

# Resolution No. 1997-05

[\(Council Minutes 97/02/18\)](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 1997-05

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Washington, expressing opposition to House Bill 1853

WHEREAS, House Bill 1853 proposes to change existing law by providing a mechanism whereby property of one school district will be transferred into another school district based upon the vote of a very small portion of the population of the affected school districts; and,

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation has the potential to adversely impact the Clover Park School District, which school district includes a large number of residents and taxpayers in the City of Lakewood, setting a very dangerous precedent of departure from the process of existing law; and,

WHEREAS, a result that would stem from passage of House Bill 1853 would be an increase in the taxes paid by those residents within the Clover Park School District because of the loss of property from the school district boundaries, in favor of the Steilacoom School District; and,

WHEREAS, the effect of House Bill 1853, if passed, would be to present the potential mandated changes in the boundaries of school districts based upon factors which are unable to be predicted in the future, so that its full impact cannot be appreciated or understood, leaving all school districts in positions of uncertainty with respect to their future tax bases; and,

WHEREAS, the specific impacts to the Clover Park School District would not take into considerations such factors as the changes in student populations served, nor the per capita assessed valuation of the Clover Park School District and the Steilacoom School District, and would arbitrarily result in the loss of tax base property from the Clover Park School District, to the benefit of the Steilacoom School District, even though the Steilacoom School District has one of the highest per student assessed values of all school districts in Pierce County and Clover Park School District, which would suffer the loss of property revenues and a decrease in assessed valuation, has one of the lowest per student assessed valuation of all of the school districts in Pierce County; and,

WHEREAS, in order to provide for fairness to the taxpayers who would otherwise be adversely impacted by an arbitrary change in school district boundaries resulting from passage of House Bill 1853, without any opportunity to vote or express their views, and in order to avoid the uncertainties that could result, in the future, to various school districts across the state because of the dangerous precedent of circumventing current law, the full impacts of which would be unable to be anticipated, House Bill 1853 should be rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON HEREBY RESOLVES, as Follows:

Section 1. That the Legislature is requested to reject and defeat House Bill 1853.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and signatures hereon.

PASSED by the City Council this 18th day of February, 1997.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD

Attest:

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Bill Harrison, Mayor

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Alice M. Bush, CMC, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

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Daniel B. Heid, City Attorney

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