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HOUSE BILL 2891

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representative Haler

Read first time 01/25/16. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

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 2015 3rd sp.s. c 4 s 971 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

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

20 (2) "Game lands," as used in this section (~~and RCW 77.12.201~~),  
21 means those tracts, regardless of acreage, owned in fee by the

1 department and used for wildlife habitat and public recreational  
2 purposes. All lands purchased for wildlife habitat, public access, or  
3 recreation purposes with federal funds in the Snake River drainage  
4 basin are considered game lands regardless of acreage.

5 (3) This section does not apply to lands transferred after April  
6 23, 1990, to the department from other state agencies.

7 (4) The county must distribute the amount received under this  
8 section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing  
9 districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way  
10 it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The  
11 county must distribute the amount received under this section for  
12 weed control to the appropriate weed district.

13 ~~((5) For the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 fiscal biennia, the~~  
14 ~~director must pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each~~  
15 ~~county, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in~~  
16 ~~lieu of real property taxes and must be distributed as follows:~~

17 **County**

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

32 ~~These amounts may not be assessed or paid on department buildings,~~  
33 ~~structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water access~~  
34 ~~sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas.)~~

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

6        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act takes effect August 1, 2016.

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