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**SENATE BILL 5982**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senators West, Sheahan, Brown, McCaslin and Hale

Read first time 02/18/1999. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding for regional convention, conference, or  
2 special events centers; amending RCW 82.14.048, 82.14.050, 36.100.060,  
3 36.100.030, and 82.29A.130; adding a new section to chapter 82.14 RCW;  
4 adding a new chapter to Title 35 RCW; providing an effective date; and  
5 declaring an emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislative authority of any town or  
8 city located in a county with a population of less than one million may  
9 create a public facilities district. The legislative authorities of  
10 any contiguous group of towns or cities located in a county with a  
11 population of less than one million may enter an agreement under  
12 chapter 39.34 RCW for the creation and joint operation of a public  
13 facilities district.

14 (2) A public facilities district shall be coextensive with the  
15 boundaries of the city or town or contiguous group of cities or towns  
16 that created the district, except that the district shall be  
17 coextensive with the boundaries of the county or counties in which the  
18 district is located if a majority of the voters of the county or

1 counties approve the creation of the district in a general election or  
2 a special election that may be called for that purpose.

3 (3) A public facilities district created by a single city or town  
4 shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of the members of  
5 the legislative body of the city that created the district. A district  
6 created by a contiguous group of cities or towns shall be governed by  
7 a board of directors appointed in accordance with the terms of the  
8 agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint operation of the  
9 district.

10 (4) A public facilities district is a municipal corporation, an  
11 independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII,  
12 section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the  
13 meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

14 (5) A public facilities district shall constitute a body corporate  
15 and shall possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public  
16 purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be  
17 specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the  
18 authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into  
19 contracts, and to sue and be sued.

20 (6) A public facilities district may acquire and transfer real and  
21 personal property by lease, sublease, purchase, or sale. No direct or  
22 collateral attack on any metropolitan facilities district purported to  
23 be authorized or created in conformance with this chapter may be  
24 commenced more than thirty days after creation by the city legislative  
25 authority.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A public facilities district is  
27 authorized to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip,  
28 reequip, repair, finance, and operate one or more regional centers.  
29 For purposes of this act, "regional center" means a convention,  
30 conference, or special events center, or any combination of facilities,  
31 and related parking facilities, serving a regional population  
32 constructed, improved, or rehabilitated after the effective date of  
33 this act at a cost of at least ten million dollars, including debt  
34 service. "Regional center" also includes an existing convention,  
35 conference, or special events center, and related parking facilities,  
36 serving a regional population, that is improved or rehabilitated after  
37 the effective date of this act where the costs of improvement or  
38 rehabilitation are at least ten million dollars, including debt

1 service. A regional center is conclusively presumed to serve a  
2 regional population if state and local government investment in the  
3 construction, improvement, or rehabilitation of the regional center is  
4 equal to or greater than ten million dollars.

5 (2) A public facilities district may impose charges and fees for  
6 the use of its facilities, and may accept and expend or use gifts,  
7 grants, and donations for the purpose of a regional center.

8 (3) A public facilities district may impose taxes authorized in  
9 sections 5, 11, and 12 of this act, and use revenues derived therefrom  
10 for the purpose of paying principal and interest payments on bonds  
11 issued by the public facilities district to construct a regional  
12 center.

13 (4) Notwithstanding the establishment of a career, civil, or merit  
14 service system, a public facilities district may contract with a public  
15 or private entity for the operation or management of its public  
16 facilities.

17 (5) A public facilities district is authorized to use the  
18 supplemental alternative public works contracting procedures set forth  
19 in chapter 39.10 RCW in connection with the design, construction,  
20 reconstruction, remodel, or alteration of any regional center.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A public facilities district may apply  
22 for deferral of taxes on site preparation, construction of buildings or  
23 other structures, and acquisition of related machinery and equipment,  
24 for a regional center. Application shall be made to the department of  
25 revenue in a form and manner prescribed by the department of revenue.  
26 The application shall contain information regarding the location of the  
27 regional center, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for  
28 completion and operation, and other information required by the  
29 department of revenue. The department of revenue shall approve the  
30 application within sixty days if it meets the requirements of this  
31 section.

32 (2) The department of revenue shall issue a sales and use tax  
33 deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under  
34 chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on the public facility. The use  
35 of the certificate shall be governed by rules established by the  
36 department of revenue.

37 (3) The public facilities district shall begin paying the deferred  
38 taxes in the fifth year after the date certified by the department of

1 revenue as the date on which the regional center is operationally  
2 complete. The first payment is due on December 31st of the fifth  
3 calendar year after such certified date, with subsequent annual  
4 payments due on December 31st of the following nine years. Each  
5 payment shall equal ten percent of the deferred tax.

6 (4) The department of revenue may authorize an accelerated  
7 repayment schedule upon request of the public facilities district.

8 (5) Interest shall not be charged on any taxes deferred under this  
9 section for the period of deferral, although all other penalties and  
10 interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and  
11 imposed for delinquent payments under this section. The debt for  
12 deferred taxes is not extinguished by insolvency or other failure of  
13 the public facilities district.

14 (6) Applications and any other information received by the  
15 department of revenue under this section are not confidential and are  
16 subject to disclosure. Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration  
17 of this section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) To carry out the purpose of this  
19 chapter, a public facilities district may issue general obligation  
20 bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter-  
21 approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to one-half of one  
22 percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as  
23 the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015.  
24 A facilities district additionally may issue general obligation bonds  
25 for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general  
26 obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to one and one-  
27 fourth percent of the value of the taxable property within the  
28 district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW  
29 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the public facilities  
30 district pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution,  
31 and to provide for the retirement thereof by taxes authorized in this  
32 act.

33 (2) General obligation bonds may be issued with a maturity of up to  
34 thirty years, and shall be issued and sold in accordance with the  
35 provisions of chapter 39.46 RCW.

36 (3) The general obligation bonds may be payable from the operating  
37 revenues of the public facilities district in addition to the tax  
38 receipts of the district.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    (1) The board of directors of the public  
2 facilities district may impose the following for the purpose of funding  
3 a regional center:

4        (a) Charges and fees for the use of the regional center and may  
5 accept and expend or use gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose  
6 of the regional center;

7        (b) Sales and use taxes authorized under sections 11 and 12 of this  
8 act.

9        (2) The revenue from the taxes imposed under this section shall be  
10 used only for the purposes authorized by this chapter.

11       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    The board of directors of the public  
12 facilities district shall adopt a resolution that may be amended from  
13 time to time that shall establish the basic requirements governing  
14 methods and amounts of reimbursement payable to such district officials  
15 and employees for travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf  
16 of the district. The resolution shall, among other things, establish  
17 procedures for approving such expenses; the form of the travel and  
18 expense voucher; and requirements governing the use of credit cards  
19 issued in the name of the district. The resolution may also establish  
20 procedures for payment of per diem to board members. The state auditor  
21 shall, as provided by general law, cooperate with the public facilities  
22 district in establishing adequate procedures for regulating and  
23 auditing the reimbursement of all such expenses.

24       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    The board of directors of the public  
25 facilities district shall have authority to authorize the expenditure  
26 of funds for the public purposes of preparing and distributing  
27 information to the general public and promoting, advertising,  
28 improving, developing, operating, and maintaining a regional center.  
29 Nothing contained in this section may be construed to authorize  
30 preparation and distribution of information to the general public for  
31 the purpose of influencing the outcome of a district election.

32       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    The public facilities district may secure  
33 services by means of an agreement with a service provider. The public  
34 facilities district shall publish notice, establish criteria, receive  
35 and evaluate proposals, and negotiate with respondents under  
36 requirements set forth by district resolution.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    In addition to provisions contained in  
2 chapter 39.04 RCW, the public facilities district is authorized to  
3 follow procedures contained in RCW 43.19.1906 and 43.19.1911 for all  
4 purchases, contracts for purchase, and sales.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    (1) A public facilities district may issue  
6 revenue bonds to fund revenue-generating facilities, or portions of  
7 facilities, which it is authorized to provide or operate. Whenever  
8 revenue bonds are to be issued, the board of directors of the district  
9 shall create or have created a special fund or funds from which, along  
10 with any reserves created pursuant to RCW 39.44.140, the principal and  
11 interest on such revenue bonds shall exclusively be payable. The board  
12 may obligate the district to set aside and pay into the special fund or  
13 funds a fixed proportion or a fixed amount of the revenues from the  
14 public improvements, projects, or facilities, and all related  
15 additions, that are funded by the revenue bonds. This amount or  
16 proportion shall be a lien and charge against these revenues, subject  
17 only to operating and maintenance expenses. The board shall have due  
18 regard for the cost of operation and maintenance of the public  
19 improvements, projects, or facilities, or additions, that are funded by  
20 the revenue bonds, and shall not set aside into the special fund or  
21 funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues that in its  
22 judgment will be available over and above the cost of maintenance and  
23 operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue so  
24 previously pledged. The board may also provide that revenue bonds  
25 payable out of the same source or sources of revenue may later be  
26 issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold.

27        (2) Revenue bonds issued under this section shall not be an  
28 indebtedness of the district issuing the bonds, and the interest and  
29 principal on the bonds shall only be payable from the revenues lawfully  
30 pledged to meet the principal and interest requirements and any  
31 reserves created under RCW 39.44.140. The owner or bearer of a revenue  
32 bond or any interest coupon issued under this section shall not have  
33 any claim against the district arising from the bond or coupon except  
34 for payment from the revenues lawfully pledged to meet the principal  
35 and interest requirements and any reserves created under RCW 39.44.140.  
36 The substance of the limitations included in this subsection shall be  
37 plainly printed, written, or engraved on each bond issued under this  
38 section.

1 (3) Revenue bonds with a maturity in excess of thirty years shall  
2 not be issued. The board of directors of the district shall by  
3 resolution determine for each revenue bond issue the amount, date,  
4 form, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable  
5 interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights,  
6 registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable  
7 provisions, if any, and covenants including the refunding of existing  
8 revenue bonds. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any  
9 coupons. Refunding revenue bonds may be issued in the same manner as  
10 revenue bonds are issued.

11 **Sec. 11.** RCW 82.14.048 and 1995 c 396 s 6 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 The governing board of a public facilities district under chapter  
14 36.100 RCW or chapter 35.--- RCW (sections 1 through 10 of this act)  
15 may submit an authorizing proposition to the voters of the district,  
16 and if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, fix  
17 and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this  
18 chapter.

19 The tax authorized in this section shall be in addition to any  
20 other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons  
21 who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon  
22 the occurrence of any taxable event within the public facilities  
23 district. The rate of tax shall equal one-tenth of one percent of the  
24 selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used,  
25 in the case of a use tax.

26 Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section shall be  
27 used for the purpose of providing funds for the costs associated with  
28 the financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating,  
29 maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and reequipping of its public  
30 facilities.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 82.14 RCW  
32 to read as follows:

33 (1) The governing body of a public facilities district created  
34 under this act that commences construction of a new regional facility,  
35 or improvement or rehabilitation of a new regional facility, before  
36 January 1, 2003, may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the  
37 terms of this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes

1 authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are  
2 taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the  
3 occurrence of any taxable event within the public facilities district.  
4 The rate of tax shall not exceed 0.033 percent of the selling price in  
5 the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of a  
6 use tax.

7 (2) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section shall be  
8 deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or  
9 paid over to the department of revenue under chapter 82.08 or 82.12  
10 RCW. The department of revenue shall perform the collection of such  
11 taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the public facilities  
12 district.

13 (3) No tax may be collected under this section or RCW 82.14.048  
14 before August 1, 2000. The tax imposed in this section shall expire  
15 when the bonds issued for the construction of the regional center and  
16 related parking facilities are retired, but not more than twenty-five  
17 years after the tax is first collected.

18 (4) Moneys collected under this section shall only be used for the  
19 purposes set forth in section 2 of this act.

20 **Sec. 13.** RCW 82.14.050 and 1991 sp.s. c 13 s 34 are each amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 The counties, cities, and transportation authorities under RCW  
23 82.14.045 and public facilities districts under chapter 36.100 RCW and  
24 chapter 35.--- RCW (sections 1 through 10 of this act) shall contract,  
25 prior to the effective date of a resolution or ordinance imposing a  
26 sales and use tax, the administration and collection to the state  
27 department of revenue, which shall deduct a percentage amount, as  
28 provided by contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected  
29 for administration and collection expenses incurred by the department.  
30 The remainder of any portion of any tax authorized by this chapter  
31 which is collected by the department of revenue shall be deposited by  
32 the state department of revenue in the local sales and use tax account  
33 hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys in the local sales and  
34 use tax account may be spent only for distribution to counties, cities,  
35 transportation authorities, and public facilities districts imposing a  
36 sales and use tax. All administrative provisions in chapters 82.03,  
37 82.08, 82.12, and 82.32 RCW, as they now exist or may hereafter be  
38 amended, shall, insofar as they are applicable to state sales and use



1 taxes, be applicable to taxes imposed pursuant to this chapter. Except  
2 as provided in RCW 43.08.190, all earnings of investments of balances  
3 in the local sales and use tax account shall be credited to the local  
4 sales and use tax account and distributed to the counties, cities,  
5 transportation authorities, and public facilities districts monthly.

6 **Sec. 14.** RCW 36.100.060 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 s 4 are each  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (1) To carry out the purpose of this chapter, a public facilities  
9 district may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount,  
10 together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation  
11 indebtedness, equal to one-half of one percent of the value of taxable  
12 property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property"  
13 is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A facilities district additionally may  
14 issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with  
15 any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an  
16 amount equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable  
17 property within the district, as the term "value of taxable property"  
18 is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the  
19 public facilities district pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the  
20 state Constitution, and to provide for the retirement thereof by excess  
21 property tax levies as provided in this chapter.

22 (2) General obligation bonds may be issued with a maturity of up to  
23 thirty years, and shall be issued and sold in accordance with the  
24 provisions of chapter 39.46 RCW.

25 (3) The general obligation bonds may be payable from the operating  
26 revenues of the public facilities district in addition to the tax  
27 receipts of the district.

28 (4) The excise tax imposed pursuant to RCW 36.100.040 shall  
29 terminate upon final payment of all bonded indebtedness for its public  
30 facilities, except that the excise tax may be reauthorized by a public  
31 vote, in the same manner as originally authorized, for funding of  
32 additional public facilities or a regional center.

33 **Sec. 15.** RCW 36.100.030 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 s 3 are each  
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) A public facilities district is authorized to acquire,  
36 construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, and operate  
37 sports facilities, entertainment facilities, ((or)) convention

1 facilities, or (~~any combination of such facilities~~) regional centers  
2 as defined in section 2 of this act, together with contiguous parking  
3 facilities. The taxes that are provided for in this chapter may only  
4 be imposed for these purposes.

5 (2) A public facilities district may enter into agreements under  
6 chapter 39.34 RCW for the joint provision and operation of such  
7 facilities and may enter into contracts under chapter 39.34 RCW where  
8 any party to the contract provides and operates such facilities for the  
9 other party or parties to the contract.

10 (3) Notwithstanding the establishment of a career, civil, or merit  
11 service system, a public facility [facilities] district may contract  
12 with a public or private entity for the operation or management of its  
13 public facilities.

14 (4) A public facilities district is authorized to use the  
15 supplemental alternative public works contracting procedures set forth  
16 in chapter 39.10 RCW in connection with the design, construction,  
17 reconstruction, remodel, or alteration of any of its public facilities.

18 (5) A public facilities district may impose charges and fees for  
19 the use of its facilities, and may accept and expend or use gifts,  
20 grants, and donations.

21 **Sec. 16.** RCW 82.29A.130 and 1997 c 220 s 202 (Referendum Bill No.  
22 48) are each amended to read as follows:

23 The following leasehold interests shall be exempt from taxes  
24 imposed pursuant to RCW 82.29A.030 and 82.29A.040:

25 (1) All leasehold interests constituting a part of the operating  
26 properties of any public utility which is assessed and taxed as a  
27 public utility pursuant to chapter 84.12 RCW.

28 (2) All leasehold interests in facilities owned or used by a  
29 school, college or university which leasehold provides housing for  
30 students and which is otherwise exempt from taxation under provisions  
31 of RCW 84.36.010 and 84.36.050.

32 (3) All leasehold interests of subsidized housing where the fee  
33 ownership of such property is vested in the government of the United  
34 States, or the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof  
35 but only if income qualification exists for such housing.

36 (4) All leasehold interests used for fair purposes of a nonprofit  
37 fair association that sponsors or conducts a fair or fairs which  
38 receive support from revenues collected pursuant to RCW 67.16.100 and

1 allocated by the director of the department of agriculture where the  
2 fee ownership of such property is vested in the government of the  
3 United States, the state of Washington or any of its political  
4 subdivisions: PROVIDED, That this exemption shall not apply to the  
5 leasehold interest of any sublessee of such nonprofit fair association  
6 if such leasehold interest would be taxable if it were the primary  
7 lease.

8 (5) All leasehold interests in any property of any public entity  
9 used as a residence by an employee of that public entity who is  
10 required as a condition of employment to live in the publicly owned  
11 property.

12 (6) All leasehold interests held by enrolled Indians of lands owned  
13 or held by any Indian or Indian tribe where the fee ownership of such  
14 property is vested in or held in trust by the United States and which  
15 are not subleased to other than to a lessee which would qualify  
16 pursuant to this chapter, RCW 84.36.451 and 84.40.175.

17 (7) All leasehold interests in any real property of any Indian or  
18 Indian tribe, band, or community that is held in trust by the United  
19 States or is subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the  
20 United States: PROVIDED, That this exemption shall apply only where it  
21 is determined that contract rent paid is greater than or equal to  
22 ninety percent of fair market rental, to be determined by the  
23 department of revenue using the same criteria used to establish taxable  
24 rent in RCW 82.29A.020(2)(b).

25 (8) All leasehold interests for which annual taxable rent is less  
26 than two hundred fifty dollars per year. For purposes of this  
27 subsection leasehold interests held by the same lessee in contiguous  
28 properties owned by the same lessor shall be deemed a single leasehold  
29 interest.

30 (9) All leasehold interests which give use or possession of the  
31 leased property for a continuous period of less than thirty days:  
32 PROVIDED, That for purposes of this subsection, successive leases or  
33 lease renewals giving substantially continuous use of possession of the  
34 same property to the same lessee shall be deemed a single leasehold  
35 interest: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no leasehold interest shall be deemed  
36 to give use or possession for a period of less than thirty days solely  
37 by virtue of the reservation by the public lessor of the right to use  
38 the property or to allow third parties to use the property on an  
39 occasional, temporary basis.

1 (10) All leasehold interests under month-to-month leases in  
2 residential units rented for residential purposes of the lessee pending  
3 destruction or removal for the purpose of constructing a public highway  
4 or building.

5 (11) All leasehold interests in any publicly owned real or personal  
6 property to the extent such leasehold interests arises solely by virtue  
7 of a contract for public improvements or work executed under the public  
8 works statutes of this state or of the United States between the public  
9 owner of the property and a contractor.

10 (12) All leasehold interests that give use or possession of state  
11 adult correctional facilities for the purposes of operating  
12 correctional industries under RCW 72.09.100.

13 (13) All leasehold interests used to provide organized and  
14 supervised recreational activities for disabled persons of all ages in  
15 a camp facility and for public recreational purposes by a nonprofit  
16 organization, association, or corporation that would be exempt from  
17 property tax under RCW 84.36.030(1) if it owned the property. If the  
18 publicly owned property is used for any taxable purpose, the leasehold  
19 excise taxes set forth in RCW 82.29A.030 and 82.29A.040 shall be  
20 imposed and shall be apportioned accordingly.

21 (14) All leasehold interests in the public or entertainment areas  
22 of a baseball stadium with natural turf and a retractable roof or  
23 canopy that is in a county with a population of over one million, that  
24 has a seating capacity of over forty thousand, and that is constructed  
25 on or after January 1, 1995. "Public or entertainment areas" include  
26 ticket sales areas, ramps and stairs, lobbies and concourses, parking  
27 areas, concession areas, restaurants, hospitality and stadium club  
28 areas, kitchens or other work areas primarily servicing other public or  
29 entertainment areas, public rest room areas, press and media areas,  
30 control booths, broadcast and production areas, retail sales areas,  
31 museum and exhibit areas, scoreboards or other public displays, storage  
32 areas, loading, staging, and servicing areas, seating areas and suites,  
33 the playing field, and any other areas to which the public has access  
34 or which are used for the production of the entertainment event or  
35 other public usage, and any other personal property used for these  
36 purposes. "Public or entertainment areas" does not include locker  
37 rooms or private offices exclusively used by the lessee.

38 (15) All leasehold interests in the public or entertainment areas  
39 of a stadium and exhibition center, as defined in RCW 36.102.010, that

1 is constructed on or after January 1, 1998. For the purposes of this  
2 subsection, "public or entertainment areas" has the same meaning as in  
3 subsection (14) of this section, and includes exhibition areas.

4 (16) All leasehold interests in public facilities districts, as  
5 provided in chapter 36.100 RCW or chapter 35.--- RCW (sections 1  
6 through 10 of this act).

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act  
8 constitute a new chapter in Title 35 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** If any provision of this act or its  
10 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
11 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
12 persons or circumstances is not affected.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 19.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
15 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
16 July 1, 1999.

--- END ---