
SENATE BILL 5659

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Kastama, Oke, Franklin, Swecker, Rasmussen, Regala and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/05/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing additional funding for local
2 governments; reenacting and amending RCW 84.52.010; adding a new
3 section to chapter 82.14 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 84.52 RCW;
4 and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that local governments
7 in the state of Washington face enormous challenges in the areas of
8 criminal justice and public health. It is the legislature's intent to
9 allow local governments to raise revenues in order to better protect
10 the health and safety of Washington state and its residents.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.14 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) A county legislative authority in a county with a population of
14 less than one million may submit an authorizing proposition to the
15 county voters and, if the proposition is approved by a majority of
16 persons voting, impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms
17 of this chapter. The rate of tax under this subsection shall not

1 exceed three-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of
2 a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

3 (2) The tax authorized in this section shall be in addition to any
4 other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons
5 who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon
6 the occurrence of any taxable event within the county.

7 (3) Money received under this section shall be shared between the
8 county and the cities as follows: Sixty percent shall be retained by
9 the county, and forty percent shall be distributed on a per capita
10 basis to cities in the county.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 84.52 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The legislative authority of any county may submit an
14 authorizing proposition to the voters at a general or special election
15 and, if the proposition is approved by the majority of qualified voters
16 voting on the proposition, impose an additional permanent regular
17 property tax levy in an amount not to exceed thirty cents per thousand
18 dollars of assessed valuation.

19 (2) If a proposition approved under subsection (1) of this section
20 did not impose the maximum levy amount authorized in this section, any
21 future increase up to the maximum allowable levy amount must be
22 specifically authorized by the voters in accordance with subsection (1)
23 of this section.

24 (3) The additional regular property tax levy authorized in this
25 section is in addition to the levy authorized in RCW 84.52.043(1).

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 84.52 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) The legislative authority of any city or town may submit an
29 authorizing proposition to the voters at a general or special election
30 and, if the proposition is approved by the majority of qualified voters
31 voting on the proposition, impose an additional permanent regular
32 property tax levy in an amount not to exceed thirty cents per thousand
33 dollars of assessed valuation.

34 (2) If a proposition approved under subsection (1) of this section
35 did not impose the maximum levy amount authorized in this section, any

1 future increase up to the maximum allowable levy amount must be
2 specifically authorized by the voters in accordance with subsection (1)
3 of this section.

4 (3) The additional regular property tax levy authorized in this
5 section is in addition to the levy authorized in RCW 84.52.043(1).

6 **Sec. 5.** RCW 84.52.010 and 2002 c 248 s 15 and 2002 c 88 s 7 are
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 Except as is permitted under RCW 84.55.050, all taxes shall be
9 levied or voted in specific amounts.

10 The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes, and
11 purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, shall be
12 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
13 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
14 assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the
15 completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes
16 levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county shall be
17 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
18 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
19 assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts
20 respectively.

21 When a county assessor finds that the aggregate rate of tax levy on
22 any property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW
23 84.52.043 or 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in either of
24 these sections, the assessor shall recompute and establish a
25 consolidated levy in the following manner:

26 (1) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county, county
27 road district, and city or town purposes shall be extended on the tax
28 rolls in amounts not exceeding the limitations established by law;
29 however any state levy shall take precedence over all other levies and
30 shall not be reduced for any purpose other than that required by RCW
31 84.55.010. If, as a result of the levies imposed under RCW 84.52.069,
32 84.34.230, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that
33 was protected under RCW 84.52.120, and 84.52.105, the combined rate of
34 regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent
35 limitation exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any
36 property, then these levies shall be reduced as follows: (a) The
37 portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that is protected

1 under RCW 84.52.120 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer
2 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall
3 be eliminated; (b) if the combined rate of regular property tax levies
4 that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one
5 percent of the true and fair value of any property, then the levies
6 imposed under RCW 84.34.230, 84.52.105, and any portion of the levy
7 imposed under RCW 84.52.069 that is in excess of thirty cents per
8 thousand dollars of assessed value, shall be reduced on a pro rata
9 basis until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true
10 and fair value of any property or shall be eliminated; and (c) if the
11 combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the
12 one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair
13 value of any property, then the thirty cents per thousand dollars of
14 assessed value of tax levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 shall be reduced
15 until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and
16 fair value of any property or eliminated.

17 (2) The certified rates of tax levy subject to these limitations by
18 all junior taxing districts imposing taxes on such property shall be
19 reduced or eliminated as follows to bring the consolidated levy of
20 taxes on such property within the provisions of these limitations:

21 (a) First, the certified property tax levy rates from the
22 additional county, city, and town property taxes authorized under
23 sections 3 and 4 of this act shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or
24 eliminated;

25 ((~~First~~)) (b) Second, the certified property tax levy rates of
26 those junior taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525,
27 36.69.145, 35.95A.100, and 67.38.130 shall be reduced on a pro rata
28 basis or eliminated;

29 ((~~(b) Second~~)) (c) Third, if the consolidated tax levy rate still
30 exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of
31 flood control zone districts shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or
32 eliminated;

33 ((~~(c) Third~~)) (d) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still
34 exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all
35 other junior taxing districts, other than fire protection districts,
36 library districts, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of
37 assessed valuation levies for metropolitan park districts, and the

1 first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for
2 public hospital districts, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or
3 eliminated;

4 ~~((d) Fourth))~~ (e) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still
5 exceeds these limitations, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of
6 assessed valuation levies for metropolitan park districts created on or
7 after January 1, 2002, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or
8 eliminated;

9 ~~((e) Fifth))~~ (f) Sixth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still
10 exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates
11 authorized to fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.140 and
12 52.16.160 shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated; and

13 ~~((f) Sixth))~~ (g) Seventh, if the consolidated tax levy rate still
14 exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates
15 authorized for fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, library
16 districts, metropolitan park districts created before January 1, 2002,
17 under their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation
18 levy, and public hospital districts under their first fifty cent per
19 thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy, shall be reduced on a pro
20 rata basis or eliminated.

21 In determining whether the aggregate rate of tax levy on any
22 property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW
23 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in that section, the
24 assessor shall use the hypothetical state levy, as apportioned to the
25 county under RCW 84.48.080, that was computed under RCW 84.48.080
26 without regard to the reduction under RCW 84.55.012.

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