

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2639

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections, February 21, 2012

**Title:** An act relating to improving the function of the treasurer's office in handling advance taxes and assessments.

**Brief Description:** Improving the function of the treasurer's office in handling advance taxes and assessments.

**Sponsors:** Representative Takko.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/09/12, 96-0.

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections: 2/21/12 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Pridemore, Chair; Swecker, Ranking Minority Member; Chase, Nelson and Roach.

**Staff:** Sharon Swanson (786-7447)

**Background:** County treasurers (treasurers) have various duties and authorities relating to the receipt, processing, and disbursement of funds. Treasurers are the custodians of the county's funds and the administrators of the county's financial transactions. In addition to their duties relating to county functions, treasurers provide financial services to special purpose districts and other units of local government. Treasurers are also responsible for the collection and receipt of taxes due counties.

Persons choosing to record specific land division actions for platted property with the county auditor after May 31 of any year and prior to the date of collection of taxes in the ensuing year must pay a formula-based deposit to the treasurer to cover anticipated taxes and assessments for the property. Following certification of the levy rate for the property, the treasurer must use the deposit to pay taxes and assessments for the property that, based upon the date of document recording, are due. If the deposit exceeds the taxes and assessments due, the treasurer must return the excess funds to the proper person.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:** The document recording date specified in provisions governing anticipated tax and assessment payments for platted property is changed from May 31 to July 31. If the deposited sum is less than the taxes and assessments due on the property, the treasurer must send the corrected bill to the current taxpayer for the remaining amount owed.

The remaining amount owed must be paid in accordance with general requirements governing the payment of property taxes and assessments.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on May 1, 2012.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill is an efficiency bill that seeks to assist county assessors by synchronizing the tax and assessment date with the new construction date. This bill provides clarity around the issue of counties re-billing property owners for payments that do not cover all assessments and taxes.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Monty Cobb, WA Assn. of County Officials.