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SENATE BILL 6064

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senator McCaslin

Read first time 02/16/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to law enforcement service districts; and adding a  
2 new chapter to Title 36 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) One law enforcement service district may  
5 be created in the unincorporated area of a county to finance the  
6 provision of additional levels of law enforcement as provided in this  
7 chapter. A law enforcement service district is a quasi-municipal  
8 corporation and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for  
9 public purposes. The county legislative authority shall be the  
10 governing body of a law enforcement service district, and the county  
11 treasurer shall act as the ex officio treasurer of the service  
12 district. The voters of a law enforcement service district shall be  
13 all registered voters residing in the service district.

14 (2) A law enforcement service district may not provide law  
15 enforcement services itself, but may contract with a county for the  
16 provision of additional levels of law enforcement within the service  
17 district. The county sheriff shall be the chief law enforcement  
18 officer and shall be in charge of the law enforcement personnel in a  
19 law enforcement service district.

1 (3) Whenever territory located within a law enforcement service  
2 district is incorporated or annexed into a city or town, the area  
3 shall be removed from the law enforcement service district.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The creation of a law enforcement service  
5 district shall be initiated by either resolution of the county  
6 legislative authority, or petition of registered voters, proposing the  
7 creation of the service district. A petition shall be filed with the  
8 county legislative authority and must be signed by registered voters  
9 residing in the proposed service district equal in number to at least  
10 ten percent of the voters voting within the boundaries of the proposed  
11 service district at the last general election. The boundaries of the  
12 proposed law enforcement service district shall be countywide,  
13 excluding incorporated areas; and those boundaries shall be described  
14 on the petition or resolution, whichever method is used.

15 The county legislative authority shall hold a public hearing on the  
16 proposed law enforcement service district if the petition includes  
17 sufficient valid signatures, or such a resolution is adopted. Notice  
18 of the public hearing shall be published, at least once, not less than  
19 ten days prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in  
20 the proposed service district. The county legislative authority shall  
21 hear objections from any affected person.

22 A special election shall be called by the county legislative  
23 authority, at one of the dates specified in RCW 29.13.020, to authorize  
24 the establishment of the law enforcement service district and establish  
25 the maximum rate of property tax that may be imposed by the service  
26 district, if after the public hearing the county legislative authority  
27 finds the creation of the service district to be in the public  
28 interest. The county legislative authority shall establish the maximum  
29 rate or rates and describe the particular property tax. A single  
30 ballot proposition shall include language both authorizing the creation  
31 of the law enforcement service district and authorizing the service  
32 district to impose a property tax up to a specified rate or rates equal  
33 to or less than those allowed in section 3 of this act. The law  
34 enforcement service district shall be established by resolution of the  
35 county legislative authority if this ballot proposition is approved by  
36 a simple majority of the voters voting on the proposition. The service  
37 district is authorized to impose a property tax not to exceed the  
38 maximum rate or rates described in the ballot proposition.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.** (1) The county legislative authority may  
2 submit a ballot proposition to the voters of the service district to  
3 authorize an increased maximum rate of property tax, or a new property  
4 tax not previously authorized. Approval of the ballot proposition  
5 shall be by simple majority of the voters voting on the ballot  
6 proposition.

7        (2) A law enforcement service district may impose a property tax  
8 pursuant to Title 84 RCW, if authorized by the service district voters.

9        Tax receipts received by a law enforcement service district shall:

10       (a) Be placed in a special fund to be used exclusively for financing  
11 the provision of additional levels of law enforcement in the service  
12 district; and (b) not diminish the contribution from the county general  
13 fund provided for the support of the basic level of law enforcement  
14 services that the law enforcement service district supplements.

15       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute  
16 a new chapter in Title 36 RCW.

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