
SENATE BILL 5854

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senators O'Ban, Becker, Rivers, Rossi, Zeiger, and Sheldon

Read first time 02/24/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to nullifying the imposition of certain taxes
2 within regional transit authority boundaries; amending RCW
3 81.104.175; adding a new section to chapter 81.112 RCW; and declaring
4 an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Any property taxes approved by regional transit authority
9 voters under RCW 81.104.175 may be nullified within the complete
10 boundaries of a city or county within a regional transit authority if
11 either of the following conditions are met:

12 (a) A majority of the city or county legislative authority votes
13 to nullify the property taxes; or

14 (b) A proposition to nullify the property taxes is approved by
15 voters under subsection (2) of this section.

16 (2) If a petition to nullify regional transit authority property
17 taxes within a city or county is filed with the county auditor
18 containing the signatures of eight percent of the number of voters
19 registered and voting in the city or county for the office of the
20 governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election, the county
21 auditor must canvass the signatures in the same manner as prescribed

1 in RCW 29A.72.230 and certify their sufficiency to the governing body
2 within two weeks. The proposition to nullify the property taxes must
3 then be submitted to the voters of the city or county at a special
4 election, called for this purpose, no later than the date on which a
5 primary election would be held under RCW 29A.04.311. The property
6 taxes may then be nullified only if approved by a majority of the
7 voters of the city or county voting on the proposition.

8 (3) Any regional transit authority property taxes nullified under
9 this section may not be imposed within the boundaries of the affected
10 city or county.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 81.104.175 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 321 are each
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (1) A regional transit authority that includes a county with a
14 population of more than one million five hundred thousand may impose
15 a regular property tax levy in an amount not to exceed twenty-five
16 cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property in the
17 regional transit authority district in accordance with the terms of
18 this section.

19 (2) Any tax imposed under this section must be used for the
20 purpose of providing high capacity transportation service, as set
21 forth in a proposition that is approved by a majority of the
22 registered voters that vote on the proposition.

23 (3) Property taxes imposed under this section may be imposed for
24 the period of time required to pay the cost to plan, design,
25 construct, operate, and maintain the transit facilities set forth in
26 the approved proposition. Property taxes pledged to repay bonds may
27 be imposed at the pledged amount until the bonds are retired. After
28 the bonds are retired, property taxes authorized under this section
29 must be:

30 (a) Reduced to the level required to operate and maintain the
31 regional transit authority's transit facilities; or

32 (b) Terminated, unless the taxes have been extended by public
33 vote.

34 (4) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax
35 authorized in this section.

36 (5) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first
37 levy imposed under this section.

38 (6) If a regional transit authority imposes the tax authorized
39 under subsection (1) of this section, the authority may not receive

1 any state grant funds provided in an omnibus transportation
2 appropriations act except transit coordination grants created in
3 chapter 11, Laws of 2015 3rd sp. sess.

4 (7) The authority to impose a tax under this section is subject
5 to section 1 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
8 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
9 effect immediately.

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