

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1993

*As Reported By House Committee on:
Revenue*

Title: An act relating to convention facilities.

Brief Description: Concerning stadiums, and convention and performing arts centers.

Sponsor(s): Representative Peery.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Revenue, March 6, 1991, DPS.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
REVENUE**

Majority Report: *That Substitute House Bill No. 1993 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.*
Signed by 15 members: Representatives Wang, Chair; Fraser, Vice Chair; Holland, Ranking Minority Member; Wynne, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appelwick; Belcher; Brumsickle; Day; Leonard; Morris; Morton; Phillips; Rust; Silver; and Van Luven.

Staff: Robin Appleford (786-7093).

Background: The standard 2 percent local option hotel/motel tax may be used by municipalities to finance the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of public stadium, convention center, performing arts, and visual arts facilities. A municipality is defined as any county, city, or town. The definition of facility is not limited to the actual building, but includes such items as access to the building, land around the building, and concession stands.

Any municipality, taxing district, or municipal corporation may lease land or other properties to another municipality for the development of public stadium, convention center, performing arts, and visual arts facilities by the other municipality.

Summary of Substitute Bill: A definition of "convention center facilities" is added to the statutes authorizing public stadium, convention, performing arts, and visual arts facilities. "Convention center facilities" are defined to

include buildings and related facilities for the purposes of conferences, meetings, trade shows, conventions, cultural, educational, recreational, athletic, and other events. For any county with a population less than 20,000 located in a national scenic area, the facility may include a hotel, destination resort, conference center, or similar facility.

Any public stadium, convention center, performing arts, and visual arts project undertaken by a municipality in a county with a population less than 20,000 in a national scenic area is exempt from competitive bidding requirements until July 1, 1996.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: Various technical changes are made to delete duplicative language, clarify definitions, and ensure that the bill is retroactive to January 1, 1990. An expiration date for the exemption from competitive bidding requirements is added.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Testimony For: This bill addresses a unique situation in Skamania county. The change in the definition of "convention centers" will accommodate a facility with overnight accommodations in the Columbia River Gorge national scenic area that is a public-private partnership. This facility will draw visitors and help the county diversify its timber-dependent economy.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Bob Leick, Skamania County.