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HOUSE BILL 2627

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Springer and Stokesbary

Read first time 01/11/18. Referred to Committee on Finance.

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, or an  
10 organization compromised exclusively of all or some of these  
11 entities.

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

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

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

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

1 taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days  
2 from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special  
3 election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW  
4 29A.04.330.

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

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

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

1 to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if a  
2 county proposes to impose tax levies under this section, no other  
3 ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under this section by  
4 another taxing district in the county may be placed before the voters  
5 at the same election at which the county ballot proposition is  
6 placed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district emergency  
7 medical service levy that is limited in duration and that is  
8 authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy that  
9 is limited in duration, expires concurrently with the county  
10 emergency medical service levy. A fire protection district that has  
11 annexed an area described in subsection (10) of this section may levy  
12 the maximum amount of tax that would otherwise be allowed,  
13 notwithstanding any 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  
39 is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection  
40 service authority.

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