

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5407

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations, March 1, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to allowing voters to approve ballot propositions protecting a portion of metropolitan park district property taxes from prorationing.

**Brief Description:** Allowing voters to protect a portion of metropolitan park district property taxes from prorationing.

**Sponsors:** Senators Winsley, Haugen, Oke and Wojahn.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations: 2/7/95, 3/1/95 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5407 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Drew, Hale, Heavey, McCaslin and Winsley.

**Staff:** Eugene Green (786-7405)

**Background:** The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma is the only metropolitan park district in the state. A metropolitan park district is authorized to impose two regular property tax levies, one at a maximum rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and a second levy at a maximum rate of \$0.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Although both of these levies are subject to the \$5.90 limit on combined levy rates, the \$0.50 levy is placed in a higher status than the \$0.25 levy for purposes of prorationing.

To the extent possible, the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma wants to protect its lower status levy, \$0.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, from prorationing.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** A metropolitan park district with a population of 150,000 or more (Tacoma) may submit a ballot proposition to the voters authorizing the protection of all or a portion of its \$0.25 levy from prorationing by placing the levy outside the \$5.90 limit (actually the \$9.50 limit if one includes the state school levy of \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation), but under the constitutional 1 percent limitation. The levy is for six years, and is approved by simple majority vote.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The substitute bill clarifies that any potential reduction of levies between \$9.50 and \$10.00 is adjusted so that the Metropolitan Park District levy is reduced or eliminated before any other levies in this category are affected.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** It is with voter permission and will protect our funding.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Dr. Richard Moe, Jim Montgomerie, Wayne Fanshier, Metropolitan Park District, Tacoma (pro); Pete Spiller, Fire Districts.