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HOUSE BILL 2205

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State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Cothorn, L. Johnson and H. Myers

Read first time 01/11/94. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to urban emergency medical service districts;  
2 amending RCW 84.52.069; and adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            The council of a city or town that has territory included in two  
7 counties may adopt an ordinance creating an urban emergency medical  
8 service district in all of the portion of the city or town that is  
9 located in one of the two counties if: (1) The county in which the  
10 urban emergency medical service district is located does not impose an  
11 emergency medical service levy authorized under RCW 84.52.069; and (2)  
12 the other county in which the city or town is located does impose an  
13 emergency medical service levy authorized under RCW 84.52.069. The  
14 ordinance creating the district may only be adopted after a public  
15 hearing has been held on the creation of the district and the council  
16 makes a finding that it is in the public interest to create the  
17 district. The members of the city or town council, acting in an ex  
18 officio capacity and independently, shall compose the governing body of  
19 the urban emergency medical service district. The voters of an urban

1 emergency medical service district shall be all registered voters  
2 residing within the urban emergency medical service district.

3 An urban emergency medical service district shall be a quasi-  
4 municipal corporation and an independent taxing "authority" within the  
5 meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution. Urban  
6 emergency medical service districts shall also be "taxing districts"  
7 within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

8 An urban emergency medical service district shall have the  
9 authority to contract under chapter 39.34 RCW with a county, city,  
10 town, fire protection district, public hospital district, or emergency  
11 medical service district to have emergency medical services provided  
12 within its boundaries.

13 Territory located in the same county as an urban emergency medical  
14 service district that is annexed by the city or town must automatically  
15 be annexed to the urban emergency medical service district.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.52.069 and 1993 c 337 s 5 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 (1) As used in this section, "taxing district" means a county,  
19 emergency medical service district, city or town, public hospital  
20 district, urban emergency medical service district, or fire protection  
21 district.

22 (2) A taxing district may impose additional regular property tax  
23 levies in an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars  
24 of the assessed value of property in the taxing district in each year  
25 for six consecutive years when specifically authorized so to do by a  
26 majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof  
27 approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general  
28 or special election, at which election the number of persons voting  
29 "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number  
30 equal to forty (~~(per centum)~~) percent of the total (~~(votes cast)~~)  
31 number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding  
32 general election when the number of registered voters voting on the  
33 proposition does not exceed forty (~~(per centum)~~) percent of the total  
34 (~~(votes cast)~~) number of voters voting in such taxing district in the  
35 last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-  
36 fifths of the registered voters thereof voting on the proposition when  
37 the number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty  
38 (~~(per centum)~~) percent of the total (~~(votes cast)~~) number of voters

1 voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election.  
2 Ballot propositions shall conform with RCW 29.30.111.

3 (3) Any tax imposed under this section shall be used only for the  
4 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services,  
5 including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and  
6 related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the  
7 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

8 (4) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing district  
9 within the county may levy a tax under this section. No other taxing  
10 district may levy a tax under this section if another taxing district  
11 has levied a tax under this section within its boundaries: PROVIDED,  
12 That if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand dollars of  
13 the assessed value of property, then any other taxing district may levy  
14 a tax under this section equal to the difference between the rate of  
15 the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a  
16 taxing district within a county levies this tax, and the voters of the  
17 county subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the amount of  
18 the taxing district levy within the county shall be reduced, when the  
19 combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax is levied county-  
20 wide, the service shall, insofar as is feasible, be provided throughout  
21 the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no county-wide levy proposal may be  
22 placed on the ballot without the approval of the legislative authority  
23 of each city exceeding fifty thousand population within the county:  
24 AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW 36.32.480 shall not  
25 prohibit any city or town from levying an annual excess levy to fund  
26 emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if a county  
27 proposes to impose tax levies under this section, no other ballot  
28 proposition authorizing tax levies under this section by another taxing  
29 district in the county may be placed before the voters at the same  
30 election at which the county ballot proposition is placed: AND  
31 PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district emergency medical service  
32 levy that is authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical  
33 service levy, shall expire concurrently with the county emergency  
34 medical service levy.

35 (5) The tax levy authorized in this section is in addition to the  
36 tax levy authorized in RCW 84.52.043.

1           (6) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 shall not apply to the first  
2 levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of such  
3 levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

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