

## HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS HB 2958

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**Title:** An act relating to baseball stadiums.

**Brief Description:** Modifying baseball stadium provisions.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Veloria, Dunn, Eickmeyer, Fortunato, Benson, DeBolt and Kenney.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF BILL

- Requires that at least 10 percent of the seats, at home games of the professional baseball team in Safeco Field, are available at an affordable price.

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### HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & TRADE COMMITTEE

**Staff:** Kenny Pittman (786-7392)

**Background:**

In 1995, the Legislature authorized the financing of a professional major league baseball stadium to be constructed in the largest city in a county with a population of 1 million or more--Seattle, King County. The financing of the baseball stadium involved a variety of state and local tax sources and a cash contribution from the owners of the professional major league baseball team.

As a condition of the collection of the state and local taxes, the county executive was required to certify that: (1) a professional baseball team will occupy the stadium for a period equal to or greater than the terms of the bonds; (2) the baseball team will contribute \$45 million toward the cost of stadium construction, with interest paid on amounts deferred after the bonds are issued; and (3) the baseball team will share a portion of the profits from its operation, for a period not to exceed the term of the bonds, to retire the initial bonds on stadium construction.

**Summary of Bill:**

The contractual agreement between the public facilities district and the professional baseball team must include a requirement that at least 10 percent of the seats in the baseball stadium for home games are available at an affordable price. An affordable price-- means a price that is equal to or less than the average of the lowest ticket prices charged by all other major league baseball teams.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.