

2 EHB 2841 - S COMM AMD (s5707.2)  
3 By Committee on Ways & Means

4 ADOPTED AS AMENDED 3/7/96

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 84.55 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) The state property tax levy for collection in 1997 shall be  
10 reduced by 4.7187 percent of the full levy for that year.

11 (2) In addition to the reduction under subsection (1) of this  
12 section, the state levy for collection in 1997 shall be reduced by 5.0  
13 percent of the full levy for that year.

14 (3) State levies for collection after 1997 shall be set at the  
15 amount that would be allowed otherwise under this chapter if the state  
16 levy for collection in 1997 had been set without the reduction under  
17 subsection (1) of this section, and levies collected before 1997 shall  
18 not be used as a base for calculating limits for state levies for  
19 collection after 1997.

20 (4) As used in this section, "full levy" means the levy amount that  
21 would be allowed otherwise under this chapter without regard to this  
22 section.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.48.080 and 1995 2nd sp.s. c 13 s 3 are each amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 (1) Annually during the months of September and October, the  
26 department of revenue shall examine and compare the returns of the  
27 assessment of the property in the several counties of the state, and  
28 the assessment of the property of railroad and other companies assessed  
29 by the department, and proceed to equalize the same, so that each  
30 county in the state shall pay its due and just proportion of the taxes  
31 for state purposes for such assessment year, according to the ratio the  
32 valuation of the property in each county bears to the total valuation  
33 of all property in the state.

34 First. The department shall classify all property, real and  
35 personal, and shall raise and lower the valuation of any class of

1 property in any county to a value that shall be equal, so far as  
2 possible, to the true and fair value of such class as of January 1st of  
3 the current year for the purpose of ascertaining the just amount of tax  
4 due from each county for state purposes. In equalizing personal  
5 property as of January 1st of the current year, the department shall  
6 use the assessment level of the preceding year. Such classification  
7 may be on the basis of types of property, geographical areas, or both.  
8 For purposes of this section, for each county that has not provided the  
9 department with an assessment return by December 1st, the department  
10 shall proceed, using facts and information and in a manner it deems  
11 appropriate, to estimate the value of each class of property in the  
12 county.

13 Second. The department shall keep a full record of its proceedings  
14 and the same shall be published annually by the department.

15 (2) The department shall levy the state taxes authorized by law.  
16 The amount levied in any one year for general state purposes shall not  
17 exceed the lawful dollar rate on the dollar of the assessed value of  
18 the property of the entire state, which assessed value shall be one  
19 hundred percent of the true and fair value of such property in money.  
20 The department shall apportion the amount of tax for state purposes  
21 levied by the department, among the several counties, in proportion to  
22 the valuation of the taxable property of the county for the year as  
23 equalized by the department: PROVIDED, That for purposes of this  
24 apportionment, the department shall recompute the previous year's levy  
25 and the apportionment thereof to correct for changes and errors in  
26 taxable values reported to the department after October 1 of the  
27 preceding year and shall adjust the apportioned amount of the current  
28 year's state levy for each county by the difference between the  
29 apportioned amounts established by the original and revised levy  
30 computations for the previous year. For purposes of this section,  
31 changes in taxable values mean a final adjustment made by a county  
32 board of equalization, the state board of tax appeals, or a court of  
33 competent jurisdiction and shall include additions of omitted property,  
34 other additions or deletions from the assessment or tax rolls, any  
35 assessment return provided by a county to the department subsequent to  
36 December 1st, or a change in the indicated ratio of a county. Errors  
37 in taxable values mean errors corrected by a final reviewing body.

38 In addition to computing a levy under this subsection that is  
39 reduced under (~~(RCW 84.55.012)~~) section 1 of this act, the department

1 shall compute a hypothetical levy without regard to the reduction under  
2 (~~RCW 84.55.012~~) section 1(1) of this act. This hypothetical levy  
3 shall also be apportioned among the several counties in proportion to  
4 the valuation of the taxable property of the county for the year, as  
5 equalized by the department, in the same manner as the actual levy and  
6 shall be used by the county assessors for the purpose of recomputing  
7 and establishing a consolidated levy under RCW 84.52.010.

8 (3) The department shall have authority to adopt rules and  
9 regulations to enforce obedience to its orders in all matters in  
10 relation to the returns of county assessments, the equalization of  
11 values, and the apportionment of the state levy by the department.

12 (4) After the completion of the duties prescribed in this section,  
13 the director of the department shall certify the record of the  
14 proceedings of the department under this section, the tax levies made  
15 for state purposes and the apportionment thereof among the counties,  
16 and the certification shall be available for public inspection.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 84.52.010 and 1995 2nd sp.s. c 13 s 4 are each amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 Except as is permitted under RCW 84.55.050, all taxes shall be  
20 levied or voted in specific amounts.

21 The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes, and  
22 purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, shall be  
23 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the  
24 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the  
25 assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the  
26 completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes  
27 levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county shall be  
28 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the  
29 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the  
30 assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts  
31 respectively.

32 When a county assessor finds that the aggregate rate of tax levy on  
33 any property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW  
34 84.52.043 or 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in either of  
35 these sections, the assessor shall recompute and establish a  
36 consolidated levy in the following manner:

37 (1) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county, county  
38 road district, and city or town purposes shall be extended on the tax

1 rolls in amounts not exceeding the limitations established by law;  
2 however any state levy shall take precedence over all other levies and  
3 shall not be reduced for any purpose other than that required by RCW  
4 84.55.010. If, as a result of the levies imposed under RCW 84.52.069,  
5 84.34.230, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that  
6 was protected under RCW 84.52.120, and 84.52.105, the combined rate of  
7 regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent  
8 limitation exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any  
9 property, then these levies shall be reduced as follows: (a) The  
10 portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that is protected  
11 under RCW 84.52.120 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer  
12 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall  
13 be eliminated; (b) if the combined rate of regular property tax levies  
14 that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one  
15 percent of the true and fair value of any property, then the levies  
16 imposed under RCW 84.34.230, 84.52.105, and any portion of the levy  
17 imposed under RCW 84.52.069 that is in excess of thirty cents per  
18 thousand dollars of assessed value, shall be reduced on a pro rata  
19 basis until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true  
20 and fair value of any property or shall be eliminated; and (c) if the  
21 combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the  
22 one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair  
23 value of any property, then the thirty cents per thousand dollars of  
24 assessed value of tax levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 shall be reduced  
25 until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and  
26 fair value of any property or eliminated.

27 (2) The certified rates of tax levy subject to these limitations by  
28 all junior taxing districts imposing taxes on such property shall be  
29 reduced or eliminated as follows to bring the consolidated levy of  
30 taxes on such property within the provisions of these limitations:

31 (a) First, the certified property tax levy rates of those junior  
32 taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525, 36.69.145, and  
33 67.38.130 shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

34 (b) Second, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these  
35 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of flood control  
36 zone districts shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

37 (c) Third, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these  
38 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all other junior  
39 taxing districts, other than fire protection districts, library

1 districts, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed  
2 valuation levies for metropolitan park districts, and the first fifty  
3 cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for public  
4 hospital districts, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

5 (d) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these  
6 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized to fire  
7 protection districts under RCW 52.16.140 and 52.16.160 shall be reduced  
8 on a pro rata basis or eliminated; and

9 (e) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these  
10 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized for fire  
11 protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, library districts,  
12 metropolitan park districts under their first fifty cent per thousand  
13 dollars of assessed valuation levy, and public hospital districts under  
14 their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy,  
15 shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated.

16 In determining whether the aggregate rate of tax levy on any  
17 property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW  
18 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in that section, the  
19 assessor shall use the hypothetical state levy, as apportioned to the  
20 county under RCW 84.48.080, that was computed under RCW 84.48.080  
21 without regard to the reduction under (~~RCW 84.55.012~~) section 1(1) of  
22 this act.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 84.56.050 and 1991 c 245 s 17 are each amended to read  
24 as follows:

25 On receiving the tax rolls the treasurer shall post all real and  
26 personal property taxes from the rolls to the treasurer's tax roll, and  
27 shall carry forward to the current tax rolls a memorandum of all  
28 delinquent taxes on each and every description of property, and enter  
29 the same on the property upon which the taxes are delinquent showing  
30 the amounts for each year. The treasurer shall notify each taxpayer in  
31 the county, at the expense of the county, of the amount of the real and  
32 personal property, and the current and delinquent amount of tax due on  
33 the same; and the treasurer shall have printed on the notice the name  
34 of each tax and the levy made on the same. The state property tax  
35 shall be labeled "state collected property tax." The county treasurer  
36 shall be the sole collector of all delinquent taxes and all other taxes  
37 due and collectible on the tax rolls of the county: PROVIDED, That the  
38 term "taxpayer" as used in this section shall mean any person charged,

1 or whose property is charged, with property tax; and the person to be  
2 notified is that person whose name appears on the tax roll herein  
3 mentioned: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if no name so appears the person to  
4 be notified is that person shown by the treasurer's tax rolls or  
5 duplicate tax receipts of any preceding year as the payer of the tax  
6 last paid on the property in question."

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10 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "taxes;" strike the remainder  
11 of the title and insert "amending RCW 84.48.080, 84.52.010, and  
12 84.56.050; and adding a new section to chapter 84.55 RCW."

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