

1 **HB 2841** - H AMD (H-4500.1) **096**

2 By Representative B. Thomas

3 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
4 following:

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

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

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

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

16
17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter
18 84.55 RCW to read as follows:

19 Except as provided in this chapter, the levy for the state
20 in any year shall be set so that the regular property taxes
21 payable in the following year shall not exceed the lesser of one
22 hundred six percent or one hundred percent plus inflation as
23 defined in section 1 (2) of this chapter of the amount of regular
24 property taxes lawfully levied for the state in the highest of
25 the three most recent years in which such taxes were levied for
26 such district plus an additional dollar amount calculated by
27 multiplying the increase in assessed value in that district
28 resulting from new construction, improvements to property, and
29 any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property by
30 the regular property tax levy rate of the state for the preceding
31 year.

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

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

15
16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 35.61.210 and 1990 c 234 s 3 are each amended
17 to read as follows:

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

30 The board is hereby authorized to levy a general tax in
31 excess of its regular property tax levy or levies when authorized
32 so to do at a special election conducted in accordance with and
33 subject to all the requirements of the Constitution and laws of

1 the state now in force or hereafter enacted governing the
2 limitation of tax levies. The board is hereby authorized to call
3 a special election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified
4 voters of the park district a proposition to levy a tax in excess
5 of the seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value
6 herein specifically authorized. The manner of submitting any
7 such proposition, of certifying the same, and of giving or
8 publishing notice thereof, shall be as provided by law for the
9 submission of propositions by cities or towns.

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

19
20 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.44.060 and 1990 c 234 s 2 are each amended
21 to read as follows:

22 All public hospital districts organized under the provisions
23 of this chapter shall have power:

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

26 (2) To construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire,
27 lease, add to, maintain, operate, develop and regulate, sell and
28 convey all lands, property, property rights, equipment, hospital
29 and other health care facilities and systems for the maintenance
30 of hospitals, buildings, structures, and any and all other
31 facilities, and to exercise the right of eminent domain to
32 effectuate the foregoing purposes or for the acquisition and
33 damaging of the same or property of any kind appurtenant thereto,

1 and such right of eminent domain shall be exercised and
2 instituted pursuant to a resolution of the commission and
3 conducted in the same manner and by the same procedure as in or
4 may be provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent
5 domain by incorporated cities and towns of the state of
6 Washington in the acquisition of property rights: PROVIDED, That
7 no public hospital district shall have the right of eminent
8 domain and the power of condemnation against any health care
9 facility.

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

29 (4) For the purpose aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any
30 district so organized to take, condemn and purchase, lease, or
31 acquire, any and all property, and property rights, including
32 state and county lands, for any of the purposes aforesaid, and
33 any and all other facilities necessary or convenient, and in

1 connection with the construction, maintenance, and operation of
2 any such hospitals and other health care facilities, subject,
3 however, to the applicable limitations provided in subsection (2)
4 of this section.

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

1 warrants, or other revenue obligations may be issued and sold in
2 accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

3 (6) To raise revenue by the levy of an annual tax on all
4 taxable property within such public hospital district not to
5 exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and an
6 additional annual tax on all taxable property within such public
7 hospital district not to exceed twenty-five cents per thousand
8 dollars of assessed value, or such further amount as has been or
9 shall be authorized by a vote of the people. Although public
10 hospital districts are authorized to impose two separate regular
11 property tax levies, the levies shall be considered to be a
12 single levy for purposes of the (~~one hundred six percent~~)
13 limitation provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW. Public hospital
14 districts are authorized to levy such a general tax in excess of
15 their regular property taxes when authorized so to do at a
16 special election conducted in accordance with and subject to all
17 of the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the state
18 of Washington now in force or hereafter enacted governing the
19 limitation of tax levies. The said board of district
20 commissioners is authorized and empowered to call a special
21 election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of
22 the hospital district a proposition or propositions to levy taxes
23 in excess of its regular property taxes. The superintendent
24 shall prepare a proposed budget of the contemplated financial
25 transactions for the ensuing year and file the same in the
26 records of the commission on or before the first Monday in
27 September. Notice of the filing of said proposed budget and the
28 date and place of hearing on the same shall be published for at
29 least two consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed and of general
30 circulation in said county. On the first Monday in October the
31 commission shall hold a public hearing on said proposed budget at
32 which any taxpayer may appear and be heard against the whole or
33 any part of the proposed budget. Upon the conclusion of said

1 hearing, the commission shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as
2 finally determined and fix the final amount of expenditures for
3 the ensuing year. Taxes levied by the commission shall be
4 certified to and collected by the proper county officer of the
5 county in which such public hospital district is located in the
6 same manner as is or may be provided by law for the certification
7 and collection of port district taxes. The commission is
8 authorized, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy, to
9 borrow money or issue warrants of the district in anticipation of
10 the revenue to be derived by such district from the levy of taxes
11 for the purpose of such district, and such warrants shall be
12 redeemed from the first money available from such taxes when
13 collected, and such warrants shall not exceed the anticipated
14 revenues of one year, and shall bear interest at a rate or rates
15 as authorized by the commission.

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

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

24 (9) To pay actual necessary travel expenses and living
25 expenses incurred while in travel status for (a) qualified
26 physicians who are candidates for medical staff positions, and
27 (b) other qualified persons who are candidates for superintendent
28 or other managerial and technical positions, when the district
29 finds that hospitals or other health care facilities owned and
30 operated by it are not adequately staffed and determines that
31 personal interviews with said candidates to be held in the
32 district are necessary or desirable for the adequate staffing of
33 said facilities.

1 (10) To make contracts, employ superintendents, attorneys,
2 and other technical or professional assistants and all other
3 employees; to make contracts with private or public institutions
4 for employee retirement programs; to print and publish
5 information or literature; and to do all other things necessary
6 to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

7
8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 84.08.115 and 1991 c 218 s 2 are each amended
9 to read as follows:

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

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

15 (b) How the assessed value for particular parcels is
16 determined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (2) Each county assessor shall provide copies of the
27 explanation to taxpayers on request, free of charge. Each
28 revaluation notice shall include information regarding the
29 availability of the explanation.
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1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section 2 of this act is effective
2 for taxes levied for collection in 1997 and thereafter."
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