
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6076

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Benton and Dansel)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to the maintenance and operations of parks and
2 recreational land acquired through the conservation futures program;
3 and amending RCW 84.34.240.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.34.240 and 2005 c 449 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Conservation futures are a useful tool for counties to preserve
8 lands of public interest for future generations. Counties are
9 encouraged to use some conservation futures as one tool for salmon
10 preservation purposes.

11 (1) Any board of county commissioners may establish by resolution
12 a special fund which may be termed a conservation futures fund to which
13 it may credit all taxes levied pursuant to RCW 84.34.230. Amounts
14 placed in this fund may be used for the purpose of acquiring rights and
15 interests in real property pursuant to the terms of RCW 84.34.210 and
16 84.34.220, and for the maintenance and operation of any property
17 acquired with these funds. Revenues from this tax may not be used to
18 supplant existing maintenance and operation funding.

1 (2)(a) Generally, the amount of revenue used for maintenance and
2 operations of parks and recreational land may not exceed fifteen
3 percent of the total amount collected from the tax levied under RCW
4 84.34.230 in the preceding calendar year. ((Revenues from this tax may
5 not be used to supplant existing maintenance and operation funding.))

6 (b) A county may use up to twenty-five percent of the total amount
7 for maintenance and operations of parks and recreational land if it
8 has:

9 (i) Acquired rights and interests in one thousand or more acres of
10 real property under RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220; and

11 (ii) Collected a conservations futures levy for ten or more years.

12 (c) A county may use up to thirty percent of the total amount for
13 maintenance and operations of parks and recreational land if it has:

14 (i) Acquired rights and interests in four thousand or more acres of
15 real property under RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220;

16 (ii) Collected a conservation futures levy for twenty or more
17 years; and

18 (iii) Assessed the maximum levy authorized by RCW 84.34.230 for six
19 or more months.

20 (3) Any rights or interests in real property acquired under this
21 section must be located within the assessing county. ((Further,)) The
22 county must determine if the rights or interests in real property
23 acquired with these funds would reduce the capacity of land suitable
24 for development necessary to accommodate the allocated housing and
25 employment growth, as adopted in the countywide planning policies.
26 When actions are taken that reduce capacity to accommodate planned
27 growth, the jurisdiction shall adopt reasonable measures to increase
28 the capacity lost by such actions.

29 ((+2)) (4) In counties greater than one hundred thousand in
30 population, the board of county commissioners or county legislative
31 authority shall develop a process to help ensure distribution of the
32 tax levied under RCW 84.34.230, over time, throughout the county.

33 ((+3)) (5)(a) Between July 24, 2005, and July 1, 2008, the county
34 legislative authority of a county with a population density of fewer
35 than four persons per square mile may enact an ordinance offering a
36 ballot proposal to the people of the county to determine whether or not
37 the county legislative authority may make a one-time emergency
38 reallocation of unspent conservation futures funds to pay for other

1 county government purposes, where such conservation futures funds were
2 originally levied under RCW 84.34.230 but never spent to acquire rights
3 and interests in real property.

4 (b) Upon adoption by the county legislative authority of a ballot
5 proposal ordinance under (a) of this subsection the county auditor
6 shall: (i) Confer with the county legislative authority and review any
7 proposal to the people as to form and style; (ii) give the ballot
8 proposal a number, which thereafter shall be the identifying number for
9 the proposal; (iii) transmit a copy of the proposal to the prosecuting
10 attorney; and (iv) submit the proposal to the people at the next
11 general or special election that is not less than ninety days after the
12 adoption of the ordinance by the county legislative authority.

13 (c) The county prosecuting attorney shall within fifteen working
14 days of receipt of the proposal compose a concise statement, posed as
15 a positive question, not to exceed twenty-five words, which shall
16 express and give a true and impartial statement of the proposal. Such
17 concise statement shall be the ballot title.

18 (d) If the measure is affirmed by a majority voting on the issue it
19 shall become effective ten days after the results of the election are
20 certified.

21 ((+4)) (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting
22 in any manner methods and funds otherwise available to a county for
23 financing the acquisition of such rights and interests in real
24 property.

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