
SENATE BILL 5521

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senator Haugen

Read first time 01/29/97. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to county research services; amending RCW
2 82.14.200, 43.88.114, 43.110.030, and 43.110.010; adding a new section
3 to chapter 36.32 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 43.110 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.32 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 A special account is created in the state treasury to be known as
8 the "county research services account." Such moneys remaining in the
9 county sales and use tax equalization account after distribution to
10 counties under RCW 82.14.200 as are appropriated by the legislature
11 shall be transferred into the county research services account. Moneys
12 in the account may be spent only after appropriation.

13 Moneys in the county research services account may only be expended
14 to finance the costs of county research.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.14.200 and 1991 sp.s. c 13 s 15 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 There is created in the state treasury a special account to be
18 known as the "county sales and use tax equalization account." Into

1 this account shall be placed a portion of all motor vehicle excise tax
2 receipts as provided in RCW 82.44.110(1)(f). Funds in this account
3 shall be allocated by the state treasurer according to the following
4 procedure:

5 (1) Prior to April 1st of each year the director of revenue shall
6 inform the state treasurer of the total and the per capita levels of
7 revenues for the unincorporated area of each county and the state-wide
8 weighted average per capita level of revenues for the unincorporated
9 areas of all counties imposing the sales and use tax authorized under
10 RCW 82.14.030(1) for the previous calendar year.

11 (2) At such times as distributions are made under RCW 82.44.150, as
12 now or hereafter amended, the state treasurer shall apportion to each
13 county imposing the sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.030(1) at the
14 maximum rate and receiving less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars
15 from the tax for the previous calendar year, an amount from the county
16 sales and use tax equalization account sufficient, when added to the
17 amount of revenues received the previous calendar year by the county,
18 to equal one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

19 The department of revenue shall establish a governmental price
20 index as provided in this subsection. The base year for the index
21 shall be the end of the third quarter of 1982. Prior to November 1,
22 1983, and prior to each November 1st thereafter, the department of
23 revenue shall establish another index figure for the third quarter of
24 that year. The department of revenue may use the implicit price
25 deflators for state and local government purchases of goods and
26 services calculated by the United States department of commerce to
27 establish the governmental price index. Beginning on January 1, 1984,
28 and each January 1st thereafter, the one hundred fifty thousand dollar
29 base figure in this subsection shall be adjusted in direct proportion
30 to the percentage change in the governmental price index from 1982
31 until the year before the adjustment. Distributions made under this
32 subsection for 1984 and thereafter shall use this adjusted base amount
33 figure.

34 (3) Subsequent to the distributions under subsection (2) of this
35 section and at such times as distributions are made under RCW
36 82.44.150, as now or hereafter amended, the state treasurer shall
37 apportion to each county imposing the sales and use tax under RCW
38 82.14.030(1) at the maximum rate and receiving less than seventy
39 percent of the state-wide weighted average per capita level of revenues

1 for the unincorporated areas of all counties as determined by the
2 department of revenue under subsection (1) of this section, an amount
3 from the county sales and use tax equalization account sufficient, when
4 added to the per capita level of revenues for the unincorporated area
5 received the previous calendar year by the county, to equal seventy
6 percent of the state-wide weighted average per capita level of revenues
7 for the unincorporated areas of all counties determined under
8 subsection (1) of this section, subject to reduction under subsections
9 (6) and (7) of this section. When computing distributions under this
10 section, any distribution under subsection (2) of this section shall be
11 considered revenues received from the tax imposed under RCW
12 82.14.030(1) for the previous calendar year.

13 (4) Subsequent to the distributions under subsection (3) of this
14 section and at such times as distributions are made under RCW
15 82.44.150, as now or hereafter amended, the state treasurer shall
16 apportion to each county imposing the sales and use tax under RCW
17 82.14.030(2) at the maximum rate and receiving a distribution under
18 subsection (2) of this section, a third distribution from the county
19 sales and use tax equalization account. The distribution to each
20 qualifying county shall be equal to the distribution to the county
21 under subsection (2) of this section, subject to the reduction under
22 subsections (6) and (7) of this section. To qualify for the total
23 distribution under this subsection, the county must impose the tax
24 under RCW 82.14.030(2) for the entire calendar year. Counties imposing
25 the tax for less than the full year shall qualify for prorated
26 allocations under this subsection proportionate to the number of months
27 of the year during which the tax is imposed.

28 (5) Subsequent to the distributions under subsection (4) of this
29 section and at such times as distributions are made under RCW
30 82.44.150, as now or hereafter amended, the state treasurer shall
31 apportion to each county imposing the sales and use tax under RCW
32 82.14.030(2) at the maximum rate and receiving a distribution under
33 subsection (3) of this section, a fourth distribution from the county
34 sales and use tax equalization account. The distribution to each
35 qualifying county shall be equal to the distribution to the county
36 under subsection (3) of this section, subject to the reduction under
37 subsections (6) and (7) of this section. To qualify for the
38 distributions under this subsection, the county must impose the tax
39 under RCW 82.14.030(2) for the entire calendar year. Counties imposing

1 the tax for less than the full year shall qualify for prorated
2 allocations under this subsection proportionate to the number of months
3 of the year during which the tax is imposed.

4 (6) Revenues distributed under this section in any calendar year
5 shall not exceed an amount equal to seventy percent of the state-wide
6 weighted average per capita level of revenues for the unincorporated
7 areas of all counties during the previous calendar year. If
8 distributions under subsections (3) through (5) of this section cannot
9 be made because of this limitation, then distributions under
10 subsections (3) through (5) of this section shall be reduced ratably
11 among the qualifying counties.

12 (7) If inadequate revenues exist in the county sales and use tax
13 equalization account to make the distributions under subsections (3)
14 through (5) of this section, then the distributions under subsections
15 (3) through (5) of this section shall be reduced ratably among the
16 qualifying counties. At such time during the year as additional funds
17 accrue to the county sales and use tax equalization account, additional
18 distributions shall be made under subsections (3) through (5) of this
19 section to the counties.

20 (8) If the level of revenues in the county sales and use tax
21 equalization account exceeds the amount necessary to make the
22 distributions under subsections (2) through (5) of this section and the
23 transfer authorized by appropriation pursuant to section 1 of this act,
24 then the additional revenues shall be credited and transferred to the
25 state general fund.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88.114 and 1983 c 22 s 2 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 Appropriations of funds to the municipal research council from
29 motor vehicle excise taxes shall not be subject to allotment by the
30 office of financial management.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.110 RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 The legislature finds that local government officials frequently
34 need detailed information in order to develop new ordinances and
35 policies, and to take administrative actions directly affecting
36 citizens of the state. Due to reductions in federal spending, state
37 budget limitations, and smaller budgets, local governments are more

1 frequently unable to provide timely and adequate services to the
2 citizens of the state. It is the intent of this chapter to provide
3 counties, cities, and towns with comprehensive research, technical
4 publications, educational conferences, and other services relating to
5 local government.

6 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.110.030 and 1990 c 104 s 2 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 The municipal research council shall contract for the provision of
9 municipal research and services to cities ~~((and))~~, towns, and counties.
10 Contracts for municipal research and services shall be made with state
11 agencies, educational institutions, or private consulting firms, that
12 in the judgment of council members are qualified to provide such
13 research and services. Contracts for staff support may be made with
14 state agencies, educational institutions, or private consulting firms
15 that in the judgment of the council members are qualified to provide
16 such support.

17 Municipal research and services shall consist of: (1) Studying and
18 researching ~~((municipal))~~ city, town, and county government and issues
19 relating to ~~((municipal))~~ city, town, and county government; (2)
20 acquiring, preparing, and distributing publications related to
21 ~~((municipal))~~ city, town, and county government and issues relating to
22 ~~((municipal))~~ city, town, and county government; (3) providing
23 educational conferences relating to ~~((municipal))~~ city, town, and
24 county government and issues relating to ~~((municipal))~~ city, town, and
25 county government; and (4) furnishing legal, technical, consultative,
26 and field services to cities ~~((and))~~, towns, and counties concerning
27 planning, public health, utility services, fire protection, law
28 enforcement, public works, and other issues relating to ~~((municipal))~~
29 city, town, and county government. Requests for legal services by
30 county officials shall be sent to the county prosecutor's office.
31 Responses by the municipal research council to county requests for
32 legal services shall be provided to the requesting official and the
33 county prosecutor's office.

34 The activities, programs, and services of the municipal research
35 council shall be carried on, and all expenditures shall be made, in
36 cooperation with the cities and towns of the state acting through the
37 board of directors of the association of Washington cities, which is
38 recognized as their official agency or instrumentality, and in

1 cooperation with counties of the state acting through the Washington
2 state association of counties. The provision of services to cities and
3 towns shall be based upon the moneys appropriated to the municipal
4 research council as provided in RCW 82.44.160 and the provision of
5 services to counties shall be based upon the moneys appropriated to the
6 municipal research council as provided in section 1 of this act.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.110.010 and 1990 c 104 s 1 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 There shall be a state agency which shall be known as the municipal
10 research council. The council shall be composed of ~~((eighteen))~~
11 nineteen members. ~~((Four))~~ Two members shall be appointed by the
12 president of the senate, with equal representation from each of the two
13 major political parties; ~~((four))~~ two members shall be appointed by the
14 speaker of the house of representatives, with equal representation from
15 each of the two major political parties; one member shall be appointed
16 by the governor independently; ~~((and the other))~~ nine members, who
17 shall be city or town officials, shall be appointed by the governor
18 from a list of nine nominees submitted by the board of directors of the
19 association of Washington cities; and five members, who shall be county
20 officials, shall be appointed by the governor, two of whom shall be
21 from a list of two nominees submitted by the board of directors of the
22 Washington association of county officials, and three of whom shall be
23 from a list of three nominees submitted by the board of directors of
24 the Washington state association of counties. Of the ~~((members~~
25 ~~appointed by the association))~~ city or town officials, at least one
26 shall be an official of a city having a population of twenty thousand
27 or more; at least one shall be an official of a city having a
28 population of one thousand five hundred to twenty thousand; and at
29 least one shall be an official of a town having a population of less
30 than one thousand five hundred.

31 The terms of members shall be for two years ~~((and shall not))~~. The
32 terms of those members who are appointed as legislators or city, town,
33 or county officials shall be dependent upon continuance in legislative
34 ~~((or))~~ city, town, or county office. The terms of all members except
35 legislative members shall commence on the first day of August in every
36 odd-numbered year. The speaker of the house of representatives and the
37 president of the senate shall make their appointments on or before the
38 third Monday in January in each odd-numbered year, and the terms of the

1 members thus appointed shall commence on the third Monday of January in
2 each odd-numbered year.

3 Council members shall receive no compensation but shall be
4 reimbursed for travel expenses at rates in accordance with RCW
5 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended, except
6 that members of the council who are also members of the legislature
7 shall be reimbursed at the rates provided by RCW 44.04.120.

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