
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6645

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Government Operations & Security (originally sponsored by Senator Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing a city, town, code city, or county to
2 request mediation in the event of a conflict with another city, town,
3 code city, or county; adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW;
4 adding a new section to chapter 35A.21 RCW; and adding a new section
5 to chapter 36.01 RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 When a city or town has a conflict with another city, town, code
10 city, or county, the city or town may request from the attorney
11 general's office the names of three mediators from which the city or
12 town and the other city, town, code city, or county must choose a
13 mediator, unless both jurisdictions agree to use another mediator.
14 The attorney general's office must provide the names of three
15 mediators within ten business days of receiving the request. When
16 selecting the mediators, the attorney general's office may choose
17 from any accepted list of mediators and is not required to issue a
18 request for proposals. The mediator will hear the issues from both
19 sides within thirty days of being selected. The mediation sessions
20 must be held in a timely manner so as not to prolong the process. The
21 mediator will render a binding decision based on the best interests

1 of the taxpayers involved no later than ninety days after the last
2 mediation session. The mediator may be granted an additional ten days
3 to render a binding decision if requested by the mediator and agreed
4 to by the city or town and the other city, town, code city, or
5 county. The city or town and the other city, town, code city, or
6 county must divide the costs of the mediator evenly between the two
7 jurisdictions. The mediator may not add additional costs or
8 obligations beyond the mediator's fee to the matter submitted for
9 mediation.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.21
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 When a code city has a conflict with another code city, city,
13 town, or county, the code city may request from the attorney
14 general's office the names of three mediators from which the code
15 city and the other code city, city, town, or county must choose a
16 mediator, unless both jurisdictions agree to use another mediator.
17 The attorney general's office must provide the names of three
18 mediators within ten business days of receiving the request. When
19 selecting the mediators, the attorney general's office may choose
20 from any accepted list of mediators and is not required to issue a
21 request for proposals. The mediator will hear the issues from both
22 sides within thirty days of being selected. The mediation sessions
23 must be held in a timely manner so as not to prolong the process. The
24 mediator will render a binding decision based on the best interests
25 of the taxpayers involved no later than ninety days after the last
26 mediation session. The mediator may be granted an additional ten days
27 to render a binding decision if requested by the mediator and agreed
28 to by the code city and the other code city, city, town, or county.
29 The code city and the other code city, city, town, or county must
30 divide the costs of the mediator evenly between the two
31 jurisdictions. The mediator may not add additional costs or
32 obligations beyond the mediator's fee to the matter submitted for
33 mediation.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 When a county has a conflict with another county, code city,
37 city, or town, the county may request from the attorney general's
38 office the names of three mediators from which the county and the

1 other county, code city, city, or town must choose a mediator, unless
2 both jurisdictions agree to use another mediator. The attorney
3 general's office must provide the names of three mediators within ten
4 business days of receiving the request. When selecting the mediators,
5 the attorney general's office may choose from any accepted list of
6 mediators and is not required to issue a request for proposals. The
7 mediator will hear the issues from both sides within thirty days of
8 being selected. The mediation sessions must be held in a timely
9 manner so as not to prolong the process. The mediator will render a
10 binding decision based on the best interests of the taxpayers
11 involved no later than ninety days after the last mediation session.
12 The mediator may be granted an additional ten days to render a
13 binding decision if requested by the mediator and agreed to by the
14 county and the other county, code city, city, or town. The county and
15 the other county, code city, city, or town must divide the costs of
16 the mediator evenly between the two jurisdictions. The mediator may
17 not add additional costs or obligations beyond the mediator's fee to
18 the matter submitted for mediation.

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