

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS HB 3115

Title: An act relating to requiring a percentage of affordable seats in a baseball stadium.

Brief Description: Ensuring affordable seats at baseball stadiums.

Sponsors: Representatives Veloria and Dunn.

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.

HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & TRADE COMMITTEE

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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.