protect and promote sound development and redevelopment of marginal lands as hereinafter defined, and the general welfare of the inhabitants of the port districts in which they exist, to remedying such injurious conditions through the employment of all appropriate means.

(4) That whenever the development or redevelopment of such marginal lands cannot be accomplished by private enterprise alone, without public participation and assistance in the acquisition of land and planning and in financing of land assembly in the work of clearance, development and redevelopment, and in the making of improvements necessary therefor, it is in the public interest to employ the power of eminent domain, to advance and expend public moneys for those purposes, and to provide for means by which such marginal lands may be developed or redeveloped.

(5) That the development or redevelopment of such marginal lands and the provision of appropriate continuing land use constitute public uses and purposes for which public moneys may be advanced or expended and private property acquired, and are governmental functions and are of state concern in the interest of health, safety and welfare of the state of Washington, and of the communities in which such areas exist.

(6) That the necessity in the public interest for the provision of this chapter is declared to be a matter of legislative determination. [1955 c 73 § 1.]

**53.25.020 Marginal lands—Further declaration.** It is further found and declared that:

(1) The existence of such marginal lands characterized by any or all of such conditions constitutes a serious and growing menace which is condemned as injurious and inimical to the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the communities in which they exist and of the people of the state.

(2) Such marginal lands present difficulties and handicaps which are beyond remedy and control solely by regulatory processes in the exercise of the police power.

(3) They contribute substantially and increasingly to the problems of, and necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures for, crime prevention, correction, prosecution, and punishment, the treatment of juvenile delinquency, the preservation of the public health and safety, and the maintaining of adequate police, fire and accident protection, and other public services and facilities.

(4) This menace is becoming increasingly direct and substantial in its significance and effect.

(5) The benefits which will result from the remedying of such conditions and the redevelopment of such marginal lands will accrue to all the inhabitants and property owners of the communities in which they exist.

(6) Such conditions of marginal lands tend to further obsolescence, deterioration, and disuse because of the lack of incentive to the individual landowner and his or her inability to improve, modernize, or rehabilitate his or her property while the condition of the neighboring properties remains unchanged.

(7) As a consequence the process of deterioration of such marginal lands frequently cannot be halted or corrected except by redeveloping the entire area, or substantial portions of it.

(8) Such conditions of marginal lands are chiefly found in areas subdivided into small parcels, held in divided and widely scattered ownerships, frequently under defective titles, and in many such instances the private assembly of the land areas for redevelopment is so difficult and costly that it is uneconomic and as a practical matter impossible for owners to undertake because of lack of the legal power and excessive costs.

(9) The remedying of such conditions may require the public acquisition at fair prices of adequate areas, the redevelopment of the areas suffering from such conditions under proper supervision, with appropriate planning, and continuing land use.

(10) The development or redevelopment of land, or both, acquired under the authority of this chapter constitute a public use and are governmental functions, and that the sale or leasing of such land after the same has been developed or redeveloped is merely incidental to the accomplishment of the real or fundamental purpose, that is, to remove the condition which caused said property to be marginal property as in this chapter defined. [2010 c 8 § 16006; 1955 c 73 § 2.]

**53.25.030 "Marginal lands" defined.** "Marginal lands" is defined and characterized by any one or more of the following described conditions:

(1) An economic dislocation, deterioration, or disuse resulting from faulty planning.

(2) The subdividing and sale of lots of irregular form and shape and inadequate size for proper usefulness and development.

(3) The laying out of lots in disregard of the contours and other physical characteristics of the ground and surrounding conditions.

(4) The existence of inadequate streets, open spaces, and utilities.

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(5) The existence of lots or other areas which are subject to being submerged by water.

(6) By a prevalence of depreciated values, impaired investments, and social and economic maladjustment to such an extent that the capacity to pay taxes is reduced and tax receipts are inadequate for the cost of public services rendered.

(7) In some parts of marginal lands, a growing or total lack of proper utilization of areas, resulting in a stagnant and unproductive condition of land potentially useful and valuable for contributing to the public health, safety and welfare.

(8) In other parts of marginal lands, a loss of population and reduction of proper utilization of the area, resulting in its further deterioration and added costs to the taxpayer for the creation of new public facilities and services elsewhere.

(9) Property of an assessed valuation of insufficient amount to permit the establishment of a local improvement district for the construction and installation of streets, walks, sewers, water and other utilities.

(10) Lands within an industrial area which are not devoted to industrial use but which are necessary to industrial development within the industrial area. [1955 c 73 § 3.]

**53.25.040 Industrial development districts authorized—Boundaries—Deletion of land area.** (1) A port commission may, after a public hearing thereon, of which at least ten days' notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the port district, create industrial development districts within the district and define the boundaries thereof, if it finds that the creation of the industrial development district is proper and desirable in establishing and developing a system of harbor improvements and industrial development in the port district.

(2)(a) The boundaries of an industrial development district created by subsection (1) of this section may be revised from time to time by resolution of the port commission, to delete land area therefrom, if the land area to be deleted was acquired by the port district with its own funds or by gift or transfer other than pursuant to RCW 53.25.050 or 53.25.060.

(b) As to any land area to be deleted under this subsection that was acquired or improved by the port district with funds obtained through RCW \*53.36.100 or 53.36.160, the port district must deposit funds equal to the fair market value of the lands and improvements into the fund for future use described in RCW \*53.36.100 or 53.36.160 and such funds are thereafter subject to RCW \*53.36.100 or 53.36.160. The fair market value of the land and improvements must be determined as of the effective date of the port commission action deleting the land from the industrial development district and must be determined by an average of at least two independent appraisals by professionally designated real estate appraisers or licensed real estate brokers. The funds must be deposited into the fund for future use described in \*RCW 53.36.100 within ninety days of the effective date of the port commission action deleting the land area from the industrial district. Land areas deleted from an industrial development district under this subsection are not further subject to the provisions of this chapter. This subsection applies to presently existing and future industrial development districts. Land areas deleted from an industrial development district under this subsection that were included within

such district for less than two years, if the port district acquired the land through condemnation or as a consequence of threatened condemnation, must be offered for sale, for cash, at the appraised price, to the former owner of the property from whom the district obtained title. Such offer must be made by certified or registered letter to the last known address of the former owner. The letter must include the appraised price of the property and notice that the former owner must respond in writing within thirty days or lose the right to purchase. If this right to purchase is exercised, the sale must be closed by midnight of the sixtieth day, including nonbusiness days, following close of the thirty-day period. [2015 c 135 § 2; 1989 c 167 § 1; 1985 c 469 § 53; 1955 c 73 § 4. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 1; 1939 c 45 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9709-1; RCW 53.24.010.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 53.36.100 was repealed by 2015 c 135 § 5, effective January 1, 2026.

#### **53.25.050 Tax title lands may be conveyed to district.**

Any lands in an industrial development district acquired by the county by tax foreclosure, may, if the county commissioners deem the lands chiefly valuable for industrial development purposes, be conveyed to the port district. The lands shall be held in trust by the port district and may be managed, developed, leased, or sold by it as provided in this chapter.

From the proceeds of the sale or lease of the lands, the district shall first reimburse itself for any expense incurred by it in managing and developing the lands and any balance shall be paid to the county, which shall distribute it the same as general taxes collected in that year. [1955 c 73 § 5. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 2; RRS § 9709-2; RCW 53.24.020.]

**53.25.060 Private lands may be conveyed to district—Cancellation of taxes.** With the approval of the county commissioners, any lands in an industrial development district, owned privately, which the port commission deems valuable for industrial development purposes, may be deeded to and accepted by the port district, subject to delinquent general taxes thereon. When the commission has recorded the deed and notified the county commissioners thereof, the county commissioners shall order all taxes assessed against the lands canceled and the county treasurer shall record the cancellation, and remove the lands from the tax rolls. Thereafter the lands shall be held in trust, managed, developed, leased, and sold by the district, and the proceeds therefrom disposed of in the same manner as hereinabove provided. [1955 c 73 § 6. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 3; RRS § 9709-3; RCW 53.24.030.]

**53.25.070 Discharge of trust.** With the approval of the county commissioners, a port district may free any lands acquired by it pursuant to this chapter from the trust imposed upon it herein, by paying to the county the amount of the delinquent taxes against the land at the time the county acquired it by tax foreclosure, or the amount of the delinquent taxes against it when it was conveyed to the district by the private owner. [1955 c 73 § 7. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 4; RRS § 9709-4; RCW 53.24.040.]

**53.25.080 When lands revert to county.** Ten years from the date of its acquisition, property acquired by a port

district pursuant to this chapter shall revert to the county to be used the same as property acquired by tax foreclosure, and upon demand by the county commissioners the port commission shall convey the property to the county, unless before the expiration of the ten year period, the port district has adopted a comprehensive plan of harbor improvement which provides for the improvement of an industrial development district which includes such lands or the district has freed the land from the trust imposed upon it as provided in this chapter. [1955 c 73 § 8. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 8; RRS § 9709-8; RCW 53.24.050.]

**53.25.090 Conditions precedent to making improvements.** No expenditure for improvement of property in an industrial development district, other than the expense of preparing and submitting a plan of improvement shall be made by a port district, and no property shall be acquired by it therefor except as provided for hereinbefore until it has been made a part of the comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments or amendments thereto.

That said comprehensive scheme or amendments thereto shall provide for the development or redevelopment of those marginal lands acquired and a provision for the continuing of the land uses which are hereby declared to constitute public uses and the purposes for which public moneys may be advanced and provide property acquired. [1955 c 73 § 9. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 5; RRS § 9709-5; RCW 53.24.060.]

**53.25.100 Powers as to industrial development districts.** All port districts wherein industrial development districts have been established are authorized and empowered to acquire by purchase or condemnation or both, all lands, property and property rights necessary for the purpose of the development and improvement of such industrial development district and to exercise the right of eminent domain in the acquirement or damaging of all lands, property and property rights and the levying and collecting of assessments upon property for the payment of all damages and compensation in carrying out the provisions for which said industrial development district has been created; to develop and improve the lands within such industrial development district to make the same suitable and available for industrial uses and purposes; to dredge, bulkhead, fill, grade, and protect such property; to provide, maintain, and operate water, light, power and fire protection facilities and services, streets, roads, bridges, highways, waterways, tracks, and rail and water transfer and terminal facilities and other harbor and industrial improvements; to execute leases of such lands or property or any part thereof; to establish local improvement districts within such industrial development districts which may, but need not, be coextensive with the boundaries thereof, and to levy special assessments, under the mode of annual installments, over a period not exceeding ten years, on all property specially benefited by any local improvement, on the basis of special benefits, to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of any improvement ordered in such local improvement district; to issue local improvement bonds in any such local improvement district; to be repaid by the collection of local improvement assessments; and generally to exercise with respect to and within such industrial development districts all the powers now or hereafter conferred by



law upon port districts in counties with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more: PROVIDED, That the exercise of powers hereby authorized and granted shall be in the manner now and hereafter provided by the laws of the state for the exercise of such powers by port districts under the general laws relating thereto insofar as the same shall not be inconsistent with this chapter. [1991 c 363 § 132; 1955 c 73 § 10. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 6; RRS § 9709-6; RCW 53.24.070.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16 (Amendment 9); Title 8 RCW.*

**53.25.110 Sale authorized in industrial development district.** When a port commission deems it for the best interests of the district and the people thereof and in furtherance of its general plan of harbor improvement, or industrial development, or both, it may sell and convey any property or part thereof owned by it within an industrial district. This section shall not be limited by chapter 53.08 RCW, pertaining to powers of port districts. [1955 c 73 § 11. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 9; RRS § 9709-9; RCW 53.28.010.]

*Harbor improvement plan: RCW 53.20.010.*

**53.25.120 Notice of hearing on sale—Hearing—Plans and specifications—Conditions—Devotion of property to public use.** The port commission shall give notice of the proposed sale by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, and by posting in three public places in the port district at least ten days before the date fixed for the hearing thereon.

The notice shall describe the property to be sold and state that at the time and place specified therein, the commission will meet at its usual meeting place, designating it, to hear and determine the advisability of the sale.

The hearing shall be held not more than twenty days from the publication of notice. At the hearing the commission shall hear the reasons of any taxpayer in the port district, for or against the sale.

No sales shall be made, however, of the property of any industrial development district until the purchaser thereof shall have submitted to the port commission plans and specifications for the development of the property, and the plans and specifications shall be approved in writing before the property shall be conveyed, and the conditions upon which the properties are conveyed shall be set forth in the instrument conveying title thereof with the further condition that all of the conditions set forth shall be covenants running with the land. All properties acquired in the manner herein set forth shall be devoted to the public use herein provided for. [1985 c 469 § 54; 1963 c 138 § 1; 1955 c 73 § 12. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 10; RRS § 9709-10; RCW 53.28.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.25.130 Findings and determination—Record—Appeal.** Within three days after the hearing the commission shall make its findings and determination on the advisability of making the sale and enter its determination in its records. Any aggrieved party may appeal the determination of the commission by filing appeal with the superior court of the

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county in which the district is located within twenty days of the entry of the determination but no appeal shall be allowed except on the grounds that the action of the commission was arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful. [1955 c 73 § 13. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 11; RRS § 9709-11; RCW 53.28.030.]

**53.25.140 Action on determination—Sale by competitive bid or negotiation.** If the determination is against the sale, all proceedings thereon shall terminate. If the commission determines in favor of the sale by at least a two-thirds vote of the full commission, it shall in its discretion, either enter an order fixing a period, not less than twenty nor more than thirty days from the date of the order, during which bids will be received for the property or any part thereof, and give notice thereof in the same manner as for the hearing on the proposal to sell or negotiate the sale with an appropriate purchaser, provided that in any such negotiated sale the purchase price must not be less than the fair market value of the property which shall be determined by an average of at least two independent appraisals performed by licensed real estate brokers or professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in \*RCW 74.46.020. Whether the property is sold by competitive bidding or negotiation, other real property conveyed by the purchaser to the commission may constitute all or a portion of the consideration for the sale. [1984 c 195 § 1; 1955 c 73 § 14. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 12; RRS § 9709-12; RCW 53.28.040.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 74.46.020 was amended by 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 2, deleting the definition of "professionally designated real estate appraiser."

**53.25.150 Competitive bids—Conditions—Acceptance.** If the commission chooses to sell the property through competitive bidding under RCW 53.25.140:

(1) Bids may be submitted for the property or any part of it, shall state the use which the bidder intends to make of it, and the commission may require the successful bidder to file additional information as to the intended use, and may require of him or her security as assurance that the property will be used for that purpose;

(2) All sales shall be made to the best bidder, and in determining the best bid, the commission may also consider the nature of the proposed use and the relation thereof to the improvement of the harbor and the business and facilities thereof;

(3) Within thirty days after the last day for submitting bids, the commission shall decide which if any bids it accepts. All sales shall be made upon such terms and conditions as the commission may prescribe. [2010 c 8 § 16007; 1984 c 195 § 2; 1955 c 73 § 15. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 13, part; RRS § 9709-13, part; RCW 53.28.050.]

**53.25.160 Devotion of property to intended use—Remedy—Restraint on alienation.** The purchaser shall, within one year from the date of purchase, devote the property to its intended use, or shall commence work on the improvements thereon to devote it to such use, and if he or she fails to do so, the port commission may cancel the sale and return the money paid on the purchase price, and title to the property shall revert to the district. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedy under the terms of the sale. No purchaser shall transfer title to such property within one

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year from the date of purchase. [2010 c 8 § 16008; 1955 c 73 § 16. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 13, part; RRS § 9709-13, part; RCW 53.28.060.]

**53.25.170 Covenant running with the land—Forfeiture.** All sales made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall have incorporated in the instrument of conveyance of title the conditions of this chapter relating to the use of the land as a covenant running with the land. Any violation of such covenant shall result in a right by the commission, as grantee, to forfeit the land. [1955 c 73 § 17.]

**53.25.190 Eminent domain.** All port districts of the state of Washington which have created or may hereafter create industrial development districts in the manner provided by law, in addition to all powers possessed by such port districts, be and are hereby granted power of eminent domain to acquire real property within the limits of such industrial development district which property is marginal lands as the term is herein defined. The exercise of the power granted in this section shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same procedure as in or may be provided by law for cities of the first class except insofar as such duties may be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter and the duties devolving upon the city treasurer under said law be and the same are hereby imposed upon the county treasurer for the purposes of this chapter. [1955 c 73 § 19.]

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16 (Amendment 9).*

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**53.25.200 Advances of general fund moneys or credit.** Port districts are hereby granted the power to advance their general fund moneys or credit, or both, without interest to accomplish the objects and purposes of this chapter, which fund shall be repaid from the sale or lease, or both, of such developed or redeveloped lands, provided, if the money advanced for such development or redevelopment was obtained from the sale of general obligation bonds of the port, then such advances shall bear the same rate of interest that said bonds bore. [1955 c 73 § 20.]

**53.25.210 Determination that land sought by eminent domain is marginal.** The determination that property sought by eminent domain proceedings is marginal lands as herein defined is a judicial question, provided that a duly adopted resolution of the commissioners of the port district that the property sought is marginal lands as the term is herein defined, setting forth the characteristics of the lands sought to be acquired which constitutes the marginal lands as herein defined, shall be prima facie evidence that such land is marginal lands as defined in this chapter. [1955 c 73 § 21.]

**53.25.900 Repeal and saving.** Chapter 53.24 RCW and chapter 53.28 RCW and chapter 45, Laws of 1939, as last amended by section 1, chapter 166, Laws of 1943 are repealed: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under the provisions of said act. [1955 c 73 § 22.]

## Chapter 53.29 RCW TRADE CENTER ACT

### Sections

53.29.010	Declaration of purpose.
53.29.015	Definitions.
53.29.020	Power to establish trade centers—Facilities authorized.
53.29.030	Cooperation with other entities—Annual service fee for support of local government.
53.29.900	Short title—Liberal construction—Powers cumulative.

**53.29.010 Declaration of purpose.** It is declared to be the finding of the legislature of the state of Washington that:

(1) The servicing functions and activities connected with the oceanborne and overseas airborne trade and commerce of port districts, including customs clearance, shipping negotiations, cargo routing, freight forwarding, financing, insurance arrangements and other similar transactions which are presently performed in various, scattered physical and electronic locations in the districts should be centralized to provide for more efficient and economical transportation of persons and more efficient and economical physical or electronic facilities and services for the exchange and buying, selling and transportation of commodities and other property in world trade and commerce;

(2) Unification, at a single, centrally located physical or electronic site of a facility of commerce, i.e., a trade center, accommodating the functions and activities described in subsection (1) of this section and the appropriate governmental, administrative and other services connected with or incidental to transportation and security of persons and property and the promotion and protection of port commerce, and providing a central locale for exhibiting, and otherwise promoting the exchange and buying and selling of commodities and property in world trade and commerce, will materially assist in preserving the material and other benefits of a prosperous port community;

(3) The undertaking of the aforesaid unified trade center project by a port district or the Washington public ports association has the single object of preserving, and will aid in the promotion, security, and preservation of, the economic well-being of port districts and the state of Washington and is found and determined to be a public purpose. [2002 c 145 § 1; 1989 c 425 § 5; 1967 c 56 § 1.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.29.015 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 53.29.020 and 53.29.030 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Person" has the same meaning as defined in the electronic signatures in global and national commerce act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 7006 (8)) in effect on June 13, 2002.

(2) "Transaction" has the same meaning as defined in the electronic signatures in global and national commerce act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 7006 (13)) in effect on June 13, 2002. However, "transaction" also includes actions relating to governmental affairs. [2002 c 145 § 4.]

**53.29.020 Power to establish trade centers—Facilities authorized.** In addition to all other powers granted to port districts, any such district, the Washington public ports association, or the federation of Washington ports as

described in RCW 53.06.070 may acquire, as provided for other port properties in RCW 53.08.010, construct, develop, operate and maintain all land or other property interests, buildings, structures or other improvements, and may participate in transactions necessary to provide, electronically or otherwise, facilities or to exercise powers or purposes of a trade center including but not limited to the following electronic or physical facilities:

(1) A facility consisting of one or more structures, improvements and areas for the centralized accommodation of public and private agencies, persons and facilities in order to afford improved service to waterborne and airborne import and export trade and commerce;

(2) Facilities for the promotion of such import and export trade and commerce, inspection, testing, display and appraisal facilities, foreign trade zones, terminal and transportation facilities, office meeting rooms, auditoriums, libraries, language translation services, storage, warehouse, marketing and exhibition facilities, facilities for federal, state, county and other municipal and governmental agencies providing services relating to the foregoing and including, but not being limited to, customs houses and customs stores, and other incidental facilities and accommodations. [2002 c 145 § 2; 1989 c 425 § 6; 1967 c 56 § 2.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.29.030 Cooperation with other entities—Annual service fee for support of local government.** (1) In carrying out the powers authorized by this chapter and chapter 53.06 RCW, port districts and the Washington public ports association are authorized to cooperate, act, and invest jointly with other public and private agencies and persons, including, but not limited to, the federal government, the state, other ports and municipal corporations, other states and their political subdivisions, and private nonprofit trade promotion groups and associate development organizations.

(2) Port districts operating trade center buildings or operating association or federation trade centers, shall pay an annual service fee to the county treasurer wherein the center is located for municipal services rendered to the trade center building. The measure of such service fee shall be equal to three percent of the gross rentals received from the nongovernmental tenants of such trade center building. Such proceeds shall be distributed by the county treasurer as follows: Forty percent to the school district, forty percent to the city, and twenty percent to the county wherein the center is located: PROVIDED, That if the center is located in an unincorporated area, twenty percent shall be allocated to the fire district, forty percent to the school district, and forty percent to the county. [2002 c 145 § 3; 1989 c 425 § 7; 1967 c 56 § 3.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.29.900 Short title—Liberal construction—Powers cumulative.** This chapter, which may be known and cited as the "Trade Center Act", shall be liberally construed, its purpose being to provide port districts, and their related association and federation, with additional powers to provide trade centers and to promote and encourage trade, tourism, travel,

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and economic development in a coordinated and efficient manner through the ports of the state of Washington. The powers herein granted shall be in addition to all others granted to port districts. [1989 c 425 § 8; 1967 c 56 § 4.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

## Chapter 53.31 RCW

### EXPORT TRADING COMPANIES

#### Sections

53.31.010	Legislative findings—Intent.
53.31.020	Definitions.
53.31.030	Export trading companies—Authorized—Adoption of business plan.
53.31.040	Export trading companies—Powers—Formation—Dissolution.
53.31.050	Confidentiality of records supplied by private persons.
53.31.060	Certificate of review under federal export trading company act—Authorized.

**53.31.010 Legislative findings—Intent.** It is declared to be the public policy of the state to promote and preserve the economic well-being of the citizens of this state by creating opportunities for expanded participation in international trade by state businesses and expanding international trade through state ports. Increased international trade of state products creates and retains jobs, increases the state's tax base, and diversifies the state's economy. Port districts, through economies of scale, are uniquely situated to promote and expand international trade and provide greater opportunities for state businesses to participate in international trade.

The legislature finds that significant public benefit, in the form of increased employment and tax revenues, can be realized through export trading companies without lending the credit of port districts, and without capital investment of public funds by port districts. The legislature finds that the use of port district funds to promote and establish export trading companies under this chapter constitutes trade promotion and industrial development within the meaning of Article VIII, section 8 of the state Constitution.

It is the purpose of this chapter: (1) To stimulate greater participation by private businesses in international trade; (2) to authorize port districts to promote and facilitate international trade more actively; (3) to make export services more widely available; (4) to generate revenue for port districts; and (5) to develop markets for Washington state goods and services. Port sponsored export trading companies can also assist small to medium-sized companies in achieving economies of scale in order to expand into the export market.

It is the intent of this chapter to enhance export trade and not to create outside competition for existing Washington state businesses. The primary intent of a port sponsored export trading company is to increase exports of Washington state products.

This chapter shall not be construed as modifying or restricting any other powers granted to port districts by law. The legislature does not intend by the enactment of this chapter for port districts to use export trading companies to create unfair competition with private business. [1986 c 276 § 1.]

**53.31.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Port district" means any port district other than a countywide port district in a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more, established under Title 53 RCW.

(2) "Export services" means the following services when provided in order to facilitate the export of goods or services through Washington ports: International market research, promotion, consulting, marketing, legal assistance, trade documentation, communication and processing of foreign orders to and for exporters and foreign purchasers, financing, and contracting or arranging for transportation, insurance, warehousing, foreign exchange, and freight forwarding.

(3) "Export trading company" means an entity created by a port district under RCW 53.31.040.

(4) "Obligations" means bonds, notes, securities, or other obligations or evidences of indebtedness.

(5) "Person" means any natural person, firm, partnership, association, private or public corporation, or governmental entity. [1991 c 363 § 133; 1986 c 276 § 2.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**53.31.030 Export trading companies—Authorized—Adoption of business plan.** (1) Public port districts, formed under chapter 53.04 RCW are authorized to establish export trading companies and a company so formed may contract with other public ports, financial institutions, freight forwarders, and public or private concerns within or outside the state to carry out the purposes of this chapter. A port district may participate financially in only one export trading company.

(2) A port district proposing to establish an export trading company shall adopt a business plan with safeguards and limitations to ensure that any private benefit to be realized from the use of funds of the export trading company are incidental to the purposes of this chapter. The business plan shall be adopted only after public hearing and shall be reviewed at least once every two years. Amendments to the plan shall be adopted only after public hearing. The business plan shall include:

(a) A description of export promotion activities to be conducted during the period of the plan;

(b) A proposed budget of operations which shall include an itemized list of estimated revenues and expenditures;

(c) A description of the safeguards and limitations which ensure that the export trading company will best be used to enhance international trade and produce public benefit in the form of employment, capital investment, and tax revenues;

(d) A description of private competitors which may be capable of providing the functions in the business plan; and

(e) Such other matters as may be determined by the port district.

(3) A port district, for the purpose of establishing or promoting an export trading company under this chapter, may provide financial assistance to the export trading company. A port district may not provide such assistance or services for more than five years or in an amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars. [1986 c 276 § 3.]

**53.31.040 Export trading companies—Powers—Formation—Dissolution.** (1) For the purpose of promoting international trade, export trading companies formed under this chapter may provide export services through:

(a) Holding and disposing of goods in international trade;

(b) Taking title to goods.

All such activities engaged in or pursued by an export trading company shall be charged for in accordance with the customs of the trade at competitive market rates.

(2) Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to authorize an export trading company to own or operate directly or indirectly any business which provides freight-forwarding, insurance, foreign exchange, or warehousing services. Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to permit an export trading company to engage in the business of transporting commodities by motor vehicle, barge, ship, or rail for compensation.

(3)(a) Proceedings to form a public corporation designated as an export trading company shall be initiated by a resolution of the board of commissioners of a port district adopting a charter for the corporation. The charter shall contain such provisions as are authorized by law and include provisions for a board of directors which shall conduct the affairs of the export trading company. The board of directors shall include no fewer than three nor more than five members, all appointed by the port district board of commissioners. Commissioners of the port shall be eligible to serve as members of the board and shall constitute a majority of the board of directors at all times. Unless a later date is specified, the resolution shall take effect on the thirtieth day after adoption. The corporation shall be deemed formed for all purposes upon filing in the office of the secretary of state a certified copy of the effective resolution and the charter adopted by the resolution.

(b) In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of or relating to any contract of the corporation, the corporation is conclusively presumed to be established and authorized to transact business and exercise its powers under this chapter upon proof of the adoption of the resolution creating the corporation by the governing body. A copy of the resolution duly certified by the secretary of the port district commission shall be admissible in evidence in any suit, action, or proceeding.

(c) A corporation created by a port district pursuant to this chapter may be dissolved by the district if the corporation (i) has no property to administer, other than funds or property, if any, to be paid or transferred to the district by which it was established; and (ii) all its outstanding obligations have been satisfied. Such a dissolution shall be accomplished by the governing body of the port district adopting a resolution providing for the dissolution.

(d) The creating port district may, at its discretion and at any time, alter or change the structure, organizational programs, or activities of the corporation, including termination of the corporation if contracts entered into by the corporation are not impaired. Subject to any contractual obligations, any net earnings of the corporation shall inure only to the benefit of the creating port district. Upon dissolution of the corporation, all assets and title to all property owned by the corporation shall vest in the creating port district.

(4) A port district may contract with an export trading company to provide services on a reimbursement basis at current business rates to the export trading company, including but not limited to accounting, legal, clerical, technical, and other administrative services. Separate accounting records prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles shall be maintained by the export trading company.

(5) Any obligation of an export trading company shall not in any manner be an obligation of the port district nor a charge upon any revenues or property of the port district.

(6) An export trading company may borrow money or contract indebtedness and pledge, in whole or in part, any of its revenues or assets not subject to prior liens or pledges. An export trading company may not pledge any revenue or property of a port district or other municipal corporation and no port district or other municipal corporation may pledge its revenues or property to the payment thereof. An export trading company has no power to issue general obligation bonds, levy taxes, or exercise power of eminent domain. [1989 c 11 § 23; 1986 c 276 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.31.050 Confidentiality of records supplied by private persons.** All financial and commercial information and records supplied by private persons to an export trading company with respect to export projects shall be kept confidential unless such confidentiality shall be waived by the party supplying the information or by all parties engaged in the discussion. [1986 c 276 § 5.]

**53.31.060 Certificate of review under federal export trading company act—Authorized.** An export trading company may apply for and hold a certificate of review provided for under 15 U.S.C. Secs. 4001 through 4021, the federal export trading company act of 1982. [1986 c 276 § 6.]

## Chapter 53.34 RCW TOLL FACILITIES

### Sections

53.34.010	Toll bridges, tunnels authorized—Highway approaches—Tolls proposed.
53.34.020	Contracts for use of projects—Regulations—Controversies.
53.34.030	Revenue bonds and notes—Authorized—Purposes—Sale, maturity, cost.
53.34.040	Revenue bonds and notes—Resolution—Security—Form, interest, payment, etc.
53.34.050	Covenants to safeguard and secure bonds and notes.
53.34.060	Notes.
53.34.070	Bonds and notes payable solely from revenues, etc.—Adequate rates and charges to be established.
53.34.080	Special funds and accounts—Disposition.
53.34.090	Pledge of moneys, when binding—When lien attaches.
53.34.100	No personal liability on bonds or notes.
53.34.110	District may purchase bonds or notes.
53.34.120	State not to limit or alter rights of district or impair rights or remedies of bond or note holders.
53.34.130	Bonds, notes, obligations not state or district debt—No ad valorem taxes.
53.34.140	Registration of bonds and notes—Prima facie validity.
53.34.150	Bonds and notes as legal investment and security.
53.34.160	Projects declared public benefit and governmental function—Covenant by state with bond and note holders—Tax exemption.
53.34.170	District's power to acquire property, rights, etc.—Gifts—Condemnation—Contracts by public agencies authorized.
53.34.180	Public agencies authorized to contract with district for contribution of money, property, services, etc.

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53.34.190	Bylaws, rules for management, uses, charges—Penalty for violation.
53.34.200	Actions for damages, injuries, death—Allegation in complaint of presentment of claim.
53.34.220	Chapter supplemental to other laws—Liberal construction.
53.34.910	Chapter controls inconsistent acts.

**53.34.010 Toll bridges, tunnels authorized—Highway approaches—Tolls proposed.** In addition to all other powers granted to port districts, any such district may, with the consent of the department of transportation, acquire by condemnation, purchase, lease, or gift, and may construct, reconstruct, maintain, operate, furnish, equip, improve, better, add to, extend, and lease to others in whole or in part and sell in whole or in part any one or more of the following port projects, within or without or partially within and partially without the corporate limits of the district whenever the commission of the district determines that any one or more of such projects are necessary for or convenient to the movement of commercial freight and passenger traffic a part of which traffic moves to, from, or through the territory of the district:

- (1) Toll bridges;
- (2) Tunnels under or upon the beds of any river, stream, or other body of water, or through mountain ranges.

In connection with the acquisition or construction of any one or more of such projects the port districts may, with the consent of the state department of transportation, further acquire or construct, maintain, operate, or improve limited or unlimited access highway approaches of such length as the commission of such district deems advisable to provide means of interconnection of the facilities with public highways and of ingress and egress to any such project, including plazas and toll booths, and to construct and maintain under, along, over, or across any such project telephone, telegraph, or electric transmission wires and cables, fuel lines, gas transmission lines or mains, water transmission lines or mains, and other mechanical equipment not inconsistent with the appropriate use of the project, all for the purpose of obtaining revenues for the payment of the cost of the project.

Consistent with RCW 47.56.850, any toll, including any change in an existing toll rate, proposed under this section must first be reviewed and approved by the tolling authority designated in RCW 47.56.850 if the toll, or change in toll rate, would have a significant impact, as determined by the tolling authority, on the operation of any state facility. [2008 c 122 § 21; 1984 c 7 § 365; 1959 c 236 § 1.]

**53.34.020 Contracts for use of projects—Regulations—Controversies.** The district shall have the power to enter into a contract or contracts for the use of said projects, their approaches and equipment and from time to time to amend such contracts, with persons and with private and public corporations, and by said contracts to give such persons or corporations the right to use said projects, their approaches and equipment for the transmission of power for telephone and telegraph lines, for the transportation of water, gas, petroleum, and other products, for railroad and railway purposes, and for any other purpose to which the same may be adapted: PROVIDED, That no such contract shall be for a period longer than ninety-nine years, and that the projects shall be put

to the largest possible number of uses consistent with the purposes for which such projects are constructed.

In making such contract or contracts and providing for payments and rentals thereunder the port district shall determine the value of the separate and different uses to which the projects are to be put and shall apportion the annual rentals and charges as nearly as possible according to the respective values of such uses. No such contract shall be made with any person or corporation unless and until such person or corporation shall bind himself or herself or itself to pay as rental therefor an amount determined by the port district and specified in the contract which shall be a fair and just proportion of the total amount required to pay interest on the bonds provided for in this chapter, plus a just proportion of the amount necessary for their retirement, and plus the cost of maintenance of the projects, their approaches and equipment.

The port district may require any of such contracts to be entered into before beginning the construction of said projects or before the expenditure of funds under the provisions of this chapter if in its judgment it is deemed expedient.

There shall be no monopoly of the use of said projects, and their approaches by any one use, or by any person or corporation, private or public, in respect to the several uses, and the port district may continue to make separate, additional, and supplemental contracts for one or more uses until in the judgment of said port district the capacity of the projects and approaches for any such use has been reached. When such capacity has been reached contracts for the use of said projects shall be given preference in regard to such uses according to the public interest as determined by the port district, and subsequent contracts shall be subject to all existing and prior contracts. The port district shall have the power to prescribe regulations for the use of such facilities by the parties to contracts for such use, or any of them, and to hear and determine all controversies which may arise between such parties, under such rules as the port district may from time to time promulgate; and all contracts shall expressly reserve such power to the port district. [2010 c 8 § 16009; 1959 c 236 § 2.]

**53.34.030 Revenue bonds and notes—Authorized—Purposes—Sale, maturity, cost.** Whenever any port district shall determine to acquire or construct any one or more projects authorized under the provisions of this chapter, the commission of such district shall have the power and is authorized to issue negotiable revenue bonds and notes from time to time in one or more series or installments in such principal amount as, in the opinion of the commission, shall be necessary to provide sufficient money for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extension or improvement thereof as set forth in RCW 53.34.010, including engineering, inspection, legal and financial fees and costs, working capital, interest on such bonds and notes during construction and for a reasonable period thereafter, establishment of reserves to secure such bonds and notes and all other expenditures of such district incidental, necessary or convenient to the establishment of such projects on a sound financial basis, and to issue negotiable revenue bonds and notes for the purpose of renewing or refunding such outstanding bonds and notes in whole or in part at or prior to maturity. All such revenue bonds or notes shall be negotiable instruments within the meaning and pur-

poses of the negotiable instruments law and shall be sold by the commission in such manner and for such price as the commission deems for the best interests of the district: PROVIDED, That the bonds and warrants may be in any form, including bearer bonds or bearer notes, or registered bonds or registered notes as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The commission may provide in any contract for the construction or acquisition of all or any part of a project or projects or for the additions or betterments thereto or extensions or improvements thereof that payment therefor shall be made only in such revenue bonds or notes. Any revenue bonds issued under the authority of chapter 236, Laws of 1959 shall have a final maturity not to exceed forty years from date of issue. [1983 c 167 § 133; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 69; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 79; 1959 c 236 § 3.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.34.040 Revenue bonds and notes—Resolution—Security—Form, interest, payment, etc.** (1) Revenue bonds and notes may be issued by one or more resolutions and may be secured by trust agreement by and between the district and one or more corporate trustees, depositories, or fiscal agents, which may be any trust company or state or national bank having powers of a trust company within or without the state of Washington. Such bonds or notes shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, bear interest at such rate or rates, be in such denominations, be in such form either coupon or registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030, carry such registration privileges, be executed in such manner, be payable in such medium of payment at such place or places within or without the state of Washington, and be subject to such terms of redemption and at such redemption premiums as such resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements may provide. No proceedings for the issuance of such bonds or notes shall be required other than those required by the provisions of this chapter, and none of the provisions of any other laws relative to the terms and conditions for the issuance, payment, redemption, registration, sale or delivery of bonds of public bodies, corporation, or political subdivisions of this state shall be applicable to bonds or notes issued by port districts pursuant to this chapter.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds and notes may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 134; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 70; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 80; 1959 c 236 § 4.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.34.050 Covenants to safeguard and secure bonds and notes.** Any resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements authorizing the issuance of any bonds or notes of a port district may contain covenants and agreements on the part of the district to protect and safeguard the security and payment of such bonds or notes, which shall be a part of the contract with the owners of such obligations thereby authorized as to:

(1) Pledging all or any part of the revenues, income, receipts, profits and other moneys derived by the district issuing such obligations from the ownership, operation, management, lease, or sale of any one or more of the projects con-

structed from the proceeds thereof to secure the payment of bonds or notes;

(2) The establishment and collection of rates, rentals, tolls, charges, license, and other fees to be charged by the district and the amounts to be raised in each year for the services and commodities sold, leased, furnished, or supplied by any one or more of the projects established from the proceeds of such obligations, and the deposit, use, and disposition of the revenues of the district received therefrom;

(3) The setting aside of reserves or sinking funds for such obligations, and the deposit, investment, and disposition thereof;

(4) Limitations on the purpose or purposes to which the proceeds of sale of any issue of bonds or notes then or thereafter issued payable from the revenues of any such project or projects may be applied, and pledging such proceeds to secure the payment of such bonds or notes;

(5) Limitations on the issuance of additional revenue bonds or notes of the district, the terms and conditions upon which such additional revenue bonds or notes may be issued and secured, and the refunding of outstanding or other bonds or notes;

(6) The procedure, if any, by which the terms of any contract with bond owners may be amended or abrogated, the amount of bonds or notes the owners of which must consent thereto, and the manner in which such consent may be given;

(7) Limitations on the amount of moneys derived from any project or projects to be expended for operating, administrative or other expenses of the district in connection with any such project or projects;

(8) The employment of independent auditors and engineers or other technical consultants to advise and assist the district in the operation, management, and improvement of any project or projects;

(9) Limitations or prohibitions on rendering free service in connection with any project or projects;

(10) Specifying conditions constituting events of default and vesting in one or more trustees including trustees which may be appointed by the bond owners and note owners, such special rights, property rights, powers, and duties with respect to the property and revenues of any project or projects as the commission of the district may deem advisable the better to secure the payment of such bonds and notes;

(11) Prescribing conditions controlling the acquisition, sale, lease, or other disposition of real and personal property used or useful in connection with any project or projects, the amount and kinds of policies of insurance to be carried by the district in connection therewith, and the use and disposition of the proceeds of policies of insurance; and

(12) Any other matters of like or different character which in any way affect the security or protection of bonds or notes of the district. [1983 c 167 § 135; 1959 c 236 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.34.060 Notes.** A district shall have power from time to time to issue bond anticipation revenue notes (herein referred to as notes), and from time to time to issue renewal notes, such notes in any case to mature not later than six years from the date of incurring the indebtedness represented thereby in an amount not exceeding in the aggregate at any time outstanding the amount of revenue bonds then or there-

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fore authorized but not issued. Payment of such notes shall be made from any moneys or revenue which the district may have available for such purpose or the proceeds of the sale of revenue bonds of the district, or such notes may be exchanged for a like amount of such revenue bonds bearing the same or a lower or higher rate of interest than that borne by such notes.

All notes may be issued and sold in the same manner as revenue bonds. Any district shall have power to make contracts for the future sale from time to time of notes on terms and conditions stated in such contracts, and the district shall have power to pay such consideration as it shall deem proper for any commitments to purchase notes in the future. Such notes may also be collaterally secured by pledges and deposits with a bank or trust company, in trust for the payment of said notes, of revenue bonds in an aggregate amount at least equal to the amount of such notes and, in any event, in amount deemed by the district sufficient to provide for the payment of the notes in full at the maturity thereof. The district may provide in such collateral agreement that the notes may be exchanged for revenue bonds held as collateral security for the notes, or that the trustee may sell the revenue bonds if the notes are not otherwise paid at maturity and apply the proceeds of such sale to the payment of the notes. Such notes shall bear interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the port commission. [1970 ex.s. c 56 § 71; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 81; 1959 c 236 § 6.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.34.070 Bonds and notes payable solely from revenues, etc.—Adequate rates and charges to be established.** Revenue bonds and notes issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be payable solely from the revenues, income, receipts, profits, charges, fees, rentals, and moneys received or derived by or through the ownership, operation, sale, lease, or other disposition in whole or in part of any project or projects authorized under the provisions of this chapter, or through the issuance of refunding bonds or notes, and the commission of any district issuing revenue bonds or notes under the authority of this chapter shall establish, maintain, and collect rates, tolls, rents, and charges from time to time so long as any of such revenue bonds are outstanding and unpaid for all services sold, furnished, or supplied by or through any such project or projects sufficient to produce an amount, together with any other moneys of the district available and dedicated to such purpose, to pay the principal of and interest and premium, if any, on all revenue bonds and notes payable from the revenues of any project or projects as the same may respectively fall due in accordance with the terms of the resolution or resolutions or trust agreement authorizing the issuance and securing the payment of such obligations. [1959 c 236 § 7.]

**53.34.080 Special funds and accounts—Disposition.** The resolution, resolutions, or trust agreement providing for the issuance of revenue bonds or notes pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall create and establish a special fund of the district into which the district shall be obligated to deposit as collected all income, revenues, receipts, and profits derived by the district through the ownership and operation

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of any project or projects acquired or constructed from the proceeds of the sale of such revenue bonds or notes: PROVIDED, That additional separate special funds or accounts may be created by such resolution or trust agreement into which the district may obligate itself to deposit the proceeds of the sale of such revenue bonds and notes, the proceeds of the sale or other disposition in whole or in part of any project or projects, the proceeds of any policies of insurance on such projects, and any other additional moneys received by the district and applicable to such projects. All such moneys shall be held by the district, the depositories and trustees of such funds and accounts, in trust for the equal and ratable benefit and security of the holders from time to time of the revenue bonds and notes issued pursuant to the resolution, resolutions, or trust agreement establishing such special funds or accounts, and shall be collected, held, deposited, and disbursed solely for the acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, renewal, replacement, improvement, extension, and betterment of such project or projects and the payment of the principal of and interest and premium, if any, on the revenue bonds and notes issued pursuant to such resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements, and the creation and maintenance of reasonable reserves for all such purposes: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the district may in its discretion and subject to any agreements with the holders of such revenue bonds and notes expend amounts of such moneys as are not required for the purposes aforesaid for other corporate purposes of the district.

The district may pledge such moneys or revenues of the district subject to prior pledges thereof, if any, for the payment of such notes and may in addition secure the notes in the same manner as herein provided for revenue bonds. [1959 c 236 § 8.]

**53.34.090 Pledge of moneys, when binding—When lien attaches.** It is the intention hereof that any pledge of revenues, income, receipts, profits, charges, fees, or other moneys made by a district for the payment of bonds shall be valid and binding from the time of the adoption of any resolution or the execution of any trust agreement making such pledge notwithstanding the fact that there may not then be any simultaneous delivery thereof, that the revenues, income, receipts, profits, charges, fees, and other moneys so pledged shall as soon as received by the district immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge without the physical delivery thereof and without further act, and that the lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the district irrespective of whether such parties have notice thereof. Neither the resolution, resolutions, or trust agreement authorizing revenue bonds or notes nor any other instrument by which such a pledge is created need be recorded to be effective. [1959 c 236 § 9.]

**53.34.100 No personal liability on bonds or notes.** Neither the members of a commission nor any person executing revenue bonds or notes shall be liable personally on such bonds or notes, or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance thereof. [1959 c 236 § 10.]

**53.34.110 District may purchase bonds or notes.** A district shall have power out of any funds available therefor to purchase revenue bonds or notes of such district. Any bonds or notes so purchased may be held, canceled, or resold by the district subject to and in accordance with any resolution or resolutions or trust agreements with bondholders. [1959 c 236 § 11.]

**53.34.120 State not to limit or alter rights of district or impair rights or remedies of bond or note holders.** The state of Washington does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of revenue bonds or notes issued by a district under the authority of this chapter that the state will not limit or alter the rights hereby vested in a district to acquire, maintain, construct, reconstruct, improve, extend, add to, better and operate the projects authorized to be constructed or acquired under the provisions hereof and to establish, collect, and pledge such rates, rentals, tolls, charges, license, and other fees as may be convenient or necessary to produce sufficient revenue to meet the expense of maintenance and operation of such projects and to fulfill the terms of any agreements made with holders of such revenue bonds and notes or in any way impair the rights and remedies of bondholders and noteholders until the bonds or notes together with interest thereon, with interest on any unpaid installments of interest, and all costs and expenses in connection with any action or proceedings by or on behalf of the bondholders or noteholders, are fully met and discharged. The provisions of this chapter and of the resolutions, trust agreements and proceedings authorizing revenue bonds and notes hereunder shall constitute a contract with the holders of said bonds and notes. [1959 c 236 § 12.]

**53.34.130 Bonds, notes, obligations not state or district debt—No ad valorem taxes.** The revenue bonds, revenue notes, and any other obligations of a district issued under the authority of this chapter shall not be a debt of the state of Washington or of any political subdivision of this state, nor shall such obligations be considered indebtedness of the port district issuing same within any constitutional, statutory, or other limitation of indebtedness, and neither the state nor any political subdivision thereof, including the port district issuing such revenue bonds or notes, shall ever become obligated to levy ad valorem taxes on any taxable property within the state for the payment of such revenue bonds and notes, but such revenue bonds and notes shall be payable solely from and shall be a charge only upon the revenues and other funds of the project or projects pledged to the payment thereof by the proceedings authorizing the issuance of such bonds and notes. [1959 c 236 § 13.]

**53.34.140 Registration of bonds and notes—Prima facie validity.** Prior to the issuance and delivery of revenue bonds or notes under the authority of this chapter, such revenue bonds or notes and a certified copy of the resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements authorizing such revenue bonds or notes shall be forwarded by the port commission to the state auditor together with any additional information requested by him or her, and when such revenue bonds or notes have been examined they shall be registered by the auditor in books to be kept by him or her for that purpose, and



a certificate of registration shall be endorsed upon each such revenue bond or note and signed by the auditor or a deputy appointed by him or her for that purpose.

Revenue bonds or notes so registered shall then be prima facie valid and binding obligations of the port district in accordance with the terms thereof, notwithstanding any defect or irregularity in the proceedings for the authorization and issuance of such revenue bonds or notes or in the sale, execution or delivery thereof or in the application of the proceeds thereof. [2010 c 8 § 16010; 1959 c 236 § 14.]

**53.34.150 Bonds and notes as legal investment and security.** Revenue bonds and notes issued under the authority of this chapter are made securities in which all public officers and bodies of this state, all municipalities and municipal subdivisions and all other political subdivisions of this state, all insurance companies and associations and other persons carrying on an insurance business, all banks, bankers, trust companies, savings banks, and savings associations, including savings and loan associations, building and loan associations, investment companies and other persons carrying on a banking business, all administrators, guardians, executors, trustees and other fiduciaries, and all other persons whatsoever who are now or may hereafter be authorized to invest in bonds or other obligations of the state, may properly and legally invest funds, including capital, in their control or belonging to them. Such bonds and notes are also made securities which may be deposited with and shall be received by all public officers and bodies of this state, all municipalities, municipal subdivisions, and other political subdivisions of this state for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds or other obligations of this state is now or may hereafter be authorized. [1959 c 236 § 15.]

**53.34.160 Projects declared public benefit and governmental function—Covenant by state with bond and note holders—Tax exemption.** It is found, determined, and declared that the creation and establishment of projects authorized by this chapter are in all respects for the benefit of the people of the state of Washington, for the improvement of their welfare and prosperity, and for the promotion of intrastate, interstate, and foreign commerce, the transportation of freight, commercial, and passenger traffic, is a public purpose, that such projects operated by port districts are essential parts of the public transportation system, and that such districts will be performing essential governmental functions in the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by this chapter; and the state of Washington covenants with the holders of revenue bonds and notes that port districts shall not be required to pay any taxes or assessments, or other governmental charges in lieu thereof, upon any of the property acquired by them or under their respective jurisdictions, control, possession, or supervision, upon the activities of port districts in the operation and maintenance of such projects, or upon any charges, fees, rentals, revenues, or other income received by such districts from such projects and that the revenue bonds and notes of port districts and the income therefrom shall at all times be exempt from all taxation in the state of Washington, except transfer, inheritance, and estate taxes. This section shall constitute a covenant and agreement with the holders of all revenue bonds and notes issued by port dis-

tricts pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. [1959 c 236 § 16.]

**53.34.170 District's power to acquire property, rights, etc.—Gifts—Condemnation—Contracts by public agencies authorized.** In the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, or betterment of any project or projects authorized under the provisions of this chapter any port district creating and establishing any such project or projects may have and exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to port districts for corporate purposes and, in addition thereto, may acquire by gift or grant, lease, purchase, or condemnation any public and private property, franchises and property rights, including state, county, and school lands and property, and littoral and water rights whether or not any such property is then devoted to public or quasi public proprietary or governmental use: PROVIDED, That the court shall find that the proposed condemnation of any property already devoted to a public use is for a higher public use, and may by appropriate contracts with any city, county, or other political subdivision of the state, with the state and any department of the government of the state (hereinafter referred to collectively as public agencies), or with any department, instrumentality or agency of the United States, acquire title to or the use of existing roads, streets, parkways, avenues, or highways or the closing of any roads, streets, parkways, avenues, or highways as may be necessary or convenient to the acquisition, construction, or operation of any such project or projects under such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon. All public agencies are authorized to enter into contracts with port districts for the aforesaid purposes. [1959 c 236 § 17.]

**53.34.180 Public agencies authorized to contract with district for contribution of money, property, services, etc.** Any public agency, including without limitation the department of transportation, may contract with a port district that is constructing a project or projects under this chapter for the contribution of moneys or real or personal property in aid of the construction of the projects, or for the furnishing of engineering, legal, police, and fire protection, and all other services necessary or convenient to the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, operation, maintenance, renewal, replacement, improvement, additions to, or extension of the project or projects. The contracts shall run for such period of years and contain such terms and conditions as the parties thereto mutually agree upon. Any public agency, by resolution, may authorize the execution of the contracts with a port district and no other authorization on the part of the public agency is necessary, regardless of any provision of laws or of a city charter to the contrary. Obligations assumed by a public agency under the contracts entered into under this chapter shall be included and provided for in each annual budget of the public agency made thereafter until all the obligations have been fully discharged. [1984 c 7 § 366; 1959 c 236 § 18.]

**53.34.190 Bylaws, rules for management, uses, charges—Penalty for violation.** (1) Any port district establishing a project under the authority of this chapter may make such bylaws, rules, and regulations for the management and

use of such project and for the collection of rentals, tolls, fees, and other charges for services or commodities sold, furnished or supplied through such project.

(2) The violation of any bylaw, rule, or regulation described in subsection (1) of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by fine not to exceed one hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not longer than thirty days, or both. [2003 c 53 § 287; 1959 c 236 § 19.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**53.34.200 Actions for damages, injuries, death—Allegation in complaint of presentment of claim.** In every action against a district for damages, for injuries to real or personal property, or for the destruction thereof, or for personal injuries or death arising in connection with the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, operation, or maintenance of a project authorized by the provisions of this chapter, the complaint shall contain an allegation that at least thirty days have elapsed since a demand, claim, or claims upon which such action is founded were presented to the secretary of the district, or to its chief executive officer, and that the district has neglected or refused to make an adjustment or payment thereof for thirty days after such presentment. [1959 c 236 § 20.]

**53.34.220 Chapter supplemental to other laws—Liberal construction.** The powers and rights granted to port districts and public agencies by the provisions of this chapter are in addition and supplemental to and not in substitution of the powers and rights heretofore or hereafter granted to such districts and public agencies by any other law or city charter, and no limitations or restrictions or proceedings for the exercise of powers and rights by port districts and public agencies contained in any other laws or city charters shall apply to the exercise of powers and rights granted by the provisions of this chapter, and the provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to permit the accomplishment of the purposes hereof. [1959 c 236 § 22.]

**53.34.910 Chapter controls inconsistent acts.** Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other act or of any city charter, the provisions of this chapter shall be controlling. [1959 c 236 § 24.]

### Chapter 53.35 RCW BUDGETS

#### Sections

53.35.010	Preliminary budget.
53.35.020	Publication of notice of preliminary budget and hearing.
53.35.030	Hearing—Final budget.
53.35.040	Final budget to be filed with county commissioners.
53.35.045	Alternate date for filing final budget.
53.35.050	Supplemental budgets.
53.35.060	Fiscal year.
53.35.070	Chapter exclusive method for budgets.

**53.35.010 Preliminary budget.** On or before the 15th day of September of each year each port commission shall prepare a preliminary budget of the port district for the ensuing fiscal year showing the estimated expenditures and the

anticipated available funds from which all expenditures are to be paid. [1959 c 159 § 1.]

**53.35.020 Publication of notice of preliminary budget and hearing.** Following the preparation of the preliminary budget, the port commission shall publish a notice stating that the preliminary budget of the port district has been prepared and placed on file at the office of the port district; that a copy thereof may be obtained by any taxpayer at an address set forth in the notice; that the commission will meet at a date, hour and place set forth in the notice, such date to be not earlier than September 15th and not later than the first Tuesday following the first Monday in October, for the purpose of fixing and adopting the final budget of the port district for the ensuing year. The notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper of the district, or if there is none, in any newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first publication to be not less than nine days nor more than twenty days prior to the date of the hearing. [1959 c 159 § 2.]

**53.35.030 Hearing—Final budget.** On the day set by the notice provided for in RCW 53.35.020 the commission shall meet at the place and hour designated for the purpose of a hearing on the budget and adoption of a final budget. Any person may present objections to the preliminary budget following which the commission shall, by resolution adopt a final budget. [1959 c 159 § 3.]

**53.35.040 Final budget to be filed with county commissioners.** It shall be the duty of the commissioners of port districts, for the purpose of levying port district taxes, to file with the clerk of the board of county commissioners on or before the Wednesday next following the first Monday in October in each year a certified copy of such final budget which shall specify the amounts to be raised by taxation on the assessed valuation of the property in the port district. [1959 c 159 § 4.]

**53.35.045 Alternate date for filing final budget.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the board of commissioners of a port district may file with the clerk of the county legislative authority a certified copy of the port district final budget, provided for in RCW 53.35.040, on the first Monday in December. The board of port commissioners may also set other dates relating to the budget process, including but not limited to the dates set in RCW 53.35.010 and 53.35.020 to conform to the alternate date for final budget filing. [1974 ex.s. c 19 § 1.]

**53.35.050 Supplemental budgets.** A port commission may adopt by resolution one or more supplemental budgets at any time during the fiscal year. Such supplemental budget shall be adopted only after public hearing. Notice of such hearing shall be given by a single publication of notice of the date, place and hour of the hearing in a legal newspaper of the district, or if there is none, in any newspaper of general circulation in the county, the publication of such notice to be at least five days and not more than fifteen days prior to the hearing date. [1959 c 159 § 5.]

**53.35.060 Fiscal year.** The fiscal year for a port district shall be the calendar year. [1959 c 159 § 6.]

**53.35.070 Chapter exclusive method for budgets.** The provisions of this chapter shall constitute the exclusive requirement and authority for the preparation, adoption, certification and filing of port district budgets. [1959 c 159 § 7.]

**Chapter 53.36 RCW  
FINANCES**

Sections

- 53.36.010 District treasurer.
- 53.36.015 Payment of claims—Use of warrants and checks.
- 53.36.020 Tax levy—Limitation.
- 53.36.030 Indebtedness—Limitation.
- 53.36.040 Funds in anticipation of revenues—Warrants.
- 53.36.050 County treasurer—General and special funds—Depositories—Investment of excess funds.
- 53.36.060 Incidental expense fund.
- 53.36.070 Levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.
- 53.36.080 Collection of levies for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.
- 53.36.100 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Notice—Petition—Election.
- 53.36.110 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Excess funds to be used solely for retirement of general obligations.
- 53.36.120 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Budgeting required.
- 53.36.130 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Source and amount of funds.
- 53.36.140 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Rules and regulations—Authorizations—Vouchers.
- 53.36.150 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Duties of state auditor.
- 53.36.160 Multiyear levy periods—Requirements.

*Accounting system and state examination: RCW 43.09.200 through 43.09.280.*

*Disposition of rentals from aquatic lands managed by a port district: RCW 79.105.420.*

*Tax district relief: Chapter 39.64 RCW.*

*Vouchers on public funds: Chapter 42.24 RCW.*

**53.36.010 District treasurer.** The treasurer of the county in which a port district is located shall be treasurer of the district unless the commission of a port district which has for the last three consecutive years received annual gross operating revenues of one hundred thousand dollars or more, excluding tax revenues and grants for capital purposes, designates by resolution some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the port district to act with the same powers and under the same restrictions as provided by law for a county treasurer acting on behalf of a port district: PROVIDED, That any port district which was authorized by the county treasurer to appoint its own treasurer prior to July 24, 1983, may continue to appoint its own treasurer. The commission may, and if the treasurer is not the county treasurer it shall, require a bond, with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington, in an amount and under the terms and conditions which the commission by resolution from time to time finds will protect the district against loss. The premium on such bonds shall be paid by the district. All district funds shall be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by him or her upon warrants signed by a port auditor appointed by the port commission, upon vouchers approved by the commission. [2010 c 8 §

(2021 Ed.)

16011; 1983 c 250 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 13 § 1; 1955 c 348 § 5. Prior: 1921 c 179 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 5, part; RRS § 9693, part.]

*County treasurer, calling warrants: RCW 36.29.060.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.36.015 Payment of claims—Use of warrants and checks.** A port district that acts as its own treasurer as provided in RCW 53.36.010 may by resolution adopt a policy for the payment of claims or other obligations of the port district, which are payable out of solvent funds, electing either to pay obligations by warrant or by check. However, no check shall be issued when the applicable fund is not solvent at the time payment is ordered, but a warrant shall be issued instead. When checks are to be used, the port commission shall designate the qualified public depository where checks are to be drawn, and the officers authorized or required to sign checks. Wherever in this title reference is made to warrants, the term includes checks where authorized by this section. [2002 c 95 § 1.]

**53.36.020 Tax levy—Limitation.** A district may raise revenue by levy of an annual tax not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property in such port district for general port purposes, including the establishment of a capital improvement fund for future capital improvements, except that any levy for the payment of the principal and interest of the general bonded indebtedness of the port district shall be in excess of any levy made by the port district under the forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value limitation. The levy shall be made and taxes collected in the manner provided for the levy and collection of taxes in school districts of the first class. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 56; 1955 c 65 § 11. Prior: 1951 c 133 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Budgets: Chapter 53.35 RCW.*

*Levy of taxes: Chapter 84.52 RCW.*

*Limitation on levies: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2 (Amendments 55 and 59); RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056.*

*School district levy: Chapter 28A.545 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.36.030 Indebtedness—Limitation.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a port district may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an amount, together with any existing indebtedness of the district not authorized by the voters, of one-fourth of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district.

(b) Port districts having less than eight hundred million dollars in value of taxable property during 1991 may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for port district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an amount, combined with existing indebtedness of the district not authorized by the voters, of three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district. Prior to contracting for any indebtedness authorized by this subsection (1)(b), the port district must have a comprehensive

plan for harbor improvements or industrial development and a long-term financial plan approved by the \*department of community, trade, and economic development. The \*department of community, trade, and economic development is immune from any liability for its part in reviewing or approving port district's improvement or development plans, or financial plans. Any indebtedness authorized by this subsection (1)(b) may be used only to acquire or construct a facility, and, prior to contracting for such indebtedness, the port district must have a lease contract for a minimum of five years for the facility to be acquired or constructed by the debt.

(2) With the assent of three-fifths of the voters voting thereon at a general or special port election called for that purpose, a port district may contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor provided the total indebtedness of the district at any such time shall not exceed three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district.

(3) In addition to the indebtedness authorized under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, port districts having less than two hundred million dollars in value of taxable property and operating a municipal airport may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for airport capital improvement purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an additional one-eighth of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district without authorization by the voters; and, with the assent of three-fifths of the voters voting thereon at a general or special port election called for that purpose, may contract indebtedness or borrow money for airport capital improvement purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor for an additional three-eighths of one percent provided the total indebtedness of the district for all port purposes at any such time shall not exceed one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property in the district.

(4) Any port district may issue general district bonds evidencing any indebtedness, payable at any time not exceeding fifty years from the date of the bonds. Any contract for indebtedness or borrowed money authorized by RCW 53.36.030(1)(b) shall not exceed twenty-five years. The bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

(5) Elections required under this section shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050.

(6) For the purpose of this section, "indebtedness of the district" shall not include any debt of a countywide district with a population less than twenty-five hundred people when the debt is secured by a mortgage on property leased to the federal government; and the term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in RCW 39.36.015.

(7) This section does not apply to a loan made under a loan agreement under chapter 39.69 RCW, and a computation of indebtedness under this chapter must exclude the amount of a loan under such a loan agreement. [1996 c 66 § 1; 1995 c 102 § 1; 1991 c 314 § 29; 1990 c 254 § 1; 1984 c 186 § 41; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 32; 1965 ex.s. c 54 § 1; 1959 c 52 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 12. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Findings—1991 c 314:** See note following RCW 43.160.020.

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

*General provisions applicable to district bonds: Chapter 39.44 RCW.*

*Limitation upon indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 § 6 (Amendment 27); chapter 39.36 RCW.*

*Port district indebtedness authorized, emergency public works: RCW 39.28.030.*

*Validation requirement: RCW 39.40.010.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.36.040 Funds in anticipation of revenues—Warrants.** (1) Any port commission is hereby authorized, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy, to borrow money or issue the warrants of the district in anticipation of the revenues to be derived by such district and such warrants shall be redeemed from the first money available from such taxes when collected. Such warrants may be in any form, including bearer warrants or registered warrants as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 136; 1921 c 179 § 2; 1911 c 92 § 12; RRS § 9699.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.36.050 County treasurer—General and special funds—Depositories—Investment of excess funds.** The county treasurer acting as port treasurer shall create a fund to be known as the "Port of . . . . Fund," into which shall be paid all money received by him or her from the collection of taxes in behalf of such port district, and shall also maintain such other special funds as may be created by the port commission into which shall be placed such moneys as the port commission may by its resolution direct. All such port funds shall be deposited with the county depositories under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as is provided by statute for county depositories and all interest collected on such port funds shall belong to such port district and shall be deposited to its credit in the proper port funds: PROVIDED, That any portion of such port moneys determined by the port commission to be in excess of the current needs of the port district may be invested by the county treasurer in accordance with RCW 36.29.020, 36.29.022, and chapter 39.59 RCW, and all interest collected thereon shall likewise belong to such port district and shall be deposited to its credit in the proper port funds. [2010 c 8 § 16012; 1997 c 393 § 10; 1959 c 52 § 2; 1921 c 179 § 3; 1911 c 92 § 13; RRS § 9700.]

*County depositories: Chapter 36.48 RCW.*

**53.36.060 Incidental expense fund.** The port commission of any port district may, by resolution, create an incidental expense fund in such amount as the port commission may direct. Such incidental expense fund may be kept and maintained in a bank or banks designated in the resolution creating the fund, and such depository shall be required to give bonds or securities to the port district for the protection of such incidental expense fund, in the full amount of the fund authorized by the said resolution. Vouchers shall be drawn to reimburse said incidental expense fund and such vouchers shall be approved by the port commission. Transient labor, freight, express, cartage, postage, petty supplies, and minor expenses

of the port district may be paid from said incidental expense fund and all such disbursements therefrom shall be by check of the port auditor or such other officer as the port commission shall by resolution direct. All expenditures from said incidental expense fund shall be covered by vouchers drawn by the port auditor and approved by the manager or such other officer of the port district as the port commission may by resolution direct. The officer disbursing said fund shall be required to give bond to the port district in the full authorized amount of the said incidental expense fund for the faithful performance of his or her duties in connection with the disbursement of moneys from such fund. [2010 c 8 § 16013; 1933 c 189 § 16; RRS § 9699-1.]

**53.36.070 Levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.** Any port district organized under the laws of this state shall, in addition to the powers otherwise provided by law, have the power to raise revenue by the levy and collection of an annual tax on all taxable property within such port district of not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property in such port district, for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes, the proceeds of any such levy to be used exclusively for such dredging, canal construction, or land leveling and filling purposes: PROVIDED, That no such levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes under the provisions of RCW 53.36.070 and 53.36.080 shall be made unless and until the question of authorizing the making of such additional levy shall have been submitted to a vote of the electors of the district in the manner provided by law for the submission of the question of making additional levies in school districts of the first class at an election held under the provisions of RCW 29A.04.330 and shall have been authorized by a majority of the electors voting thereon. [2015 c 53 § 83; 1983 c 3 § 162; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 57; 1965 ex.s. c 22 § 1; 1925 c 29 § 1; RRS § 9692-1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.36.080 Collection of levies for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.** Whenever such additional levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes shall have been authorized by the electors of the district at an election, held subsequent to the time of making the levy for the district for general purposes, in any year, such levy shall be certified by the port commission in the manner provided by law for certifying levies for general purposes of the district, and shall be forthwith spread and extended upon the tax rolls for the current year, and the taxes so levied and extended shall be collected in the manner provided by law for the collection of general taxes. [1965 ex.s. c 22 § 2; 1925 c 29 § 2; RRS § 9692-2.]

*Collection of taxes, generally: Chapter 84.56 RCW.*

**53.36.100 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Notice—Petition—Election. (Effective until January 1, 2026.)** (1) A port district having adopted a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments may thereafter raise revenue, for six years only, and a second six years if the procedures are followed under subsection (2) of this section, in addition to all other

revenues now authorized by law, by an annual levy not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property in such port district. In addition, if voters approve a ballot proposition authorizing additional levies by a simple majority vote, a port district located in a county bordering on the Pacific Ocean having adopted a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments may impose these levies for a third six-year period. Said levies shall be used exclusively for the exercise of the powers granted to port districts under chapter 53.25 RCW except as provided in \*RCW 53.36.110. The levy of such taxes is herein authorized notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.52.050 and 84.52.043. The revenues derived from levies made under \*RCW 53.36.100 and 53.36.110 not expended in the year in which the levies are made may be paid into a fund for future use in carrying out the powers granted under chapter 53.25 RCW, which fund may be accumulated and carried over from year to year, with the right to continue to levy the taxes provided for in \*RCW 53.36.100 and 53.36.110 for the purposes herein authorized.

(2) If a port district intends to levy a tax under this section for one or more years after the first six years these levies were imposed, the port commission shall publish notice of this intention, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the district, by June 1 of the year in which the first levy of the seventh through twelfth year period is to be made. If within ninety days of the date of publication a petition is filed with the county auditor containing the signatures of eight percent of the number of voters registered and voting in the port district for the office of the governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election, the county auditor shall canvass the signatures in the same manner as prescribed in RCW 29A.72.230 and certify their sufficiency to the port commission within two weeks. The proposition to make these levies in the seventh through twelfth year period shall be submitted to the voters of the port district at a special election, called for this purpose, no later than the date on which a primary election would be held under RCW 29A.04.311. The levies may be made in the seventh through twelfth year period only if approved by a majority of the voters of the port district voting on the proposition. [2015 c 53 § 84; 1994 c 278 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1979 c 76 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 58; 1957 c 265 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 53.36.100 and 53.36.110 were repealed by 2015 c 135 § 5, effective January 1, 2026.

*Levy by port district under RCW 53.36.100—Application of chapter 84.55 RCW: RCW 84.55.045.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.36.110 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Excess funds to be used solely for retirement of general obligations. (Effective until January 1, 2026.)** In the event the levy herein authorized shall produce revenue in excess of the requirements to complete the projects of a port district then provided for in its comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments or amendments thereto, said excess shall be used solely for the retirement of general obligation bonded indebtedness. [1957 c 265 § 2.]

**53.36.120 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Budgeting required.** Under the authority of Article VIII, section 8, of the state Constitution, port district expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion or promotional hosting shall be pursuant to specific budget items as approved by the port commission at the annual public hearings on the port district budget. [1967 c 136 § 1.]

**53.36.130 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Source and amount of funds.** Funds for promotional hosting expenditures shall be expended only from gross operating revenues and shall not exceed one percent thereof upon the first two million five hundred thousand dollars of such gross operating revenues, one-half of one percent upon the next two million five hundred thousand dollars of such gross operating revenues, and one-fourth of one percent on the excess over five million dollars of such operating revenues: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in no case shall these limitations restrict a port district to less than twenty-five hundred dollars per year from any funds available to the port. [1967 c 136 § 2.]

**53.36.140 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Rules and regulations—Authorizations—Vouchers.** Port commissions shall adopt, in writing, rules and regulations governing promotional hosting expenditures by port employees or agents. Such rules shall identify officials and agents authorized to make such expenditures and the approved objectives of such spending. Port commissioners shall not personally make such expenditures, or seek reimbursement therefor, except where specific authorization of such expenditures has been approved by the port commission. All payments and reimbursements shall be identified and supported on vouchers approved by the port auditor. [1967 c 136 § 3.]

**53.36.150 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Duties of state auditor.** The state auditor shall, as provided in chapter 43.09 RCW:

- (1) Audit expenditures made pursuant to RCW 53.36.120 through 53.36.150; and
- (2) Promulgate appropriate rules and definitions as a part of the uniform system of accounts for port districts to carry out the intent of RCW 53.36.120 through 53.36.150: PROVIDED, That such accounts shall continue to include "gross operating revenues" which shall be exclusive of revenues derived from any property tax levy except as provided in RCW 53.36.130. [1967 c 136 § 4.]

**53.36.160 Multiyear levy periods—Requirements.** (1)(a) A port district having adopted a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments may thereafter raise revenue through:

- (i) A first multiyear levy period, if it meets the requirements of this subsection (1);
- (ii) A second multiyear levy period, if it meets the requirements of this subsection (1) and subsection (2) of this section; and

(iii) A third multiyear levy period, if it meets the requirements of subsection (3) of this section.

(b) First and second multiyear levy periods do not have to be consecutive.

(c) First and second multiyear levy periods may not overlap.

(d) The aggregate revenue that may be collected over a first or second multiyear levy period may not exceed the sum of: (i) Two dollars and seventy cents per thousand dollars of assessed value multiplied by the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the port district for taxes collected in the base year; and (ii) the difference of:

(A) The maximum allowable amount that could have been collected under RCW 84.55.010 for the first six collection years of the levy period; and

(B) The amount calculated under (d)(i) of this subsection (1).

(e) The levy rate in any year may not exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

(f) A levy period may not exceed twenty years from the date the initial levy is made in the period.

(g) A port district must adopt a resolution during the base year approving the use of a first or second multiyear levy period.

(2) If a port district intends to impose levies over a second multiyear levy period, the port commission must publish notice of this intention, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the district, by April 1st of the year in which the first levy in the second multiyear levy period is to be made. If within ninety days of the date of publication a petition is filed with the county auditor containing the signatures of eight percent of the number of voters registered and voting in the port district for the office of the governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election, the county auditor must canvass the signatures in the same manner as prescribed in RCW 29A.72.230 and certify their sufficiency to the port commission within two weeks. The proposition to impose levies over a second multiyear levy period must be submitted to the voters of the port district at a special election, called for this purpose, no later than the date on which a primary election would be held under RCW 29A.04.311. The levies may be made in the second multiyear levy period only if approved by a majority of the voters of the port district voting on the proposition.

(3) In addition, if voters approve a ballot proposition authorizing additional levies by a simple majority vote, a port district located in a county bordering on the Pacific Ocean having adopted a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments may impose a third levy for a period that may not exceed six years. The levy rate in any year may not exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. Except for the initial levy in the third levy period, RCW 84.55.010 applies to the tax authorized in this subsection.

(4) The levy of such taxes under this section is authorized notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.52.043 and 84.52.050. The revenues derived from levies made under this section not expended in the year in which the levies are made may be paid into a fund for future use in carrying out the powers granted under chapter 53.25 RCW, which fund may be accumulated and carried over from year to year, with the

right to continue to levy the taxes provided for under this section for the purposes herein authorized.

(5) In the event a levy authorized in this section produces revenue in excess of the requirements to complete the projects of a port district then provided for in its comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments or amendments thereto, the excess must be used solely for the retirement of general obligation bonded indebtedness.

(6)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a port district that has levied the tax authorized under \*RCW 53.36.100 may not levy a tax authorized under this section.

(b) A port district that levied the tax authorized under \*RCW 53.36.100 for taxes collected in 2015 as part of the initial six-year period may levy the tax authorized under this section for a second and third multiyear levy period in accordance with this section after the initial six-year levy period under \*RCW 53.36.100.

(c) A port district that levied the tax authorized under \*RCW 53.36.100 for taxes collected in 2015 as part of the second six-year period may levy the tax authorized under this section for a third multiyear levy period in accordance with this section after the second six-year levy period under \*RCW 53.36.100.

(d) A port district that did not levy the tax authorized under \*RCW 53.36.100 for taxes collected in 2015 but has previously levied a tax under \*RCW 53.36.100 for only the initial six-year period may impose levies in accordance with this section for a second and third multiyear levy period.

(e) A port district that did not levy the tax authorized under \*RCW 53.36.100 for taxes collected in 2015 but has previously levied a tax under \*RCW 53.36.100 for the initial and second six-year periods may impose levies in accordance with this section for a third multiyear levy period.

(7) For the purposes of this section, "base year" means the year prior to the first collection year in a first or second multiyear levy period. [2015 c 135 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 53.36.100 was repealed by 2015 c 135 § 5, effective January 1, 2026.

**Applicability—2015 c 135 § 1:** "Section 1 of this act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2016 and thereafter." [2015 c 135 § 6.]

## Chapter 53.40 RCW

### REVENUE BONDS AND WARRANTS

#### Sections

53.40.010	Revenue bonds authorized.
53.40.020	Purposes for which bonds may be issued and sold.
53.40.030	Bonds—Term, form, etc.
53.40.040	Bonds payable solely out of revenues—Special funds.
53.40.050	Sale of bonds to federal government.
53.40.110	Interest, signatures, sale of bonds—Covenants—Safeguards—Enforcement.
53.40.120	Irregularity in bonds or use of funds no defense.
53.40.125	District may mortgage industrial development facility.
53.40.130	Funding, refunding bonds.
53.40.135	Revenue warrants.
53.40.140	Construction of chapter.
53.40.150	Validation—1959 c 183.

**53.40.010 Revenue bonds authorized.** The port commission of any port district is authorized for the purpose of carrying out the lawful powers granted port districts by the laws of the state to contract indebtedness and to issue revenue bonds evidencing such indebtedness in conformity with this

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chapter. [1959 c 183 § 1; 1957 c 59 § 1; 1949 c 122 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-1.]

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds:* RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.

*Declaratory judgments of local bond issues:* Chapter 7.25 RCW.

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount:* RCW 39.44.140.

**53.40.020 Purposes for which bonds may be issued and sold.** All such revenue bonds authorized under the terms of this chapter may be issued and sold by the port district from time to time and in such amounts as is deemed necessary by the port commission to provide sufficient funds for the carrying out of all port district powers, and without limiting the generality thereof, shall include the following: Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, additions and operation of port properties and facilities, including in the cost thereof engineering, inspection, accounting, fiscal and legal expenses; the cost of issuance of bonds, including printing, engraving and advertising and other similar expenses; payment of interest on the outstanding bonds issued for any project during the period of actual construction and for six months after the completion thereof, and the proceeds of such bond issue are hereby made available for all such purposes. "Port property and facilities," as used in this section, includes facilities for the freezing or processing of agricultural products. [1987 c 289 § 2; 1959 c 183 § 2; 1957 c 59 § 3. Prior: 1949 c 122 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-2, part.]

**53.40.030 Bonds—Term, form, etc.** (1) The port commission shall determine the form, conditions, and denominations of all such bonds, the maturity date or dates which the bonds so sold shall bear, and the interest rate or rates thereon. It shall not be necessary that all bonds of the same authorized issue bear the same interest rate or rates. Principal and interest of the bonds shall be payable at such place or places as may be fixed and determined by the port commission. The bonds may contain provisions for registration thereof as to principal only or as to both principal and interest as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The bonds shall have interest payable at such time or times as may be determined by the port commission and in such amounts as it may prescribe. The port commission may provide for retirement of bonds issued under this chapter at any time or times prior to their maturity, and in such manner and upon the payment of such premiums as may be fixed and determined by resolution of the port commission. The port commission may delegate authority to the chief executive officer of the port to approve the interest rate or rates, maturity date or dates, redemption rights, interest payment dates, and principal maturities under such terms and conditions approved by resolution of the port commission.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2000 c 181 § 1; 1983 c 167 § 137; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 73; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 37; 1959 c 183 § 3; 1957 c 59 § 4. Prior: 1949 c 122 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-2, part.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

*Bonds—Form, terms of sale, payment, etc.:* Chapter 39.44 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.40.040 Bonds payable solely out of revenues—Special funds.** Bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be payable solely out of operating revenues of the port district. Such bonds shall be authorized by resolution adopted by the port commission, which resolution shall create a special fund or funds into which the port commission may obligate and bind the port district to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or a fixed amount of the gross revenue of the port district for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor. Such fund or funds shall be drawn upon solely for the purpose of paying the principal and interest upon the bonds issued pursuant to this chapter.

The bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provisions and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, even though they shall be payable solely from such special fund or funds, and the tax revenue of the port district may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds. The bonds and any coupons attached thereto shall state upon their face that they are payable solely from such special fund or funds. If the port commission fails to set aside and pay into such fund or funds the payments provided for in such resolution, the owner of any such bonds may bring suit to compel compliance with the provisions of the resolution. [1983 c 167 § 138; 1959 c 183 § 4; 1957 c 59 § 5; 1949 c 122 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-4.]

*Negotiable instruments—Uniform Commercial Code: Title 62A RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.40.050 Sale of bonds to federal government.** Port districts may, but are not required by the terms of this chapter to do so, sell any or all such bonds issued pursuant to this chapter to the federal government, or any agency of the federal government, at private sale and without the necessity of public advertisement or calling for bids. [1959 c 183 § 5; 1957 c 59 § 6; 1949 c 122 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-3.]

*Bonds sold to government at private sale: Chapter 39.48 RCW.*

**53.40.110 Interest, signatures, sale of bonds—Covenants—Safeguards—Enforcement.** (1) The bonds issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall bear interest at such rate or rates as authorized by the port commission; shall be signed on behalf of the port district by the president of the port commission and shall be attested by the secretary of the port commission, one of which signatures may be a facsimile signature, and shall have the seal of the port district impressed thereon; any interest coupons attached thereto shall be signed by the facsimile signatures of said officials. Such bonds shall be sold in the manner and at such price as the port commission shall deem best, either at public or private sale.

The port commission may provide such covenants as it may deem necessary to secure the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and may but shall not be required to include covenants to create a reserve fund or account and to authorize the payment or deposit of certain moneys therein for the purpose of securing the payment of such principal and interest; to establish, maintain, and collect tariffs, rates, charges, fees, rentals, and sales prices on facilities and services the income of which is pledged for the payment of such

bonds, sufficient to pay or secure the payment of such principal and interest and to maintain an adequate coverage over annual debt service; and to make any and all other covenants not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter which will increase the marketability of such bonds. The port commission may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. The provisions of this chapter and any resolution or resolutions providing for the authorization, issuance, and sale of such bonds shall constitute a contract with the owners of such bonds, and the provisions thereof shall be enforceable by any owner of such bonds by mandamus or any appropriate suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 139; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 74; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 38; 1959 c 183 § 6; 1949 c 122 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-8.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

*Mandamus: Chapter 7.16 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.40.120 Irregularity in bonds or use of funds no defense.** The Reconstruction Finance Corporation, or any other agency of the United States government making any such loan, or any other holder or owner of any bonds issued pursuant to this chapter, shall not be required to see to the application of the moneys derived from such bonds to the purposes for which the bonds are issued as specified in any resolution authorizing the issuance thereof. No defense of invalidity, or irregularity in any such bonds funded or refunded by the issuance of bonds hereunder, shall be a valid defense in any action at law or equity for a judgment upon or for the enforcement or collection of any bonds issued pursuant to this chapter, and no court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any such defense in any such action or proceeding. [1957 c 59 § 10. Prior: 1949 c 122 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-6, part.]

**53.40.125 District may mortgage industrial development facility.** The port commission of any port district, as security for the payment of the principal of and interest on any revenue bonds issued and any agreements made in connection therewith, may mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the particular industrial development facility or facilities or any part or parts thereof that are being financed by the revenue bonds, whether then owned or thereafter acquired, and may assign any mortgage and repledge any security conveyed to the port district for that particular facility or facilities. [1987 c 289 § 1.]

**53.40.130 Funding, refunding bonds.** (1) The port commission of any port district may by resolution, from time to time, provide for the issuance of funding or refunding revenue bonds to fund or refund any outstanding revenue warrants, bonds, and any premiums and interest due thereon at or before the maturity of such warrants or bonds, and may combine various outstanding revenue warrants and parts or all of various series and issues of outstanding revenue bonds and



any matured coupons in the amount thereof to be funded or refunded.

The port commission shall create a special fund for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such funding or refunding revenue bonds, into which fund the commission shall obligate and bind the port district to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or a fixed amount of the gross revenue of the port district sufficient to pay such principal and interest as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor.

Such funding or refunding bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provisions and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, and the tax revenue of the port district may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

The port district may exchange such funding or refunding bonds for the warrants, bonds, and any coupons being funded or refunded, or it may sell such funding or refunding bonds in the manner, at such rate or rates of interest and at such price as the port commission shall deem to be for the best interest of the district and its inhabitants, either at public or private sale.

The provisions of this chapter relating to the terms, conditions, covenants, issuance, and sale of revenue bonds shall be applicable to such funding or refunding bonds except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 140; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 75; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 39; 1959 c 183 § 7; 1949 c 122 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-7.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.40.135 Revenue warrants.** Port districts may also issue revenue warrants for the same purposes for which they may issue revenue bonds, and the provisions of this chapter relating to the terms, conditions, covenants, issuance, and sale of revenue bonds shall be applicable to such revenue warrants. [1959 c 183 § 8.]

**53.40.140 Construction of chapter.** This chapter shall be complete authority for the issuance of the bonds and warrants hereby authorized, and shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes. Any restrictions, limitations or regulations relative to the issuance of such bonds or warrants contained in any other act shall not apply to the bonds or warrants issued under this chapter. Any act inconsistent herewith shall be deemed modified to conform with the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of this chapter only. [1949 c 122 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-9.]

**53.40.150 Validation—1959 c 183.** Any sale of revenue bonds or warrants of port districts heretofore made, whether at public or private sale and whether at par or less than par as authorized herein, and any terms, conditions, and covenants of any revenue bonds or warrants of port districts heretofore issued, are hereby declared to be valid, legal, and

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binding in all respects: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this section shall not be construed to exonerate any officer or agent of any such district from any liability for any acts which were committed fraudulently or in bad faith. [1959 c 183 § 9.]

### Chapter 53.44 RCW

## FUNDING AND REFUNDING INDEBTEDNESS—1947 ACT

### Sections

- 53.44.010 Funding and refunding authorized.
- 53.44.030 Maturities—Payment.

*Funding and refunding revenue bonds: RCW 53.40.130.*

*Public bonds, form, terms of sale, payment, etc.: Chapter 39.44 RCW.*

**53.44.010 Funding and refunding authorized.** The board of commissioners of any port district of the state may fund or refund any of the general bonded indebtedness and/or warrants of the district now or hereafter existing and accrued interest thereon, and may combine various series and/or issues of warrants and/or bonds into a single issue of funding or refunding bonds, by the issuance of general obligation funding or refunding bonds, when the board, by resolution, finds, determines, and declares that such proposed funding or refunding will inure to the benefit and credit of the district and will not result in an increase of the district's indebtedness or in an increase in the rate of interest borne by the indebtedness so funded or refunded. Such funding or refunding may be accomplished by the sale of said funding or refunding bonds or by their exchange for the bonds and/or warrants to be refunded. General obligation bonds of a port district which do not provide for prior redemption, may also be refunded with the consent of the holders thereof. Such bonds shall be issued in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 42; 1947 c 239 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5623-1.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**53.44.030 Maturities—Payment.** Such funding or refunding bonds shall run for a period of not exceeding twenty years from date thereof. The board may apply to the payment of the funding or refunding bonds and to the prior redemption thereof any other moneys or funds belonging to the district which are legally available for such purpose. [1984 c 186 § 43; 1947 c 239 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5623-3.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

### Chapter 53.46 RCW

## CONSOLIDATION

### Sections

- 53.46.005 Definitions.
- 53.46.010 Consolidation authorized—Petition or resolution, contents.
- 53.46.020 Special election—Conduct.
- 53.46.030 Certification of election—Establishment as municipal corporation—Commissioners, terms.
- 53.46.040 Prior obligations—Powers of consolidated district—Separation of funds.
- 53.46.050 County commissioners may act if no active port commission.
- 53.46.060 Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Authority of county commissioners.
- 53.46.070 Title to property vests in consolidated district.

- 53.46.080 District including area from two or more counties—Procedure to determine proportion of taxes.
- 53.46.090 District including area from two or more counties—Levy and collection of taxes—Principal county treasurer, duties.
- 53.46.100 General powers of consolidated district—Debt limitation.

**53.46.005 Definitions.** As used in this chapter the term "principal county auditor" and "principal county treasurer" shall be the county auditor or county treasurer in the county having the largest assessed valuation of the total of the proposed consolidated port district. [1965 c 102 § 1.]

**53.46.010 Consolidation authorized—Petition or resolution, contents.** Two or more port districts may be joined into one consolidated port district in the following manner: The port commissioners of each of the port districts proposed to be consolidated may, or on petition of ten percent of the qualified electors residing within each of the districts proposed to be consolidated based on the total vote cast in the last general election, shall, by joint resolution submit to the qualified electors of the port districts to be consolidated the proposition of consolidating such districts into one port district. Such resolution or petition in request thereof shall identify each port district to be consolidated, listing its assets and liabilities; state the name by which the port district resulting from the consolidation shall be known; legally describe each port commissioner district to be created within the port district resulting from the consolidation; state the terms and conditions, if any, under which the consolidation is proposed; and call a special election in the territory of the port districts to be consolidated, to determine whether such consolidation shall take place, and to fill the offices of the port commission of the port district resulting from the consolidation. The resolution or petition shall provide that the commission in the proposed district shall consist of three, five, or seven commissioners and that the number shall be approved by the voters at the time the proposition for consolidation is voted upon. The proposition in this respect shall provide that the commissioners shall be elected one each from commissioner districts which shall be described as set forth in this section, or if such districts are not so described then the commissioners shall be elected at large. [1965 c 102 § 2; 1961 c 26 § 1.]

**53.46.020 Special election—Conduct.** The special election to consider such consolidation and to fill such offices shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the state. [1990 c 259 § 20; 1965 c 102 § 3; 1961 c 26 § 2.]

**53.46.030 Certification of election—Establishment as municipal corporation—Commissioners, terms.** The county canvassing board of election returns shall certify the results of the election to the board of county commissioners; and if at such election a majority of voters voting on the question of consolidation in each port district to be consolidated shall vote in favor of consolidation, the board of county commissioners shall so declare, and the port district resulting from the consolidation shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington. The county auditor shall in such event issue a certificate of election to the successful candidate from each port commissioner district. If the proposed district includes area in two or more counties, cer-

tificates of election shall be issued by the principal county auditor, and the canvassing board of elections shall be made up of the chairs of the board of county commissioners, prosecutors, and the auditors of each county with area within the consolidated port district. Of the successful port commissioner candidates, if three are elected, the one receiving the highest number of votes shall serve until his or her successor is elected and qualified at the third subsequent regular election for port commissioner, and the ones receiving the second and third highest numbers of votes shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the second and first subsequent regular elections for port commissioner, respectively. If five or seven commissioners are elected, the two with the greatest number of votes shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the third subsequent regular election of port commissioners, the two commissioners receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the second subsequent regular election of port commissioners; and the remaining commissioner or commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the next regular election of port commissioners. [2010 c 8 § 16014; 1965 c 102 § 4; 1961 c 26 § 3.]

**53.46.040 Prior obligations—Powers of consolidated district—Separation of funds.** None of the obligations of each port district which has been consolidated shall be affected by the consolidation, and taxes and assessments for payment of such obligations shall continue to be levied and collected in respect to property in such former port district notwithstanding the consolidation. The port commission of the port district resulting from the consolidation shall have all the powers possessed at the time of the consolidation by the port commission of each port district which has been consolidated, to levy or collect taxes or assessments in respect to property in such former port district, for payment of such obligations. While any such obligations remain outstanding, funds subject to such obligations shall be kept separate. [1961 c 26 § 4.]

**53.46.050 County commissioners may act if no active port commission.** In the event a port district does not have an active port commission to which the petition for consolidation may be directed, the board of county commissioners of the county wherein such inactive port district is located may act in the place and stead of the port commission for the purposes of consolidation. [1961 c 26 § 5.]

**53.46.060 Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Authority of county commissioners.** For the purpose of dissolution of any port district not having an active port commission the board of county commissioners of the county wherein such inactive port district is located may exercise the powers and duties vested by chapter 53.48 RCW in the governing body of such port district. [1961 c 26 § 6.]

**53.46.070 Title to property vests in consolidated district.** Upon consolidation of two or more port districts the title to all property owned by or held in trust for the former districts shall vest in the consolidated port district. [1965 c 102 § 5.]

**53.46.080 District including area from two or more counties—Procedure to determine proportion of taxes.** If the district includes area from two or more counties, it shall be the duty of the county assessor in each county to certify annually to the auditor of his or her county, who shall forward the same to the principal county auditor, the total assessed valuation of that part of the port district which lies within his or her county. The port commission of such consolidated port district shall certify to the principal county auditor the budget and the levies to be assessed for port purposes: PROVIDED, That the amount of tax to be levied upon taxable property of that part of a port district lying in one county shall be in such ratio to the whole amount levied upon the property lying in the entire consolidated port district as the assessed valuation lying in such county bears to the assessed valuation of the property in the entire consolidated port district.

Thereafter the principal county auditor shall forward a certificate to each county auditor, for the county commissioners thereof, which shall specify the proportion of taxes to be levied for port district purposes. [2010 c 8 § 16015; 1965 c 102 § 6.]

**53.46.090 District including area from two or more counties—Levy and collection of taxes—Principal county treasurer, duties.** Upon receipt of the certificate from the principal county auditor as provided in RCW 53.46.080 it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of each county to levy on all taxable property of the consolidated port district which lies within the county a tax sufficient to raise the amount necessary to meet the county's proportionate share of the total tax levy. Such taxes shall be levied and collected in the same manner as other taxes are levied and collected. The proceeds shall be forwarded quarterly by the treasurer of each county to the principal county treasurer. The principal county treasurer shall place to the credit of said consolidated port district all funds received from the other county treasurers as well as those amounts he or she shall have collected for the account of the port district. The principal county treasurer shall be the treasurer of the consolidated port district and shall perform all functions required of a treasurer of a port district. [2010 c 8 § 16016; 1965 c 102 § 7.]

**53.46.100 General powers of consolidated district—Debt limitation.** Any port district created by consolidation prior to June 10, 1965, or formed hereafter under chapter 102, Laws of 1965, shall have all the powers of a newly formed port district, without any other restriction except the requirements of RCW 53.46.040: PROVIDED, That general obligation indebtedness outstanding for all port purposes within the area of the consolidated port shall not exceed the limits of RCW 53.36.030, and for purpose of computing such bonded debt, the bonds outstanding of all port agencies shall be considered. [1965 c 102 § 8.]

**Chapter 53.47 RCW**

**DISSOLUTION OF INACTIVE PORT DISTRICTS**

Sections

- 53.47.010 Purpose.
- 53.47.020 Port district deemed inactive, when.
- 53.47.030 Petition for dissolution—Filing—Contents.

(2021 Ed.)

- 53.47.040 Hearing on petition—Notice, publication—Creditor claims, determination—Terms and conditions of court order if district to be dissolved.
- 53.47.050 Effect of final order of dissolution.
- 53.47.900 Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**53.47.010 Purpose.** This chapter shall provide an additional method by which inactive port districts may be dissolved. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 1.]

**53.47.020 Port district deemed inactive, when.** A port district shall be deemed inactive if, at the time of the filing of the petition for dissolution with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which such port district is situated, such port has failed to comply with subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of this section.

(1) The port district has failed to file its budget with the board of county commissioners or, in the case of home rule charters, the appropriate governing body for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the date of filing such petition, and the port district, having been in existence for two years or more, has failed to adopt its comprehensive plan of harbor improvement and/or industrial development as provided by statute, and does not presently own or has not leased within two years prior to the filing of such petition, real property for use for port purposes.

(2) The port district does not presently own or has not leased or owned real property for use for port purposes within the four calendar years prior to the filing of such petition.

(3) The port district has not filed its budget with the board of county commissioners or, in the case of home rule charters, the appropriate governing body for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the filing of said petition has not adopted its comprehensive plan of harbor improvement and/or industrial development as provided by statute, and has not met with a legal quorum at least twice in the last two calendar years prior to the filing of such petition. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 2.]

*Harbor improvement plan: RCW 53.20.010.*

**53.47.030 Petition for dissolution—Filing—Contents.** The county prosecutor of the county in which such port district is located acting upon his or her own motion shall file such petition for dissolution with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which such inactive port district is located. Such petition shall:

(1) Describe with certainty the port district which is declared to be inactive and which is sought to be dissolved;

(2) Allege with particularity that the port district sought to be dissolved is inactive within the purview of any of the several particulars set forth in RCW 53.47.020; and

(3) Request that the court find the port district inactive and declare it dissolved upon such terms and conditions as the court may impose and declare. [2010 c 8 § 16017; 1971 ex.s. c 162 § 3.]

**53.47.040 Hearing on petition—Notice, publication—Creditor claims, determination—Terms and conditions of court order if district to be dissolved.** The superior court, upon the filing of such petition, shall set such petition for hearing not less than one hundred twenty days and not

more than one hundred eighty days after the date of filing said petition. Further, the court shall order the clerk of said court to give notice of the time and place fixed for the hearing by publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation within such district, such publication to be once each week for three consecutive weeks, the date of first publication to be not less than thirty nor more than seventy days prior to the date fixed for the hearing upon such petition. Said notice shall further provide that all creditors of said district, including holders of revenue or general obligation bonds issued by said district, if any, shall present their claims to the clerk of said court within ninety days from the date of first publication of said notice, and that upon failure to do so all such claims will be forever barred. The clerk shall also mail a copy by ordinary mail of such notice to all creditors of said district, including holders of revenue or general obligation bonds issued by said district, if any, such mailing to be mailed not later than thirty days after the hearing date has been set. No other or further notices shall be required at any stage of the proceedings for dissolution of an inactive port district pursuant to this chapter.

The clerk, ten days prior to the date set for the hearing, shall deliver to the court the following:

- (1) A list of the liabilities of the port district in detail with the names and addresses of creditors as then known; and
- (2) A list of the assets of the port district in detail as then known.

The court upon hearing the petition shall fix and determine all such claims subject to proof being properly filed as provided in this section; shall fix and determine the financial condition of the district as to its assets and liabilities, and if it finds the port district to be inactive in respect of any standard of inactivity set forth by this chapter, shall order the port district to be dissolved upon the following terms and conditions:

(1) If there be no outstanding debts, or if the debts be less than the existing assets, the court shall appoint the auditor of the county in which the port district is located to be trustee of the port's assets and shall empower such person to wind up and liquidate the affairs of such district in such manner as the court shall provide and to file his or her accounting with the court within ninety days from the date of his or her appointment. Upon the filing of such account, the court shall fix a date for hearing upon the same and upon approval thereof, if such accounting be the final accounting, shall enter its order approving the same and declaring the port district dissolved.

At the request of the trustee the county sheriff may sell, at public auction, all real and personal property of the port district. The county sheriff shall cause a notice of such sale fixing the time and place thereof which shall be at a suitable place, which will be noted in the advertisement for sale. Such notice shall contain a description of the property to be sold and shall be signed by the sheriff or his or her deputy. Such notice shall be published at least once in an official newspaper in said county at least ten days prior to the date fixed for said sale. The sheriff or his or her deputy shall conduct said sale and sell the property described in the notice at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, and upon payment of the amount of such bid shall deliver the said property to such bidder. The moneys arising from such sale shall be turned over to the county auditor acting as trustee: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the sheriff shall first deduct the

costs and expenses of the sale from the moneys and shall apply such moneys to pay said costs and expenses.

The court order shall provide that the assets remaining in the hands of the trustee shall be transferred to any school district, districts, or portions of districts, lying within the dissolved port district boundaries. The transfer of assets shall be prorated to the districts based on the assessed valuation of said districts.

(2) If the debts exceed the assets of the port district, then the court shall appoint the auditor of the county in which a port district is located to be trustee of the port's assets for the purpose of conserving the same and of paying liability of the port district as funds become available therefor. The trustee shall be empowered to generally manage, wind up, and liquidate the affairs of such district in such manner as the court shall provide and to file his or her accounting with the court within ninety days from the date of his or her appointment and as often thereafter as the court shall provide. The board of county commissioners, acting as pro tempore port district commissioners under the authority of RCW 53.36.020 shall levy an annual tax not exceeding forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value or such lesser amount as may previously have been voted by the taxpayers within said district, together with an amount deemed necessary for payment of the costs and expenses attendant upon the dissolution of said district, upon all the taxable property within said district, the amount of such levy to be determined from time to time by the court. When, as shown by the final accounting of the trustee, all of the indebtedness of the district shall have been satisfied, the cost and expense of the proceeding paid or provided for, and the affairs of the district wound up, the court shall declare the district dissolved: PROVIDED, That if the indebtedness be composed in whole or in part of bonded debt for which a regular program of retirement has been provided, then the board of county commissioners shall be directed by the court to continue to make such annual levies as are required for the purpose of debt service upon said bonded debt. [2010 c 8 § 16018; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 59; 1971 ex.s. c 162 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.47.050 Effect of final order of dissolution.** Upon the entry of the final order of dissolution declaring the port district dissolved all offices of the port district shall be deemed abolished, and no other or further levy shall be certified by the county commissioners except pursuant to the directive of the court as hereinabove provided. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 5.]

**53.47.900 Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.** The provisions of this chapter shall be cumulative and nonexclusive and shall not affect any other remedy. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 6.]

## Chapter 53.48 RCW

### DISSOLUTION OF PORT AND OTHER DISTRICTS

#### Sections

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 53.48.001 | Dissolution of certain districts subject to review by boundary review board. |
| 53.48.010 | Definitions.   |

53.48.020	Petition.
53.48.030	Order for hearing—Notice.
53.48.040	Order of dissolution—Sale of assets.
53.48.050	Payment of debts and costs—Balance to school district.
53.48.060	Insolvency—Second hearing.
53.48.070	Notice of second hearing.
53.48.080	Sale of property—Levy to pay deficit.
53.48.090	Order of dissolution or refusal.
53.48.120	Provision for costs and expenses.
53.48.140	Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Powers of county commissioners.

*Dissolution of*

*air pollution control authorities: RCW 70A.15.2570.*

*cemetery districts: RCW 68.52.320.*

*fire protection districts, election method: RCW 52.10.010.*

*flood control districts: 1937 act—RCW 86.09.622, 86.09.625.*

*inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

*irrigation districts: Chapters 87.52, 87.53, 87.56 RCW.*

*metropolitan park districts: RCW 35.61.310.*

*soil conservation districts: RCW 89.08.350 through 89.08.370.*

*water-sewer districts, election method: RCW 57.04.090, 57.04.100, and chapter 53.48 RCW.*

**53.48.001 Dissolution of certain districts subject to review by boundary review board.** The dissolution of a metropolitan park district, fire protection district, water-sewer district, or flood control zone district under chapter 53.48 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1999 c 153 § 62; 1989 c 84 § 46.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.48.010 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, whenever used in this chapter, have the meaning set forth in this section:

(1) The term "district" as used herein, shall include all municipal and quasi-municipal corporations having a governing body, other than cities, towns, counties, and townships, such as port districts, school districts, water-sewer districts, fire protection districts, and all other special districts of similar organization, but shall not include local improvement districts, diking, drainage and irrigation districts, special districts as defined in RCW 85.38.010, nor public utility districts.

(2) The words "board of commissioners," as used herein, shall mean the governing authority of any district as defined in subdivision (1) of this section. [1999 c 153 § 63; 1986 c 278 § 17; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 10; 1941 c 87 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-11.]

**Purpose—1941 c 87:** "This act is intended to authorize the dissolution of all types of municipal corporations having governing bodies, other than those excepted from the application of this act, in cases where the occasion or reason for continued existence of such corporation has ceased, or where the best interests of all persons concerned would be served by such dissolution, and shall be liberally construed to effect such intent." [1941 c 87 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**53.48.020 Petition.** For the purpose of dissolution of a district, a petition for an order of dissolution signed by the majority of the board of commissioners, or other governing authority of such district shall be presented to the superior court of the county in which the board of commissioners is situated. [1941 c 87 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-12.]

**53.48.030 Order for hearing—Notice.** Upon the filing of such petition for an order of dissolution, the superior court shall enter an order setting the same for hearing at a date not

less than thirty days from the date of filing, and the petitioner shall give notice of such hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is located once a week for three successive weeks, and by posting in three public places in the county in which the district is located at least twenty-one days before said hearing. At least one notice shall be posted in the district. The notices shall set forth the filing of the petition, its purpose and the date and place of the hearing thereon. [2016 c 93 § 6; 1941 c 87 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-13.]

**53.48.040 Order of dissolution—Sale of assets.** After said hearing the court shall enter its order dissolving or refusing to dissolve said district. A finding that the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by the proposed dissolution shall be essential to an order of dissolution. If the court find that such district is solvent, the court shall order the sale of such assets, other than cash, by the sheriff of the county in which the board is situated, in the manner provided by law for the sale of property on execution. [1941 c 87 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-14.]

*Execution: Chapter 6.17 RCW.*

**53.48.050 Payment of debts and costs—Balance to school district.** The proceeds of the sale, together with moneys on hand in the treasury of the district, shall after payment of all costs and expenses, be paid to the treasurer of the same county and placed to the credit of the school district, or districts, in which such district is situated. [1941 c 87 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-15.]

*Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Disposition of funds: Chapter 53.49 RCW.*

**53.48.060 Insolvency—Second hearing.** Upon a finding of insolvency the court shall then determine the indebtedness of the district, the creditors thereof and their claims. The court shall then set a date and a place for a second hearing, which hearing shall be not less than sixty days nor more than one hundred twenty days from the hearing as provided in RCW 53.48.030.

The purpose of such hearing shall be to determine ways and means of retiring the established indebtedness of the district and paying all costs and expenses of proceedings hereunder. Such ways and means may include the levy of assessments against the property in the district as provided in RCW 53.48.080. [1941 c 87 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-16.]

**53.48.070 Notice of second hearing.** The clerk shall give notice of the second hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is located once a week for three successive weeks, and by posting in three public places in the county in which the district is located at least twenty-one days before the hearing, and shall give such other notice to creditors and other interested parties as the court may deem necessary or advisable. At least one notice shall be posted in the district. The notices shall set forth the filing of the petition, its purpose, the finding of the court on the petition, the date and place of the second hearing and the purpose of the hearing as stated in RCW 53.48.060. [1941 c 87 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-17.]

**53.48.080 Sale of property—Levy to pay deficit.** At the second hearing the court shall have authority to order the sale of any district property. If the proceeds of such sale together with any cash remaining on hand to the credit of the district are insufficient to retire such indebtedness together with all costs and expenses, the court shall have authority to order the board of commissioners to levy assessments in the manner provided by law against the property in the district in amounts sufficient to retire said indebtedness and pay the costs and expenses. At such hearing any property owner within the district may appear and be heard for or against such levy. [1941 c 87 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-18.]

**53.48.090 Order of dissolution or refusal.** After the indebtedness of the district has been settled or paid, the court shall determine whether the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by the proposed dissolution and shall make a finding thereon. The court shall then enter its order dissolving or refusing to dissolve said district. [1941 c 87 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-19.]

**53.48.120 Provision for costs and expenses.** In all proceedings brought under this chapter the court shall make provision for the costs and expenses of proceedings hereunder and for the payment of the same. [1941 c 87 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-20.]

**53.48.140 Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Powers of county commissioners.** See RCW 53.46.060.

#### Chapter 53.49 RCW

### DISPOSITION OF FUNDS ON DISSOLUTION OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS

#### Sections

- 53.49.010 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Disposition of funds.  
53.49.020 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Order to transfer funds.

**53.49.010 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Disposition of funds.** Whenever any port district located in any county with a population of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand shall be dissolved and disestablished or is about to be dissolved and disestablished and any sums of money remain in any of its funds, the port commissioners are authorized and directed to apply by petition, which may be filed without fee, to the superior court of such county for an order authorizing the transfer of such funds to the school district fund or if there be more than one such district, the school district funds of all districts, which are located within the boundaries of such port district. [1991 c 363 § 134; 1943 c 282 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9718-10. Formerly RCW 53.48.100.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**53.49.020 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Order to transfer funds.** The superior court of any such

county shall enter his or her order authorizing such transfer of funds if he or she is satisfied, after hearing the petition therefor, that the port district is dissolved and disestablished or is about to be dissolved and disestablished and that no obligations of the port district remain unpaid. The court shall equitably divide such sums of money between school districts if there be more than one district involved. [2010 c 8 § 16019; 1943 c 282 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9718-11. Formerly RCW 53.48.110.]

#### Chapter 53.54 RCW

### AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT

#### Sections

- 53.54.010 Programs for abatement of aircraft noise authorized.  
53.54.020 Investigation and monitoring of noise impact—Programs to conform to needs—"Impacted areas."  
53.54.030 Authorized programs—When property deemed within impacted area.  
53.54.040 Fund authorized—Sources.  
53.54.900 Liberal construction—Powers additional.

**53.54.010 Programs for abatement of aircraft noise authorized.** A port district operating an airport serving more than nine hundred scheduled jet aircraft flights per day may undertake any of the programs or combinations of such programs, as authorized by this chapter, for the purpose of alleviating and abating the impact of jet aircraft noise on areas surrounding such airport. [2020 c 105 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 121 § 1.]

**53.54.020 Investigation and monitoring of noise impact—Programs to conform to needs—"Impacted areas."** (1) Prior to initiating programs as authorized in this chapter, the port commission shall undertake the investigation and monitoring of aircraft noise impact to determine the nature and extent of the impact. The port commission shall adopt a program of noise impact abatement based upon the investigations and as amended periodically to conform to needs demonstrated by the monitoring programs. In no case may the port district undertake any of the programs prescribed in this chapter in an area that is:

- (a) More than ten miles beyond the paved north end of any runway;
- (b) More than thirteen miles beyond the paved south end of any runway; or
- (c) More than two miles from the centerline of any runway ten miles north and thirteen miles south from the paved end of such runway.

(2) Such areas as determined in this section, shall be known as "impacted areas." [2020 c 105 § 2; 1984 c 193 § 1; 1979 c 85 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 121 § 2.]

**53.54.030 Authorized programs—When property deemed within impacted area.** (1) For the purposes of this chapter, in developing a remedial program, the port commission may take steps as appropriate including, but not limited to, one or more of the following programs:

- (a) Acquisition of property or property rights within the impacted area, which shall be deemed necessary to accomplish a port purpose. The port district may purchase such property or property rights by time payment notwithstanding

the time limitations provided for in RCW 53.08.010. The port district may mortgage or otherwise pledge any such properties acquired to secure such transactions. The port district may assume any outstanding mortgages.

(b) Transaction assistance programs, including assistance with real estate fees and mortgage assistance, and other neighborhood remedial programs as compensation for impacts due to aircraft noise and noise associated conditions. Any such programs shall be in connection with properties located within an impacted area and shall be provided upon terms and conditions as the port district shall determine appropriate.

(c) Programs of soundproofing structures located within an impacted area. Such programs may be executed without regard to the ownership, provided the owner waives damages and conveys an easement for the operation of aircraft, and for noise and noise associated conditions therewith, to the port district.

(d) Mortgage insurance of private owners of lands or improvements within such noise impacted area where such private owners are unable to obtain mortgage insurance solely because of noise impact. In this regard, the port district may establish reasonable regulations and may impose reasonable conditions and charges upon the granting of such mortgage insurance. Such mortgage insurance fees and charges shall at no time exceed fees established for federal mortgage insurance programs for like service.

(e) Management of all lands, easements, or development rights acquired, including but not limited to the following:

- (i) Rental of any or all lands or structures acquired;
- (ii) Redevelopment of any such lands for any economic use consistent with airport operations, local zoning and the state environmental policy;
- (iii) Sale of such properties for cash or for time payment and subjection of such property to mortgage or other security transaction: PROVIDED, That any such sale shall reserve to the port district by covenant an unconditional right of easement for the operation of all aircraft and for all noise or noise conditions associated therewith.

(2)(a) An individual property may be provided benefits by the port district under each of the programs described in subsection (1) of this section. However, an individual property may not be provided benefits under any one of these programs more than once, unless the property:

- (i) Is subjected to increased aircraft noise or differing aircraft noise impacts that would have afforded different levels of mitigation, even if the property owner had waived all damages and conveyed a full and unrestricted easement; or
- (ii) Contains a soundproofing installation, structure, or other type of sound mitigation equipment product or benefit previously installed pursuant to the remedial program under this chapter by the port district that is determined through inspection to be in need of a repair or replacement.

(b) Port districts choosing to exercise the authority under (a)(ii) of this subsection are required to conduct inspections of homes where mitigation improvements are no longer working as intended. In those properties, port districts must work with a state certified building inspector to determine whether package failure resulted in additional hazards or structural damage to the property.

(2021 Ed.)

(3) A property shall be considered within the impacted area if any part thereof is within the impacted area. [2021 c 65 § 3. Prior: 2020 c 112 § 1; 2020 c 105 § 3; 1993 c 150 § 1; 1985 c 115 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 121 § 3.]

**Explanatory statement—2021 c 65:** "RCW 1.08.025 directs the code reviser, with the approval of the statute law committee, to prepare legislation for submission to the legislature "concerning deficiencies, conflicts, or obsolete provisions" in statutes. This act makes technical, nonsubstantive amendments as follows:

- (1) Section 2 of this act decodifies an obsolete section.
- (2) Sections 3 through 5 of this act merge double amendments created when sections were amended in the 2020 legislative session without reference to the amendments made in the same session.
- (3) Chapter 20, Laws of 2020 (SHB 2246) reorganized certain environmental statutes and recodified numerous statutes to create a new Title 70A RCW. Sections 6 through 102 of this act update and correct many of the RCW citations impacted by chapter 20, Laws of 2020.
- (4) Section 103 of this act corrects an erroneous chapter reference.
- (5) Sections 104 through 108 of this act clarify references to the effective date of chapter 11.130 RCW." [2021 c 65 § 1.]

**53.54.040 Fund authorized—Sources.** A port district may establish a fund to be utilized in effectuating the intent of this chapter. The port district may finance such fund by: The proceeds of any grants or loans made by federal agencies; rentals, charges and other revenues as may be generated by programs authorized by this chapter, airport revenues; and revenue bonds based upon such revenues. The port district may also finance such fund, as necessary, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of general obligation bond issues of not more than one-eighth of one percent of the value of taxable property in the port district: PROVIDED, That any such bond issue shall be in addition to bonds authorized by RCW 53.36.030: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such general obligation bond issue may be subject to referendum by petition as provided by county charter, the same as if it were a county ordinance. [1974 ex.s. c 121 § 4.]

**53.54.900 Liberal construction—Powers additional.** The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this chapter, which shall be liberally construed to carry out the purposes and objects for which this chapter is intended. The powers granted in this chapter shall be in addition to all others granted to port districts. [1974 ex.s. c 121 § 5.]

**Chapter 53.56 RCW  
FIRE DEPARTMENTS—PERFORMANCE  
MEASURES**

Sections

53.56.010	Intent.
53.56.020	Definitions.
53.56.030	Policy statement—Service delivery objectives.
53.56.040	Annual evaluations—Annual report.

**53.56.010 Intent.** The legislature intends for port districts to set standards for addressing the reporting and accountability of substantially career fire departments, and to specify performance measures applicable to response time objectives for certain major services. The legislature acknowledges the efforts of the international city/county management association, the international association of fire chiefs, and the national fire protection association for the organization and deployment of resources for fire departments. The arrival of first responders with automatic external

defibrillator capability before the onset of brain death, and the arrival of adequate fire suppression resources before flash-over is a critical event during the mitigation of an emergency, and is in the public's best interest. For these reasons, this chapter contains performance measures, comparable to that research, relating to the organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special operations by substantially career fire departments. This chapter does not, and is not intended to, in any way modify or limit the authority of port districts to set levels of service. [2005 c 376 § 401.]

**53.56.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring, manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous access, and drug therapy.

(2) "Aircraft rescue and firefighting" means the firefighting actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

(3) "Brain death" as defined by the American heart association means the irreversible death of brain cells that begins four to six minutes after cardiac arrest.

(4) "Fire department" means a port district fire department responsible for firefighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special operations in a specified geographic area. The department must be a substantially career fire department, and not a substantially volunteer fire department.

(5) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling and extinguishing fires.

(6) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator capability.

(7) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and the fire spreads rapidly.

(8) "Marine rescue and firefighting" means the firefighting actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using normal and emergency routes for egress.

(9) "Port" means a port district that provides fire protection services, which may include firefighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special operations, in a specified geographic area.

(10) "Response time" means the time immediately following the turnout time that begins when units are en route to the emergency incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

(11) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment.

(12) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units receive notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time. [2005 c 376 § 402.]

**53.56.030 Policy statement—Service delivery objectives.** (1) Every port shall maintain a written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- (a) The existence of a fire department;
- (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;
- (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;
- (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and
- (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to perform.

(2) Every port shall include service delivery objectives in the written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of this section. These objectives shall include specific response time objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- (a) Fire suppression;
- (b) Emergency medical services;
- (c) Special operations;
- (d) Aircraft rescue and firefighting;
- (e) Marine rescue and firefighting; and
- (f) Wildland firefighting.

(3) Every port, in order to measure the ability to arrive and begin mitigation operations before the critical events of brain death or flash-over, shall establish time objectives for the following measurements:

- (a) Turnout time;
- (b) Response time for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident and response time for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression incident;
- (c) Response time for the arrival of a unit with first responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident; and
- (d) Response time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the fire department.

(4) Every port shall also establish a performance objective of not less than ninety percent for the achievement of each response time objective established under subsection (3) of this section.

(5) An annual part 139 inspection and certification by the federal aviation administration shall be considered to meet the requirements of this section. [2005 c 376 § 403.]

**53.56.040 Annual evaluations—Annual report.** (1) Every port shall evaluate its level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time objective in each geographic area within the port's jurisdiction.

(2) Beginning in 2007, every port shall issue an annual written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required by subsection (1) of this section.

(a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being met.



(b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve compliance.

(3) An annual part 139 inspection and certification by the federal aviation administration shall be considered to meet the requirements of this section. [2005 c 376 § 404.]

**Chapter 53.57 RCW  
PORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Sections

- 53.57.010 Definitions.
- 53.57.020 Port development authority—Creation—Powers—Joint exercise of authority.
- 53.57.030 Governance—Organization—Management authority.
- 53.57.040 Agreements with government entities—Bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness—Special funds.
- 53.57.050 Powers, authorities, rights—Jurisdiction.
- 53.57.060 Applicable laws.
- 53.57.070 Transfer of real property—Notice requirements—Approval process.
- 53.57.080 Insolvency or dissolution—Satisfaction of liabilities.

**53.57.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Port commission" means a port commission governed by chapter 53.12 RCW of a port district that either singly or jointly creates a port development authority under the provisions of this chapter.

(2) "Port district" or "port districts" means a port district or port districts that are located in a county with a population of more than eight hundred thousand on July 24, 2015.

(3) "Port public development authority" or "port development authority" means a port public development authority created by a single port district or jointly created by two port districts in accordance with RCW 53.57.020. [2015 c 35 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** See note following RCW 53.57.020.

**53.57.020 Port development authority—Creation—Powers—Joint exercise of authority.** (1) A port district or two port districts that act jointly in accordance with subsection (3) of this section may by resolution:

(a) Create a port development authority solely to manage maritime activities of the port district or districts; and

(b) Transfer to any port development authority created under this section, with or without consideration, any funds, real or personal property, property interests, or services.

(2) Port development authorities created under subsection (1) of this section may:

(a) Administer and execute federal grants or programs;

(b) Receive and administer private funds, goods, or services for any lawful public purpose related to maritime activities of the port district or districts; and

(c) Perform any lawful public purpose or public function related to maritime activities of the port district or districts, including exercise any powers of the port district or districts that created the port development authority, subject to limitations provided in this chapter.

(3) Two port districts, each located in a county with a population of more than eight hundred thousand on July 24, 2015, may jointly exercise the authority provided in this section under an agreement for joint or cooperative action exe-

cuted in accordance with the interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW.

(4) Any resolution to create a port development authority that is adopted by a port district under this section must limit the liability of the port development authority to the assets and property of the port development authority. [2015 c 35 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** "The legislature finds that the shipping and port industries must contend with an increasingly competitive global market. Historically, port districts competed against other local port districts. Today, port districts compete on a global scale, and the current landscape is rapidly changing with the expansion of facilities in Canada and the impending widening of the Panama Canal. The ports of Seattle and Tacoma are the third largest container trade centers in the United States, but they are in a race to hold onto this position. The legislature finds that Washington's ports need to be able to work cooperatively to protect the maritime base of the state.

The legislature intends to enable certain port districts to create port public development authorities for the management of their maritime activities and to act cooperatively under the interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW. The legislature intends for the port districts to be able to partner as a single management team and use financial resources strategically, while remaining separate entities and complying with federal regulations. The legislature finds that enacting this authority will help Washington remain competitive globally, protect the state's long-term economic and societal interests in port district jobs and growth, and provide a tool to allow ports to work together on behalf of the state." [2015 c 35 § 1.]

**53.57.030 Governance—Organization—Management authority.**

(1) The affairs, operations, and funds of a port development authority must be governed by the port district or districts that created the port development authority. Each port district governing the port development authority must oversee the affairs, operations, and funds of the port development authority exclusively through the elected port commission of the port district. If the port development authority is jointly created by more than one port district under RCW 53.57.020, then the port development authority must be managed by each port district as a member of the port development authority, in accordance with the terms of this section and the charter for the port development authority. Each port district member shall act in such capacity through its own elected commissioners.

(2) Any port district that creates a port development authority under RCW 53.57.020 must provide for the organization and operation of the port development authority, oversee the affairs, operations, and funds of the port development authority in order to correct any deficiency, and ensure that the purposes of each program undertaken are reasonably accomplished.

(3) A port development authority, in managing maritime activities of a port district or districts under this chapter, may:

(a) Own and sell real and personal property;

(b) Contract with individuals, associations, corporations, the state, and the United States;

(c) Sue and be sued;

(d) Loan and borrow funds;

(e) Issue bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness;

(f) Transfer funds, real or personal property, property interests, or services; and

(g) Perform community services related to maritime activities managed by the port development authority.

(4) Port development authorities do not have the power of eminent domain or the power to levy taxes or special assessments. [2015 c 35 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** See note following RCW 53.57.020.

**53.57.040 Agreements with government entities—Bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness—Special funds.** (1) For the management of maritime activities, port districts and port development authorities are authorized to enter into an agreement with the federal government, any federal agency or department, and any state agency or political subdivision of the state, and pursuant to the agreement:

(a) Receive and expend, or cause to be received and expended by a trustee or custodian, federal or private funds for any lawful public purpose related to management of maritime activities of the port district or port development authority;

(b) Issue bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness that are guaranteed or otherwise secured by funds or other instruments provided by or through the federal government; and

(c) Agree to repay and reimburse for any liability of a guarantor of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued by the port district or port development authority.

(2) A port district or port development authority may pledge as security for any bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness, or for any obligation to repay or reimburse the guarantor of a bond, note, or evidence of indebtedness, its right, title, and interest to or in the following:

(a) Any federal grant or payment received by the port district or port development authority, or that may be received in the future;

(b) Property and revenues that may be obtained directly or indirectly from the use of any federal or private funds received by the port district or port development authority under subsection (1) of this section;

(c) Payments received or owing from any person as a result of the lending of any federal or private funds received by the port district or port development authority under subsection (1) of this section;

(d) Any proceeds under (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection (2), and any securities or investments in which (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection (2) and any associated proceeds are invested; and

(e) Any interest or other earnings on (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this subsection (2).

(3)(a) A port district or port development authority may establish one or more special funds relating to any or all of the sources listed in subsection (2)(a) through (e) of this section. The port district or port development authority may use funds from a special fund to pay:

(i) The principal, interest, premium, if any, and other amounts payable on any bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness authorized under this section; and

(ii) Any amounts owing on obligations for repayment or reimbursement of guarantors of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness as authorized under this section.

(b) A port district or port development authority may contract with a financial institution to act as trustee or custodian to: (i) Receive, administer, and expend any federal or private funds; (ii) collect, administer, and make payments

from any special fund authorized under this subsection (3); or (iii) perform the functions authorized under both (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (3). The trustee or custodian may also perform other duties and functions in connection with authorized transactions.

(c) If any bond, note, other evidence of indebtedness, or related agreement complies with subsection (4) of this section, then any of the funds held by a trustee or custodian, or by a port development authority, do not constitute public moneys or funds of a port district, and must be kept segregated and set apart from other funds at all times.

(4)(a) If a port development authority loans or grants federal or private funds to a private party, or uses federal or private funds to guarantee any obligations of a private party, then any bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness issued or entered into for the purpose of receiving the federal or private funds, or any agreement to repay or reimburse guarantors, are not obligations of a port district. These obligations may be paid only from:

(i) A special fund established in accordance with subsection (3) of this section;

(ii) Any security pledged in accordance with this section; or

(iii) Both (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (4).

(b) Any bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness to which this subsection (4) applies must contain a recital establishing that the bond, note, or evidence of indebtedness is not an obligation of the port district or the state, and that neither the faith and credit, nor the taxing power of the state, any subdivision or agency of the state, or any port district is pledged to pay the principal, interest, or premium, if any, on the bond, note, or evidence of indebtedness.

(c) Any bond, note, other evidence of indebtedness, or other obligation to which this subsection (4) applies may not be included in any computation for purposes of limitations on indebtedness.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "lawful public purpose" includes any use of funds related to management of the maritime activities of a port district or port development authority, including loans of funds to public or private parties authorized by an agreement with the United States or any federal department or agency through which federal or private funds are obtained or authorized under the federal laws and regulations pertinent to the agreement. [2015 c 35 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** See note following RCW 53.57.020.

**53.57.050 Powers, authorities, rights—Jurisdiction.**

Powers, authorities, or rights expressly or impliedly granted to any port district or agents of the port district under the provisions of this chapter are not operable, applicable, or effective beyond the boundaries of the port district, unless so provided by contract between the port district and a county, a city, or another port district in accordance with an agreement for joint or cooperative action under the interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW. [2015 c 35 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** See note following RCW 53.57.020.

**53.57.060 Applicable laws.** A port development authority created under this chapter must comply with applicable laws including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Requirements concerning local government audits by the state auditor and applicable accounting requirements set forth in chapter 43.09 RCW;

(2) The public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW;

(3) Prohibitions on using facilities for campaign purposes under RCW 42.17A.555;

(4) The open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW;

(5) The code of ethics for municipal officers under chapter 42.23 RCW; and

(6) Local government whistleblower protection laws set forth in chapter 42.41 RCW. [2015 c 35 § 7.]

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** See note following RCW 53.57.020.

**53.57.070 Transfer of real property—Notice requirements—Approval process.** (1) In transferring real property to a port development authority under RCW 53.57.020, the port district or districts creating the port development authority must impose appropriate deed restrictions necessary to ensure the continued use of the property for the public purpose for which the property is transferred.

(2) A port development authority must provide written notice at least thirty days prior to any proposed sale or encumbrance of real property that was transferred by a port district to the port development authority under RCW 53.57.020(1). The port development authority must, at a minimum, provide notice to:

(a) The port commission of the port district that transferred the real property;

(b) Each local newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the port district; and

(c) Each local radio station, television station, or other news medium that has submitted to the port development authority a written request to receive notification.

(3)(a) A port development authority may sell or encumber property transferred by a port district under RCW 53.57.020(1) only after approval of the sale or encumbrance by the port development authority at a public meeting. Notice of the public meeting must be: (i) Provided in accordance with RCW 42.30.080; and (ii) published at least twice in a local newspaper of general circulation no fewer than seven days and no more than two weeks before the public meeting.

(b) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent the port development authority from holding an executive session during a regular or special meeting in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(c). [2015 c 35 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** See note following RCW 53.57.020.

**53.57.080 Insolvency or dissolution—Satisfaction of liabilities.** (1) If a port development authority is insolvent or dissolved, the superior court of a county in which the port development authority operates has jurisdiction and authority to appoint trustees or receivers of the assets and property of the port development authority and to supervise the trusteeship or receivership.

(2) All liabilities incurred by a port development authority must be satisfied exclusively from the assets and properties of the port development authority. No creditor or other person has any right of action against the port district or districts creating the port development authority on account of any debts, obligations, or liabilities of the port development authority. [2015 c 35 § 9.]

(2021 Ed.)

**Findings—Intent—2015 c 35:** See note following RCW 53.57.020.

## Chapter 53.58 RCW CARGO HANDLING EQUIPMENT

### Sections

53.58.010 Purchase of zero and near zero emissions cargo handling equipment.

**53.58.010 Purchase of zero and near zero emissions cargo handling equipment. (Expires December 31, 2031.)**

(1) Moneys available to a port district or a port development authority may be used to purchase zero and near zero emissions cargo handling equipment and infrastructure supporting that equipment for the use of the port district, port development authority, or tenants or lessees thereof.

(2) Moneys available to a port district or a port development authority shall not be used to purchase fully automated marine container cargo handling equipment.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Fully automated marine container cargo handling equipment" means equipment that is remotely operated or remotely monitored, with or without the exercise of human intervention or control.

(b) "Port development authority" means a port public development authority created by a single port district or jointly created by two port districts in accordance with RCW 53.57.020.

(4) This section expires December 31, 2031. [2021 c 88 § 1.]

