
HOUSE BILL 1251

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Van De Wege, Fey, Fitzgibbon, and Pollet

Read first time 01/16/15. 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
3 cap; 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
6 read 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
12 taxing district may impose additional regular property tax levies in
13 an amount equal to (~~fifty~~) seventy-five cents or less per thousand
14 dollars of the assessed value of property in the taxing district. The
15 tax is imposed (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year
16 for ten consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A permanent tax levy
17 under this section, or the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-
18 year levy under this section, must be specifically authorized by a
19 majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof
20 approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general
21 or special election, at which election the number of persons voting

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

18 (3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this
19 section (~~shall~~) must provide for separate accounting of
20 expenditures of the revenues generated by the levy. The taxing
21 district must maintain a statement of the accounting which must be
22 updated at least every two years and must be available to the public
23 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.
29 Within ten days, the filing officer must confer with the petitioner
30 concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an
31 identification number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive
32 ballot title from the designated local official. The petitioner has
33 thirty days in which to secure the signatures of not less than
34 fifteen percent of the registered voters of the taxing district, as
35 of the last general election, upon petition forms which contain the
36 ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The
37 filing officer must verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the
38 petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted,
39 must certify the referendum measure to the next election within the
40 taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days

1 from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special
2 election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW
3 29A.04.330.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire
38 protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that

1 is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection
2 service authority.

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