
HOUSE BILL 2053

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler and Clements

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to referenda on commodity assessments; and amending
2 RCW 15.28.180.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 15.28.180 and 1992 c 87 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The same assessment shall be made for each soft tree fruit,
7 except that if a two-thirds majority of the state commodity committee
8 of any fruit recommends in writing the levy of an additional assessment
9 on that fruit, or any classification thereof, for any year or years,
10 the commission may levy such assessment for that year or years up to
11 the maximum of eighteen dollars for each two thousand pounds of any
12 fruit except cherries or any classification thereof, as to which the
13 assessment may be increased to a maximum of thirty dollars for each two
14 thousand pounds, and except pears covered by this chapter, as to which
15 the assessment may be increased to a maximum of eighteen dollars for
16 each two thousand pounds: PROVIDED, That no increase in the assessment
17 on pears becomes effective unless the increase is first referred by the
18 commission to a referendum by the Bartlett pear growers of the state
19 and is approved by a majority of the growers voting on the referendum.

1 The method and procedure of conducting the referendum shall be
2 determined by the commission. Any funds so raised shall be expended
3 solely for the purposes provided in this chapter and solely for such
4 fruit, or classification thereof.

5 The commission has the authority in its discretion to exempt in
6 whole or in part from future assessments under this chapter, during
7 such period as the commission may prescribe, any of the soft tree
8 fruits or any particular strain or classification of them.

9 (2) No assessment levied under this chapter may be increased in
10 excess of the fiscal growth factor as determined under chapter 43.135
11 RCW unless the assessment is approved by a majority of the persons who
12 are subject to the assessment in a vote conducted by referendum on the
13 increased assessment. The method and procedure of conducting the
14 referendum shall be determined by the commission.

--- END ---