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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2904**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooper, Costa, Poulsen, Constantine, Cody, Chopp, B. Thomas, O'Brien, Hatfield, Conway, Appelwick, Gombosky and Mason)

Read first time 02/09/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to property tax levies for emergency medical care  
2 and services; amending RCW 84.52.069; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.52.069 and 1995 c 318 s 9 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) As used in this section, "taxing district" means a county,  
7 emergency medical service district, city or town, public hospital  
8 district, urban emergency medical service district, or fire protection  
9 district.

10 (2) A taxing district may impose additional regular property tax  
11 levies in an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars  
12 of the assessed value of property in the taxing district in each year  
13 for ~~((six))~~ up to ten consecutive years when specifically authorized  
14 ~~((so to do by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered~~  
15 ~~voters thereof approving a))~~ to do so by a majority of the voters of  
16 the taxing district voting on a ballot proposition authorizing the  
17 levies submitted at a general or special election~~((, at which election~~  
18 ~~the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute~~  
19 ~~three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of~~

1 voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general  
2 election when the number of registered voters voting on the proposition  
3 does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in  
4 such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a  
5 majority of at least three fifths of the registered voters thereof  
6 voting on the proposition when the number of registered voters voting  
7 on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total number of voters  
8 voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general  
9 election)). Ballot propositions shall conform with RCW 29.30.111.

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

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

1 service levy, shall expire concurrently with the county emergency  
2 medical service levy.

3 (5) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 shall not apply to the tax  
4 levy authorized in this section.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act applies to taxes levied for  
9 collection in 1999 and thereafter.

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