
HOUSE BILL 1136

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Van De Wege, Hope, Goodman, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Freeman, and Fey

Read first time 01/16/13. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for increased funding for emergency
2 medical services by adjusting the emergency medical services' levy cap;
3 and amending RCW 84.52.069.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.52.069 and 2012 c 115 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) As used in this section, "taxing district" means a county,
8 emergency medical service district, city or town, public hospital
9 district, urban emergency medical service district, regional fire
10 protection service authority, or fire protection district.

11 (2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a taxing
12 district may impose additional regular property tax levies in an amount
13 equal to (~~fifty~~) seventy-five cents or less per thousand dollars of
14 the assessed value of property in the taxing district. The tax is
15 imposed (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten
16 consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A permanent tax levy under this
17 section, or the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year levy under
18 this section, must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least
19 three-fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition

1 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at
2 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition
3 (~~shall~~) constitutes three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent
4 of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the
5 last preceding general election when the number of registered voters
6 voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total
7 number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding
8 general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the
9 registered voters thereof voting on the proposition when the number of
10 registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of
11 the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last
12 preceding general election. The uninterrupted continuation of a six-
13 year or ten-year tax levy under this section must be specifically
14 authorized by a majority of the registered voters thereof approving a
15 proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special
16 election. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW 29A.36.210. A
17 taxing district may not submit to the voters at the same election
18 multiple propositions to impose a levy under this section.

19 (3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section
20 (~~shall~~) must provide for separate accounting of expenditures of the
21 revenues generated by the levy. The taxing district must maintain a
22 statement of the accounting which must be updated at least every two
23 years and must be available to the public upon request at no charge.

24 (4)(a) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this
25 section must provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the
26 ordinance or resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure
27 must specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with
28 a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution. Within
29 ten days, the filing officer must confer with the petitioner concerning
30 form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification
31 number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from
32 the designated local official. The petitioner has thirty days in which
33 to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the
34 registered voters of the taxing district, as of the last general
35 election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the
36 full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer must
37 verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if
38 sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, must certify the

1 referendum measure to the next election within the taxing district if
2 one is to be held within one hundred eighty days from the date of
3 filing of the referendum petition, or at a special election to be
4 called for that purpose in accordance with RCW 29A.04.330.

5 (b) The referendum procedure provided in this subsection (4) is
6 exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax
7 under this section and supersedes the procedures provided under all
8 other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum
9 which might otherwise apply.

10 (5) Any tax imposed under this section may be used only for the
11 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services,
12 including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and
13 related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the
14 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

15 (6)(a) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing
16 district within the county may levy a tax under this section. If a
17 regional fire protection service authority imposes a tax under this
18 section, no other taxing district that is a participating fire
19 protection jurisdiction in the regional fire protection service
20 authority may levy a tax under this section. No other taxing district
21 may levy a tax under this section if another taxing district has levied
22 a tax under this section within its boundaries(~~(:—PROVIDED, That)~~),
23 except as provided otherwise in (b) of this subsection (6).

24 (b)(i) If a county levies less than (~~(fifty)~~) seventy-five cents
25 per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property, then any other
26 taxing district may levy a tax under this section equal to the
27 difference between the rate of the levy by the county and (~~(fifty)~~)
28 seventy-five cents(~~(:—PROVIDED FURTHER, That)~~). However, if a taxing
29 district within a county levies this tax, and the voters of the county
30 subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the amount of the
31 taxing district levy within the county must be reduced, when the
32 combined levies exceed (~~(fifty)~~) seventy-five cents. Whenever a tax is
33 levied countywide, the service must, insofar as is feasible, be
34 provided throughout the county(~~(:—PROVIDED FURTHER, That)~~).

35 (ii) No countywide levy proposal may be placed on the ballot
36 without the approval of the legislative authority of each city
37 exceeding fifty thousand population within the county(~~(:—AND PROVIDED~~
38 ~~FURTHER, That)~~).

1 (iii) This section and RCW 36.32.480 (~~shall~~) do not prohibit any
2 city or town from levying an annual excess levy to fund emergency
3 medical services(~~(AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That))~~).

4 (iv) If a county proposes to impose tax levies under this section,
5 no other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under this section
6 by another taxing district in the county may be placed before the
7 voters at the same election at which the county ballot proposition is
8 placed(~~(AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That))~~).

9 (v) Any taxing district emergency medical service levy that is
10 limited in duration and that is authorized subsequent to a county
11 emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration, expires
12 concurrently with the county emergency medical service levy.

13 (vi) A fire protection district that has annexed an area described
14 in subsection (10) of this section may levy the maximum amount of tax
15 that would otherwise be allowed, notwithstanding any limitations in
16 this subsection (6).

17 (7) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax levy
18 authorized in this section.

19 (8) If a ballot proposition approved under subsection (2) of this
20 section did not impose the maximum allowable levy amount authorized for
21 the taxing district under this section, any future increase up to the
22 maximum allowable levy amount must be specifically authorized by the
23 voters in accordance with subsection (2) of this section at a general
24 or special election.

25 (9) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first
26 levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of such
27 levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

28 (10) For purposes of imposing the tax authorized under this
29 section, the boundary of a county with a population greater than one
30 million five hundred thousand does not include all of the area of the
31 county that is located within a city that has a boundary in two
32 counties, if the locally assessed value of all the property in the area
33 of the city within the county having a population greater than one
34 million five hundred thousand is less than two hundred fifty million
35 dollars.

36 (11) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

37 (a) "Fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection
38 district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district; and

1 (b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire
2 protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that is
3 represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection
4 service authority.

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