

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 775

Ordered by the Senate June 14
Including Senate Amendments dated June 14

Sponsored by Senator FREDERICK

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Provides that zone directors on local governing body of soil and water conservation district [*in county with population of _____ or more need only*] **must** reside within **zones they represent** in district and be registered voters. **Provides that zone directors in districts that do not include any counties with populations of 250,000 or more must also meet certain additional requirements.**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to soil and water conservation districts; amending ORS 568.545, 568.560 and 568.565.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 568.560 is amended to read:

568.560. (1) The local governing body of the soil and water conservation district shall consist of a board of either five or seven directors elected or appointed as provided by law. To ensure proper representation of all the people in the district and to facilitate district functions, the State Department of Agriculture shall provide for the zoning of each district, and shall provide each time directors are elected or appointed for the proper and equitable representation for each zone.

(2) Two director positions shall be at-large positions. At-large directors must reside within the district and be registered voters.

(3)(a) **All zone directors must be registered voters and reside within the zones they represent in the district.**

(b) In addition to the requirements described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, zone directors in a district that does not include any county with a population of 250,000 or more must:

(A) Own or manage 10 or more acres of land in **the zones they represent** in the district[,] **and** be involved in the active management of the **land** [*property, reside within the boundaries of the district and be registered voters. Zone directors may either reside within the zone that is represented or own or manage 10 or more acres within the zone that is represented and be involved in the active management of the property. An individual may also serve as a zone director when the individual, in lieu of the other requirements specified in this subsection, resides within the zone that is represented and indicates*]; **or**

(B) Indicate an interest in natural resource conservation as demonstrated by serving at least one year as a director or associate director of a district and having a conservation plan that is approved by the district.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (4) Candidates nominated for director from a specific zone shall be voted on by all electors
2 within the district.

3 [(4)] (5) The directors shall designate a chairperson, secretary and other officers as necessary
4 and may, from time to time, change such designation.

5 [(5)] (6) The term of office of each director shall be four years, except that:

6 (a) Of the directors first appointed under ORS 568.400, two shall serve until January first fol-
7 lowing the first general election following their appointment, and three shall serve until January
8 first following the second general election following their appointment, as determined by the de-
9 partment, and thereafter, their successors shall be elected as provided by law for other elected di-
10 rectors.

11 (b) Of the directors first elected as provided in ORS 568.545 (1), three shall serve until January
12 first following the first general election and four shall serve until January first following the second
13 general election after the date of their election, as determined by them by lot at the meeting re-
14 ferred to in ORS 568.545 (1).

15 (c) Of the directors first elected as provided in ORS 568.565 (1), three shall serve until January
16 first following the first general election and two shall serve until January first following the second
17 general election after the date of their election, as determined by them by lot at the meeting re-
18 ferred to in ORS 568.565 (1).

19 (d) Of the zone directors elected as provided under ORS 568.565 (2), three shall serve until
20 January first following the first general election and two shall serve until January first following
21 the second general election after the date of their election, as determined by lot at the meeting re-
22 ferred to in ORS 568.565 (2).

23 [(6)] (7) A director shall hold office until a successor has been elected or appointed, has qualified
24 and has taken the oath of office or until the office becomes vacant under subsection [(7)] (8) of this
25 section. Any vacancy occurring in the office of director shall be filled as provided by subsection
26 [(8)] (9) of this section.

27 [(7)] (8) A director position becomes vacant under the following circumstances:

28 (a) The department, upon the written recommendation of a majority of the members of the local
29 governing body of a district, may declare vacant the position of a director who is absent from three
30 consecutive meetings of the local governing body of the district. A position becomes vacant under
31 this paragraph upon the issuance of the declaration by the department.

32 (b) No nominee for the position qualifies under ORS 568.530 to have the name of the nominee
33 furnished to the county clerk for placement on the general district election ballot and no person
34 qualifies under ORS 568.530 to have write-in votes counted. A position becomes vacant under this
35 paragraph on January 1.

36 (c) The department determines that a candidate receiving the most votes at an election does not
37 qualify under this section to hold the position. A position becomes vacant under this paragraph on
38 January 1 next following the election at which the unqualified candidate was elected unless an ap-
39 pointee to the position has been selected under subsection [(8)] (9) of this section.

40 (d) A director serving in a position no longer qualifies under this section to hold the position.
41 A position becomes vacant under this paragraph upon the department's declaration that the person
42 no longer qualifies for the position.

43 (e) A director resigns from a position. A position becomes vacant under this paragraph upon the
44 department's receiving notice of the resignation.

45 (f) A candidate who received the most votes at an election, or an appointee, refuses to take the

1 oath of office as a director.

2 [(8)] (9) A director position that becomes vacant before the scheduled expiration of a term shall
3 be filled by appointment by a majority of the remaining directors. However, if a majority of the di-
4 rector positions are vacant or if the remaining directors cannot agree on an appointee, the depart-
5 ment shall make an appointment to fill the position.

6 [(9)] (10) An appointment under subsection [(8)] (9) of this section shall end on January 1 next
7 following the first general district election held after the appointment. If the appointment ends under
8 this subsection before the January 1 that would normally complete the four-year term of office for
9 the position, the position shall be placed on the ballot at the next general election as provided under
10 ORS 568.530 to fill the position for the remainder of the four-year term.

11 **SECTION 2.** ORS 568.545 is amended to read:

12 568.545. (1) If two or more soil and water conservation districts are consolidated, all directors
13 of the former districts may continue to serve until directors for the consolidated district are elected
14 as provided in this subsection. Not later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the certificate
15 referred to in ORS 568.471, the boards of the former districts shall hold a joint meeting. At the joint
16 meeting, a majority of all the directors of all the former districts constitutes a quorum for the
17 transaction of business. The directors so assembled shall elect seven persons from among their
18 number to serve as directors of the consolidated district. The term of office of the directors elected
19 as provided in this subsection shall be as provided in ORS 568.560 [(5)(b)] (6)(b). The number of di-
20 rectors of a consolidated district may be reduced to five in the manner provided in ORS 568.565.

21 (2) The directors elected as provided in subsection (1) of this section shall select a chairperson,
22 secretary and other necessary officers and select a regular date for the annual and other meetings.

23 **SECTION 3.** ORS 568.565 is amended to read:

24 568.565. (1) Upon the written recommendation of the local governing body of a district having
25 seven directors, the number of directors of such governing body may be reduced from seven to five
26 by holding a meeting of the governing body at which the directors elect five persons from among
27 their number to serve as directors of the district. The term of office of the directors elected pursuant
28 to this section shall be as provided in ORS 568.560 [(5)(c)] (6)(c).

29 (2) Upon the written recommendation and majority vote of the local governing body of a district
30 having five directors, the number of directors for the district may be increased to seven.
31 Notwithstanding any unexpired term of office to which a member may have been elected, all five
32 zone positions shall be placed on the ballot at the next following general election. The department
33 shall determine the terms of office for the positions as provided in ORS 568.560 [(5)(d)] (6)(d). Any
34 vacancy that occurs in a zone position shall be filled as provided under ORS 568.560.

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