

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 1154**

56th Legislature  
1999 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 19, 1999  
Yeas 96 Nays 1

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 13, 1999  
Yeas 45 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

We, Dean R. Foster and Timothy A. Martin, Co-Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1154** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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HOUSE BILL 1154

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Passed Legislature - 1999 Regular Session

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 1999 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **56th Legislature**                      **1999 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Cooper, Delvin, Edmonds, Conway, Wood, Dunshee, Gombosky, Doumit, Hatfield, Kenney and Cody

Read first time 01/15/1999. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1            AN ACT Relating to eliminating the time limit on regular tax levies  
2 for medical care and services; amending RCW 84.52.069 and 29.30.111;  
3 and creating a new section.

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

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

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

11            (2) A taxing district may impose additional regular property tax  
12 levies in an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars  
13 of the assessed value of property in the taxing district (~~(in each year~~  
14 ~~for six consecutive years when specifically authorized so to do)). The  
15 tax shall be imposed (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each  
16 year for ten consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A tax levy under  
17 this section must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least  
18 three-fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition  
19 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at~~

1 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition  
2 shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the  
3 total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last  
4 preceding general election when the number of registered voters voting  
5 on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of  
6 voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general  
7 election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered  
8 voters thereof voting on the proposition when the number of registered  
9 voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total  
10 number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding  
11 general election. Ballot propositions shall conform with RCW  
12 29.30.111. A taxing district shall not submit to the voters at the  
13 same election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this  
14 section.

15 (3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section  
16 shall provide for separate accounting of expenditures of the revenues  
17 generated by the levy. The taxing district shall maintain a statement  
18 of the accounting which shall be updated at least every two years and  
19 shall be available to the public upon request at no charge.

20 (4) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section  
21 shall provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the ordinance or  
22 resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure shall specify  
23 that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with a filing  
24 officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution. Within ten  
25 days, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning  
26 form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification  
27 number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from  
28 the designated local official. The petitioner shall have thirty days  
29 in which to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of  
30 the registered voters of the taxing district, as of the last general  
31 election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the  
32 full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall  
33 verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if  
34 sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, shall certify the  
35 referendum measure to the next election within the taxing district if  
36 one is to be held within one hundred eighty days from the date of  
37 filing of the referendum petition, or at a special election to be  
38 called for that purpose in accordance with RCW 29.13.020.

1       The referendum procedure provided in this subsection shall be  
2 exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax  
3 under this section and shall supersede the procedures provided under  
4 all other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum  
5 which might otherwise apply.

6       (~~(+3)~~) (5) Any tax imposed under this section shall be used only  
7 for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical  
8 services, including related personnel costs, training for such  
9 personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures  
10 needed for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical  
11 services.

12       (~~(+4)~~) (6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing  
13 district within the county may levy a tax under this section. No other  
14 taxing district may levy a tax under this section if another taxing  
15 district has levied a tax under this section within its boundaries:  
16 PROVIDED, That if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand  
17 dollars of the assessed value of property, then any other taxing  
18 district may levy a tax under this section equal to the difference  
19 between the rate of the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED  
20 FURTHER, That if a taxing district within a county levies this tax, and  
21 the voters of the county subsequently approve a levying of this tax,  
22 then the amount of the taxing district levy within the county shall be  
23 reduced, when the combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax  
24 is levied county-wide, the service shall, insofar as is feasible, be  
25 provided throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no county-wide  
26 levy proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the  
27 legislative authority of each city exceeding fifty thousand population  
28 within the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW  
29 36.32.480 shall not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual  
30 excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER,  
31 That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this section, no  
32 other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under this section by  
33 another taxing district in the county may be placed before the voters  
34 at the same election at which the county ballot proposition is placed:  
35 AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district emergency medical  
36 service levy that is limited in duration and that is authorized  
37 subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy that is limited  
38 in duration, shall expire concurrently with the county emergency  
39 medical service levy.

1       (~~(5)~~) (7) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 shall not apply to the  
2 tax levy authorized in this section.

3       (~~(6)~~) (8) If a ballot proposition approved under subsection (2)  
4 of this section did not impose the maximum allowable levy amount  
5 authorized for the taxing district under this section, any future  
6 increase up to the maximum allowable levy amount must be specifically  
7 authorized by the voters in accordance with subsection (2) of this  
8 section at a general or special election.

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

12       **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.30.111 and 1984 c 131 s 3 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14       (1) The ballot proposition authorizing a taxing district to impose  
15 the regular property tax levies authorized in RCW 36.69.145, 67.38.130,  
16 or 84.52.069 shall contain in substance the following:

17       "Shall the . . . . . (insert the name of the taxing district) be  
18 authorized to impose regular property tax levies of . . . . . (insert  
19 the maximum rate) or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation  
20 for each of . . . . . (insert the maximum number of years allowable)  
21 consecutive years?

22       Yes . . . . . l

23       No . . . . . l "

24       Each voter shall indicate either "Yes" or "No" on his or her ballot  
25 in accordance with the procedures established under this title.

26       (2) The ballot proposition authorizing a taxing district to impose  
27 a permanent regular tax levy under RCW 84.52.069 shall contain the  
28 following:

29       "Shall the . . . . . (insert the name of the taxing district) be  
30 authorized to impose a PERMANENT regular property levy of . . . . .  
31 (insert the maximum rate) or less per thousand dollars of assessed  
32 valuation?

33       Yes . . . . . l

34       No . . . . . l "

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   This act applies to levies authorized after  
2   the effective date of this section.

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