
HOUSE BILL 1508

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson and Pflug

Read first time 01/29/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to limitations on excess school levies; amending
2 RCW 84.52.0531; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state and
5 local communities share responsibility for the support of the public
6 schools. The state is responsible for defining and funding basic
7 education. The state also funds enhancements that are not a part of
8 basic education. Local communities, through voter-approved special
9 levies, augment that state funding and provide the enhancements and
10 nonbasic educational services desired by the communities served by each
11 school. The legislature further finds that statutory limits on the
12 amount of money each community may request of its voters pose a barrier
13 to voters who wish to increase the nonbasic educational services
14 provided by their communities. In addition, since ninety school
15 districts are permitted to have higher limits than all other districts,
16 the legislature finds that the current levy lids are inequitable.

17 The legislature intends to provide voters with the authority to
18 increase the local contribution to community schools by raising the

1 levy lid. The legislature also intends to eliminate the inequity in
2 the current levy lid laws by creating the same levy limitation for all
3 school districts.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.52.0531 and 1997 c 259 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The maximum dollar amount which may be levied by or for any school
7 district for maintenance and operation support under the provisions of
8 RCW 84.52.053 shall be determined as follows:

9 (1) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1997, the
10 maximum dollar amount shall be calculated pursuant to the laws and
11 rules in effect in November 1996.

12 (2) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1998 and
13 thereafter, the maximum dollar amount shall be the sum of (a) plus or
14 minus (b) and (c) of this subsection minus (d) of this subsection:

15 (a) The district's levy base as defined in subsection (3) of this
16 section multiplied by the district's maximum levy percentage as defined
17 in subsection (4) of this section;

18 (b) For districts in a high/nonhigh relationship, the high school
19 district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced and the nonhigh school
20 district's maximum levy amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
21 the estimated amount of the nonhigh payment due to the high school
22 district under RCW 28A.545.030(3) and 28A.545.050 for the school year
23 commencing the year of the levy;

24 (c) For districts in an interdistrict cooperative agreement, the
25 nonresident school district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced and
26 the resident school district's maximum levy amount shall be increased
27 by an amount equal to the per pupil basic education allocation included
28 in the nonresident district's levy base under subsection (3) of this
29 section multiplied by:

30 (i) The number of full-time equivalent students served from the
31 resident district in the prior school year; multiplied by:

32 (ii) The serving district's maximum levy percentage determined
33 under subsection (4) of this section; increased by:

34 (iii) The percent increase per full-time equivalent student as
35 stated in the state basic education appropriation section of the
36 biennial budget between the prior school year and the current school
37 year divided by fifty-five percent;

1 (d) The district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced by the
2 maximum amount of state matching funds for which the district is
3 eligible under RCW 28A.500.010.

4 (3) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1998 and
5 thereafter, a district's levy base shall be the sum of allocations in
6 (a) through (c) of this subsection received by the district for the
7 prior school year, including allocations for compensation increases,
8 plus the sum of such allocations multiplied by the percent increase per
9 full time equivalent student as stated in the state basic education
10 appropriation section of the biennial budget between the prior school
11 year and the current school year and divided by fifty-five percent. A
12 district's levy base shall not include local school district property
13 tax levies or other local revenues, or state and federal allocations
14 not identified in (a) through (c) of this subsection.

15 (a) The district's basic education allocation as determined
16 pursuant to RCW 28A.150.250, 28A.150.260, and 28A.150.350;

17 (b) State and federal categorical allocations for the following
18 programs:

19 (i) Pupil transportation;

20 (ii) Special education;

21 (iii) Education of highly capable students;

22 (iv) Compensatory education, including but not limited to learning
23 assistance, migrant education, Indian education, refugee programs, and
24 bilingual education;

25 (v) Food services; and

26 (vi) Statewide block grant programs; and

27 (c) Any other federal allocations for elementary and secondary
28 school programs, including direct grants, other than federal impact aid
29 funds and allocations in lieu of taxes.

30 (4) A district's maximum levy percentage shall be twenty-two
31 percent in 1998 (~~and~~), twenty-four percent in 1999, and twenty-seven
32 percent in 2004 and every year thereafter; plus, for qualifying
33 districts, the grandfathered percentage determined as follows:

34 (a) For 1997, the difference between the district's 1993 maximum
35 levy percentage and twenty percent; (~~and~~)

36 (b) For 1998 and thereafter until the first levy that the district
37 submits to the voters after 2003, the percentage calculated as follows:

1 (i) Multiply the grandfathered percentage for the prior year times
2 the district's levy base determined under subsection (3) of this
3 section;

4 (ii) Reduce the result of (b)(i) of this subsection by any levy
5 reduction funds as defined in subsection (5) of this section that are
6 to be allocated to the district for the current school year;

7 (iii) Divide the result of (b)(ii) of this subsection by the
8 district's levy base; and

9 (iv) Take the greater of zero or the percentage calculated in
10 (b)(iii) of this subsection; and

11 (c) For any levy submitted to the voters in 2004 and thereafter,
12 the maximum levy percentage shall be twenty-seven percent.

13 (5) "Levy reduction funds" shall mean increases in state funds from
14 the prior school year for programs included under subsection (3) of
15 this section: (a) That are not attributable to enrollment changes,
16 compensation increases, or inflationary adjustments; and (b) that are
17 or were specifically identified as levy reduction funds in the
18 appropriations act. If levy reduction funds are dependent on formula
19 factors which would not be finalized until after the start of the
20 current school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall
21 estimate the total amount of levy reduction funds by using prior school
22 year data in place of current school year data. Levy reduction funds
23 shall not include moneys received by school districts from cities or
24 counties.

25 (6) For the purposes of this section, "prior school year" means the
26 most recent school year completed prior to the year in which the levies
27 are to be collected.

28 (7) For the purposes of this section, "current school year" means
29 the year immediately following the prior school year.

30 (8) Funds collected from transportation vehicle fund tax levies
31 shall not be subject to the levy limitations in this section.

32 (9) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop rules
33 and regulations and inform school districts of the pertinent data
34 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

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