
SENATE BILL 6551

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senator Parlette

Read first time 02/05/14. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to payments to counties in lieu of property taxes
2 by the department of fish and wildlife; amending RCW 77.12.203;
3 repealing RCW 77.12.201; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.12.203 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 999 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) (~~Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section~~) The
8 state treasurer must, on behalf of the department and notwithstanding
9 RCW 84.36.010 or other statutes to the contrary, (~~the director shall~~
10 ~~pay~~) distribute by April 30th of each year on game lands in each
11 county(~~, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201,~~) an amount
12 in lieu of real property taxes equal to that amount paid on similar
13 parcels of open space land taxable under chapter 84.34 RCW (~~or the~~
14 ~~greater of seventy cents per acre per year or the amount paid in 1984~~)
15 except taxes levied for any state purpose, plus an additional amount
16 for control of noxious weeds equal to that which would be paid if such
17 lands were privately owned. This amount (~~shall~~) may not be assessed
18 or paid on department buildings, structures, facilities, game farms,

1 fish hatcheries, water access sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas
2 (~~of less than one hundred acres~~)).

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

10 (3) This section (~~shall~~) does not apply to lands transferred
11 after April 23, 1990, to the department from other state agencies.

12 (4) The county (~~shall~~) must distribute the amount received under
13 this section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing
14 districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way
15 it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The
16 county shall distribute the amount received under this section for weed
17 control to the appropriate weed district.

18 (~~(5) For the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 fiscal biennia, the director~~
19 ~~shall pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each county, if~~
20 ~~requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in lieu of real~~
21 ~~property taxes and shall be distributed as follows:~~

22	County	
23		
24	Adams.....	1,909
25	Asotin.....	36,123
26	Chelan.....	24,757
27	Columbia.....	7,795
28	Ferry.....	6,781
29	Garfield.....	4,840
30	Grant.....	37,443
31	Kittitas.....	143,974
32	Klickitat.....	21,906
33	Lincoln.....	13,535
34	Okanogan.....	151,402
35	Pend Oreille.....	3,309
36	Yakima.....	126,225

1 ~~These amounts shall not be assessed or paid on department buildings,~~
2 ~~structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, tidelands, or~~
3 ~~public fishing areas of less than one hundred acres.))~~

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.12.201 (Counties may elect to receive
5 an amount in lieu of taxes--County to record collections for violations
6 of law or rules--Deposit) and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 998, 2012 2nd sp.s.
7 c 7 s 923, 2009 c 479 s 63, & 1987 c 506 s 29 are each repealed.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2015.

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