

1 **HB 2208 - H AMD 048**

2 By Representative Hargrove

3 On page 2, after line 11, insert:

4 "Sec. 1. RCW 84.55.005 and 1994 c 301 s 49 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 As used in this chapter(~~(, the term)~~):

7 (1) "Regular property taxes" has the meaning given it in RCW
8 84.04.140, and also includes amounts received in lieu of regular
9 property taxes.

10 (2) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the United
11 States consumer price index for the calendar year during which the
12 taxes are payable, as forecast by the economic and revenue forecast
13 council in the official forecast adopted in September of the year
14 before the taxes are payable.

15
16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 84.55
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 Except as provided in this chapter, the levy for the state in
19 any year shall be set so that the regular property taxes payable in
20 the following year shall not exceed one hundred three percent or
21 one hundred percent plus inflation, whichever is lower, of the
22 amount of regular property taxes lawfully levied for the state in
23 the highest of the three most recent years in which such taxes were
24 levied for such district plus an additional dollar amount
25 calculated by multiplying the increase in assessed value in that
26 district resulting from new construction, improvements to property,
27 and any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property
28 by the regular property tax levy rate of the state for the
29 preceding year.

30
31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 84.55.010 and 1979 ex.s. c 218 s 2 are each
32 amended to read as follows:

1 Except as provided in this chapter, the levy for a taxing
2 district, other than the state, in any year shall be set so that
3 the regular property taxes payable in the following year shall not
4 exceed one hundred six percent of the amount of regular property
5 taxes lawfully levied for such district in the highest of the three
6 most recent years in which such taxes were levied for such district
7 plus an additional dollar amount calculated by multiplying the
8 increase in assessed value in that district resulting from new
9 construction, improvements to property, and any increase in the
10 assessed value of state-assessed property by the regular property
11 tax levy rate of that district for the preceding year.

12
13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 35.61.210 and 1990 c 234 s 3 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 The board of park commissioners may levy or cause to be levied
16 a general tax on all the property located in said park district
17 each year not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of
18 assessed value of the property in such park district. In addition,
19 the board of park commissioners may levy or cause to be levied a
20 general tax on all property located in said park district each year
21 not to exceed twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed
22 valuation. Although park districts are authorized to impose two
23 separate regular property tax levies, the levies shall be
24 considered to be a single levy for purposes of the (~~one hundred~~
25 ~~six percent~~) limitation provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW.

26 The board is hereby authorized to levy a general tax in excess
27 of its regular property tax levy or levies when authorized so to do
28 at a special election conducted in accordance with and subject to
29 all the requirements of the Constitution and laws of the state now
30 in force or hereafter enacted governing the limitation of tax
31 levies. The board is hereby authorized to call a special election
32 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the park
33 district a proposition to levy a tax in excess of the seventy-five

1 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value herein specifically
2 authorized. The manner of submitting any such proposition, of
3 certifying the same, and of giving or publishing notice thereof,
4 shall be as provided by law for the submission of propositions by
5 cities or towns.

6 The board shall include in its general tax levy for each year
7 a sufficient sum to pay the interest on all outstanding bonds and
8 may include a sufficient amount to create a sinking fund for the
9 redemption of all outstanding bonds. The levy shall be certified
10 to the proper county officials for collection the same as other
11 general taxes and when collected, the general tax shall be placed
12 in a separate fund in the office of the county treasurer to be
13 known as the "metropolitan park district fund" and paid out on
14 warrants.

15
16 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.44.060 and 1990 c 234 s 2 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 All public hospital districts organized under the provisions
19 of this chapter shall have power:

20 (1) To make a survey of existing hospital and other health
21 care facilities within and without such district.

22 (2) To construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire,
23 lease, add to, maintain, operate, develop and regulate, sell and
24 convey all lands, property, property rights, equipment, hospital
25 and other health care facilities and systems for the maintenance of
26 hospitals, buildings, structures, and any and all other facilities,
27 and to exercise the right of eminent domain to effectuate the
28 foregoing purposes or for the acquisition and damaging of the same
29 or property of any kind appurtenant thereto, and such right of
30 eminent domain shall be exercised and instituted pursuant to a
31 resolution of the commission and conducted in the same manner and
32 by the same procedure as in or may be provided by law for the
33 exercise of the power of eminent domain by incorporated cities and

1 towns of the state of Washington in the acquisition of property
2 rights: PROVIDED, That no public hospital district shall have the
3 right of eminent domain and the power of condemnation against any
4 health care facility.

5 (3) To lease existing hospital and other health care
6 facilities and equipment and/or other property used in connection
7 therewith, including ambulances, and to pay such rental therefor as
8 the commissioners shall deem proper; to provide hospital and other
9 health care services for residents of said district by facilities
10 located outside the boundaries of said district, by contract or in
11 any other manner said commissioners may deem expedient or necessary
12 under the existing conditions; and said hospital district shall
13 have the power to contract with other communities, corporations, or
14 individuals for the services provided by said hospital district;
15 and they may further receive in said hospitals and other health
16 care facilities and furnish proper and adequate services to all
17 persons not residents of said district at such reasonable and fair
18 compensation as may be considered proper: PROVIDED, That it must
19 at all times make adequate provision for the needs of the district
20 and residents of said district shall have prior rights to the
21 available hospital and other health care facilities of said
22 district, at rates set by the district commissioners.

23 (4) For the purpose aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any
24 district so organized to take, condemn and purchase, lease, or
25 acquire, any and all property, and property rights, including state
26 and county lands, for any of the purposes aforesaid, and any and
27 all other facilities necessary or convenient, and in connection
28 with the construction, maintenance, and operation of any such
29 hospitals and other health care facilities, subject, however, to
30 the applicable limitations provided in subsection (2) of this
31 section.

32 (5) To contract indebtedness or borrow money for corporate
33 purposes on the credit of the corporation or the revenues of the

1 hospitals thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or
2 services that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law
3 to provide, and to issue and sell: (a) Revenue bonds, revenue
4 warrants, or other revenue obligations therefor payable solely out
5 of a special fund or funds into which the district may pledge such
6 amount of the revenues of the hospitals thereof, and the revenues
7 of any other facilities or services that the district is or
8 hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, to pay the same as
9 the commissioners of the district may determine, such revenue
10 bonds, warrants, or other obligations to be issued and sold in the
11 same manner and subject to the same provisions as provided for the
12 issuance of revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations by cities
13 or towns under the Municipal Revenue Bond Act, chapter 35.41 RCW,
14 as may hereafter be amended; (b) general obligation bonds therefor
15 in the manner and form as provided in RCW 70.44.110 and 70.44.130,
16 as may hereafter be amended; or (c) interest-bearing warrants to be
17 drawn on a fund pending deposit in such fund of money sufficient to
18 redeem such warrants and to be issued and paid in such manner and
19 upon such terms and conditions as the board of commissioners may
20 deem to be in the best interest of the district; and to assign or
21 sell hospital accounts receivable, and accounts receivable for the
22 use of other facilities or services that the district is or
23 hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, for collection with
24 or without recourse. General obligation bonds shall be issued and
25 sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. Revenue bonds, revenue
26 warrants, or other revenue obligations may be issued and sold in
27 accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

28 (6) To raise revenue by the levy of an annual tax on all
29 taxable property within such public hospital district not to exceed
30 fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and an
31 additional annual tax on all taxable property within such public
32 hospital district not to exceed twenty-five cents per thousand
33 dollars of assessed value, or such further amount as has been or

1 shall be authorized by a vote of the people. Although public
2 hospital districts are authorized to impose two separate regular
3 property tax levies, the levies shall be considered to be a single
4 levy for purposes of the ((~~one hundred six percent~~)) limitation
5 provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW. Public hospital districts are
6 authorized to levy such a general tax in excess of their regular
7 property taxes when authorized so to do at a special election
8 conducted in accordance with and subject to all of the requirements
9 of the Constitution and the laws of the state of Washington now in
10 force or hereafter enacted governing the limitation of tax levies.
11 The said board of district commissioners is authorized and
12 empowered to call a special election for the purpose of submitting
13 to the qualified voters of the hospital district a proposition or
14 propositions to levy taxes in excess of its regular property taxes.
15 The superintendent shall prepare a proposed budget of the
16 contemplated financial transactions for the ensuing year and file
17 the same in the records of the commission on or before the first
18 Monday in September. Notice of the filing of said proposed budget
19 and the date and place of hearing on the same shall be published
20 for at least two consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed and of
21 general circulation in said county. On the first Monday in October
22 the commission shall hold a public hearing on said proposed budget
23 at which any taxpayer may appear and be heard against the whole or
24 any part of the proposed budget. Upon the conclusion of said
25 hearing, the commission shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as
26 finally determined and fix the final amount of expenditures for the
27 ensuing year. Taxes levied by the commission shall be certified to
28 and collected by the proper county officer of the county in which
29 such public hospital district is located in the same manner as is
30 or may be provided by law for the certification and collection of
31 port district taxes. The commission is authorized, prior to the
32 receipt of taxes raised by levy, to borrow money or issue warrants
33 of the district in anticipation of the revenue to be derived by

1 such district from the levy of taxes for the purpose of such
2 district, and such warrants shall be redeemed from the first money
3 available from such taxes when collected, and such warrants shall
4 not exceed the anticipated revenues of one year, and shall bear
5 interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the commission.

6 (7) To enter into any contract with the United States
7 government or any state, municipality, or other hospital district,
8 or any department of those governing bodies, for carrying out any
9 of the powers authorized by this chapter.

10 (8) To sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction:
11 PROVIDED, That all suits against the public hospital district shall
12 be brought in the county in which the public hospital district is
13 located.

14 (9) To pay actual necessary travel expenses and living
15 expenses incurred while in travel status for (a) qualified
16 physicians who are candidates for medical staff positions, and (b)
17 other qualified persons who are candidates for superintendent or
18 other managerial and technical positions, when the district finds
19 that hospitals or other health care facilities owned and operated
20 by it are not adequately staffed and determines that personal
21 interviews with said candidates to be held in the district are
22 necessary or desirable for the adequate staffing of said
23 facilities.

24 (10) To make contracts, employ superintendents, attorneys, and
25 other technical or professional assistants and all other employees;
26 to make contracts with private or public institutions for employee
27 retirement programs; to print and publish information or
28 literature; and to do all other things necessary to carry out the
29 provisions of this chapter.

30
31 **Sec. 6.** RCW 84.08.115 and 1991 c 218 s 2 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

1 (1) The department shall prepare a clear and succinct
2 explanation of the property tax system, including but not limited
3 to:

4 (a) The standard of true and fair value as the basis of the
5 property tax.

6 (b) How the assessed value for particular parcels is
7 determined.

8 (c) The procedures and timing of the assessment process.

9 (d) How district levy rates are determined, including the
10 ((one hundred six percent)) limit under chapter 84.55 RCW.

11 (e) How the composite tax rate is determined.

12 (f) How the amount of tax is calculated.

13 (g) How a taxpayer may appeal an assessment, and what issues
14 are appropriate as a basis of appeal.

15 (h) A summary of tax exemption and relief programs, along with
16 the eligibility standards and application processes.

17 (2) Each county assessor shall provide copies of the
18 explanation to taxpayers on request, free of charge. Each
19 revaluation notice shall include information regarding the
20 availability of the explanation.

21
22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act shall be submitted to the
23 people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the
24 next succeeding general election to be held in this state, in
25 accordance with Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution, as
26 amended, and the laws adopted to facilitate the operation thereof."
27

28 Renumber sections consecutively, correct any internal
29 references accordingly, and correct the title.

EFFECT: For the state levy, reduces the 106% limit to the
lesser of 103% or inflation. Refers bill to voters at
November election.