
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2627

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives Springer and Stokesbary)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizations of proposals for emergency
2 medical care and service levies; and amending RCW 84.52.069.

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

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

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

10 (2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a
11 taxing district may impose additional regular property tax levies in
12 an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of the
13 assessed value of property in the taxing district. The tax is imposed
14 (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten
15 consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A permanent tax levy under
16 this section, or the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year
17 levy under this section, must be specifically authorized by a
18 majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof
19 approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general
20 or special election, at which election the number of persons voting
21 "yes" on the proposition (~~shall~~) must constitute three-fifths of a

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

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

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

1 election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW
2 29A.04.330.

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

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

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

1 before the voters at the same election at which the county ballot
2 proposition is placed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district
3 emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration and that
4 is authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy
5 that is limited in duration, expires concurrently with the county
6 emergency medical service levy. A fire protection district that has
7 annexed an area described in subsection (10) of this section may levy
8 the maximum amount of tax that would otherwise be allowed,
9 notwithstanding any limitations in this subsection (6).

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

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

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

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

29 (11) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
30 apply:

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

33 (b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire
34 protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that
35 is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection
36 service authority.

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