

SHB 2627 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/01/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 84.52.069 and 2012 c 115 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

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

9 (2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a  
10 taxing district may impose additional regular property tax levies in  
11 an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of the  
12 assessed value of property in the taxing district. The tax is imposed  
13 (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten  
14 consecutive years, or (c) permanently. Except as otherwise provided  
15 in this subsection, a permanent tax levy under this section, or the  
16 initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year levy under this section,  
17 must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least three-  
18 fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition  
19 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at  
20 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition  
21 ((shall)) must constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty  
22 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district  
23 at the last preceding general election when the number of registered  
24 voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the  
25 total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last  
26 preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths  
27 of the registered voters thereof voting on the proposition when the  
28 number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty  
29 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district  
30 in the last preceding general election. The ((uninterrupted  
31 continuation)) subsequent approval of a six-year or ten-year tax levy  
32 under this section must be specifically authorized by a majority of

1 the registered voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the  
2 levies submitted at a general or special election. If the entire  
3 region comprising a newly formed regional fire protection service  
4 authority was subject to the levy authorized under this section  
5 immediately prior to the creation of the authority under chapter  
6 52.26 RCW, the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year tax levy  
7 under this section may be approved by a majority of the registered  
8 voters thereof approving the creation of the authority and the  
9 related service plan. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW  
10 29A.36.210. A taxing district may not submit to the voters at the  
11 same election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this  
12 section.

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

19 (4)(a) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this  
20 section must provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the  
21 ordinance or resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure  
22 must specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with  
23 a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution.  
24 Within ten days, the filing officer must confer with the petitioner  
25 concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an  
26 identification number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive  
27 ballot title from the designated local official. The petitioner has  
28 thirty days in which to secure the signatures of not less than  
29 fifteen percent of the registered voters of the taxing district, as  
30 of the last general election, upon petition forms which contain the  
31 ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The  
32 filing officer must verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the  
33 petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted,  
34 must certify the referendum measure to the next election within the  
35 taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days  
36 from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special  
37 election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW  
38 29A.04.330.

39 (b) The referendum procedure provided in this subsection (4) is  
40 exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax

1 under this section and supersedes the procedures provided under all  
2 other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum  
3 which might otherwise apply.

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

9 (6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing  
10 district within the county may levy a tax under this section. If a  
11 regional fire protection service authority imposes a tax under this  
12 section, no other taxing district that is a participating fire  
13 protection jurisdiction in the regional fire protection service  
14 authority may levy a tax under this section. No other taxing district  
15 may levy a tax under this section if another taxing district has  
16 levied a tax under this section within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That  
17 if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand dollars of the  
18 assessed value of property, then any other taxing district may levy a  
19 tax under this section equal to the difference between the rate of  
20 the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a  
21 taxing district within a county levies this tax, and the voters of  
22 the county subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the  
23 amount of the taxing district levy within the county must be reduced,  
24 when the combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax is levied  
25 countywide, the service must, insofar as is feasible, be provided  
26 throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no countywide levy  
27 proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the  
28 legislative authority of ~~((each city exceeding fifty thousand  
29 population within the county))~~ a majority of at least seventy-five  
30 percent of all cities exceeding a population of fifty thousand within  
31 the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW 36.32.480  
32 ~~((shall))~~ may not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual  
33 excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED,  
34 FURTHER, That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this  
35 section, no other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under  
36 this section by another taxing district in the county may be placed  
37 before the voters at the same election at which the county ballot  
38 proposition is placed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district  
39 emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration and that  
40 is authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy

1 that is limited in duration, expires concurrently with the county  
2 emergency medical service levy. A fire protection district that has  
3 annexed an area described in subsection (10) of this section may levy  
4 the maximum amount of tax that would otherwise be allowed,  
5 notwithstanding any limitations in this subsection (6).

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

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

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

17 (10) For purposes of imposing the tax authorized under this  
18 section, the boundary of a county with a population greater than one  
19 million five hundred thousand does not include all of the area of the  
20 county that is located within a city that has a boundary in two  
21 counties, if the locally assessed value of all the property in the  
22 area of the city within the county having a population greater than  
23 one million five hundred thousand is less than two hundred fifty  
24 million dollars.

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

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

29 (b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire  
30 protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that  
31 is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection  
32 service authority."

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33 On page 1, line 2, after "levies;" strike the remainder of the  
34 title and insert "and amending RCW 84.52.069."

EFFECT: Allows the initial imposition of a 6-year or 10-year EMS levy by a regional fire protection service authority to be approved with a simple majority vote if the entire region comprising the newly formed authority was subject to an EMS immediately prior to the creation of the authority.

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