

2 **ESHB 1817** - S COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 15.09 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, HORTICULTURAL TAX, APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
10 HORTICULTURAL PEST AND DISEASE BOARDS. Funding of the operating budget  
11 of the horticultural pest and disease board may be derived from any or  
12 all of the following:

13 (1) Moneys from the county general fund or other general revenues,  
14 as appropriated by the board of county commissioners or other county  
15 legislative authority;

16 (2) A horticultural tax, as authorized in RCW 15.08.260, levied by  
17 the county board of commissioners or other county legislative  
18 authority; or

19 (3) An assessment against all lands except those exempted from the  
20 assessment under subsection (4) of this section.

21 (4) The assessment in subsection (3) of this section does not apply  
22 to forest lands used solely for the planting, growing, or harvesting of  
23 trees and which are typified, except during a single period of five  
24 years following clear-cut logging, by canopies so dense as to prohibit  
25 growth of an understory. The exemption provided by this subsection  
26 does not apply to any lands used to raise hardwood trees such as, but  
27 not limited to, hybrid cottonwoods and cultivated by agricultural  
28 methods in growing cycles shorter than fifteen years.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 15.09 RCW  
30 to read as follows:

31 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT--RATES. (1) Prior to the levying of an  
32 assessment authorized in section 1 of this act, the horticultural pest  
33 and disease board shall hold a public hearing at which it will gather  
34 information to serve as a basis for classification and then classify  
35 the lands into suitable classification, including but not limited to

1 orchard lands, range lands, dry lands, nonuse lands, forest lands, or  
2 federal lands.

3 (2) The board shall develop and forward to the county board of  
4 commissioners or other county legislative authority, as a proposed  
5 level of assessment for each class, an amount that seems just. The  
6 assessment rate shall be either uniform per acre in its respective  
7 class, a flat rate per parcel, or a flat rate per parcel rate plus a  
8 uniform rate per acre: PROVIDED, That if no benefits are found to  
9 accrue to a class of land, a zero assessment may be levied.

10 (3) The county board of commissioners or other county legislative  
11 authority, upon receipt of the proposed levels of assessment from the  
12 horticultural pest and disease board, after a hearing, shall accept or  
13 modify by resolution, or refer back to the horticultural pest and  
14 disease board for its reconsideration all or any portion of the  
15 proposed levels of assessment.

16 (4) The amount of the assessment constitutes a lien against the  
17 property. The assessments shall be subject to the same provisions as  
18 those for property tax collections, as provided in RCW 84.56.020, and  
19 shall be collected by the county treasurer under the authority in RCW  
20 84.56.035.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 15.09 RCW  
22 to read as follows:

23 AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS. The horticultural pest and  
24 disease board may enter into agreements with federal, state, and local  
25 government agencies and Indian tribes to perform any duties pursuant to  
26 the identification, detection, control, eradication, or education of  
27 citizens regarding horticultural pests and diseases.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 15.09.130 (Operating moneys) and 1969 c  
29 113 s 13 are each repealed.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Captions used in sections 1 through 3 of  
31 this act are not any part of the law."

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4 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "boards;" strike the  
5 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter 15.09  
6 RCW; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 15.09.130."

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