
HOUSE BILL 3160

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Darneille and Takko

Read first time 02/01/10. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to payments in lieu of taxes for lands owned by the
2 department of fish and wildlife; amending RCW 77.12.203; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.12.203 and 2005 c 303 s 14 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) ~~((Notwithstanding RCW 84.36.010 or other statutes to the~~
8 ~~contrary))~~ If requested by a county under RCW 77.12.201, the director
9 shall pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each county(~~(, if~~
10 ~~requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201,))~~ an amount in lieu of
11 real property taxes ~~((equal to that amount paid on similar parcels of~~
12 ~~open space land taxable under chapter 84.34 RCW or the greater of))~~.
13 The amount paid by the department to the county under this section must
14 be calculated by one of the following two methods as identified by the
15 requesting county:

16 (a) Seventy cents per acre of game lands located in the county per
17 year; or

18 (b) The amount ((paid)) of payments in lieu of taxes paid to the

1 county by the department in 1984 plus an additional amount for control
2 of noxious weeds equal to that which would be paid if such lands were
3 privately owned. (~~This amount~~)

4 (2) Payments under this section shall not be assessed or (~~paid~~)
5 required on department buildings, structures, facilities, game farms,
6 fish hatcheries, tidelands, or public fishing areas of less than one
7 hundred acres.

8 (~~(+2)~~) (3) "Game lands," as used in this section and RCW
9 77.12.201, means those tracts one hundred acres or larger owned in fee
10 by the department and used for wildlife habitat and for public
11 recreational purposes. (~~All~~) However, any lands purchased for
12 wildlife habitat, public access, or recreation purposes with federal
13 funds in the Snake River drainage basin shall be considered game lands
14 regardless of acreage.

15 (~~(+3)~~) (4) This section shall not apply to lands transferred after
16 April 23, 1990, to the department from other state agencies.

17 (~~(+4)~~) (5) The county shall distribute the amount received under
18 this section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing
19 districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way
20 it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The
21 county shall distribute the amount received under this section for weed
22 control to the appropriate weed district.

23 (6) This section applies to game lands held in fee by the
24 department regardless of the provisions of RCW 84.36.010 or other
25 relevant statutes exempting public ownership for local property taxes.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) Any county electing to receive payments
27 in lieu of taxes under RCW 77.12.201 for the 2010 calendar year
28 calculated at a level equal to the amount paid by similar parcels under
29 the open space classification of chapter 84.34 RCW may continue to
30 receive payments from the department of fish and wildlife at that level
31 for the 2010 payment cycle. However, all such counties must provide
32 additional notification prior to January 1, 2011, to the department of
33 fish and wildlife regarding whether they are still interested in
34 receiving payments under RCW 77.12.201 and identifying which method of
35 payment calculation under RCW 77.12.203, as amended by this act, is
36 preferred.

1 (2) Any notifications applicable to the 2011 payment cycle provided
2 to the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 77.12.201 prior to the
3 effective date of this section requesting payments in lieu of taxes
4 calculated at a level equal to the amount paid by similar parcels under
5 the open space classification of chapter 84.34 RCW are void and must be
6 resubmitted by the county in a notice identifying which method of
7 payment calculation under RCW 77.12.203, as amended by this act, is
8 preferred.

--- END ---