

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2627**

65th Legislature  
2018 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 5, 2018  
Yeas 61 Nays 37

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2018  
Yeas 36 Nays 13

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2627** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2627**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

**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. Except as otherwise provided  
16 in this subsection, a permanent tax levy under this section, or the  
17 initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year levy under this section,  
18 must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least three-  
19 fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition  
20 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at  
21 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition

1 (~~shall~~) must constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty  
2 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district  
3 at the last preceding general election when the number of registered  
4 voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the  
5 total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last  
6 preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths  
7 of the registered voters thereof voting on the proposition when the  
8 number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty  
9 percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district  
10 in the last preceding general election. The (~~uninterrupted~~  
11 ~~continuation~~) subsequent approval of a six-year or ten-year tax levy  
12 under this section must be specifically authorized by a majority of  
13 the registered voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the  
14 levies submitted at a general or special election. If the entire  
15 region comprising a newly formed regional fire protection service  
16 authority was subject to the levy authorized under this section  
17 immediately prior to the creation of the authority under chapter  
18 52.26 RCW, the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year tax levy  
19 under this section may be approved by a majority of the registered  
20 voters thereof approving the creation of the authority and the  
21 related service plan. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW  
22 29A.36.210. A taxing district may not submit to the voters at the  
23 same election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this  
24 section.

25 (3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this  
26 section (~~shall~~) must provide for separate accounting of  
27 expenditures of the revenues generated by the levy. The taxing  
28 district must maintain a statement of the accounting which must be  
29 updated at least every two years and must be available to the public  
30 upon request at no charge.

31 (4)(a) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this  
32 section must provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the  
33 ordinance or resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure  
34 must specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with  
35 a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution.  
36 Within ten days, the filing officer must confer with the petitioner  
37 concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an  
38 identification number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive  
39 ballot title from the designated local official. The petitioner has  
40 thirty days in which to secure the signatures of not less than

1 fifteen percent of the registered voters of the taxing district, as  
2 of the last general election, upon petition forms which contain the  
3 ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The  
4 filing officer must verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the  
5 petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted,  
6 must certify the referendum measure to the next election within the  
7 taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days  
8 from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special  
9 election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW  
10 29A.04.330.

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

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

21 (6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing  
22 district within the county may levy a tax under this section. If a  
23 regional fire protection service authority imposes a tax under this  
24 section, no other taxing district that is a participating fire  
25 protection jurisdiction in the regional fire protection service  
26 authority may levy a tax under this section. No other taxing district  
27 may levy a tax under this section if another taxing district has  
28 levied a tax under this section within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That  
29 if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand dollars of the  
30 assessed value of property, then any other taxing district may levy a  
31 tax under this section equal to the difference between the rate of  
32 the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a  
33 taxing district within a county levies this tax, and the voters of  
34 the county subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the  
35 amount of the taxing district levy within the county must be reduced,  
36 when the combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax is levied  
37 countywide, the service must, insofar as is feasible, be provided  
38 throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no countywide levy  
39 proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the  
40 legislative authority of ~~((each city exceeding fifty thousand~~

1 ~~population within the county))~~ a majority of at least seventy-five  
2 percent of all cities exceeding a population of fifty thousand within  
3 the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW 36.32.480  
4 (~~shall~~) may not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual  
5 excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED,  
6 FURTHER, That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this  
7 section, no other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under  
8 this section by another taxing district in the county may be placed  
9 before the voters at the same election at which the county ballot  
10 proposition is placed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district  
11 emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration and that  
12 is authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy  
13 that is limited in duration, expires concurrently with the county  
14 emergency medical service levy. A fire protection district that has  
15 annexed an area described in subsection (10) of this section may levy  
16 the maximum amount of tax that would otherwise be allowed,  
17 notwithstanding any limitations in this subsection (6).

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

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

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

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

37 (11) For purposes of this section, the following definitions  
38 apply:

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

1           (b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire  
2 protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that  
3 is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection  
4 service authority.

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