
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5024

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Hasegawa and Fortunato)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to the transparency of local taxing districts;
2 amending RCW 19.29A.030; adding a new section to chapter 35.58 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 54.04 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 85.08 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.58A RCW; adding
5 a new section to chapter 36.58 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
6 57.02 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 35.92 RCW.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.58
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 Any metropolitan municipal corporation must disclose the rates of
11 each tax it collects on behalf of the state or another political
12 subdivision, if any. Metropolitan municipal corporations must also
13 disclose the method by which the tax rates are applied to the
14 relevant service charges billed to the customer or taxpayer. The
15 disclosures required by this section must occur through at least one
16 of the following methods:

17 (1) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in
18 written form;

19 (2) On the corporation's web site, if the corporation provides
20 written notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is
21 available on its web site; or

1 (3) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or
2 electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either
3 an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any
4 subsequent tax rate change.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 54.04
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Any public utility district must disclose the rates of each tax
8 it collects on behalf of the state or another political subdivision,
9 if any. Public utility districts must also disclose the method by
10 which the tax rates are applied to the relevant service charges
11 billed to the customer or taxpayer. The disclosures required by this
12 section must occur through at least one of the following methods:

13 (1) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in
14 written form;

15 (2) On the district's web site, if the district provides written
16 notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is available
17 on its web site; or

18 (3) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or
19 electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either
20 an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any
21 subsequent tax rate change.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 85.08
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 Any diking, drainage, and sewerage improvement district must
25 disclose the rates of each tax it collects on behalf of the state or
26 another political subdivision, if any. Diking, drainage, and sewerage
27 improvement districts must also disclose the method by which the tax
28 rates are applied to the relevant service charges billed to the
29 customer or taxpayer. The disclosures required by this section must
30 occur through at least one of the following methods:

31 (1) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in
32 written form;

33 (2) On the district's web site, if the district provides written
34 notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is available
35 on its web site; or

36 (3) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or
37 electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either

1 an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any
2 subsequent tax rate change.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 36.58A
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 Any solid waste collection district must disclose the rates of
6 each tax it collects on behalf of the state or another political
7 subdivision, if any. Solid waste collection districts must also
8 disclose the method by which the tax rates are applied to the
9 relevant service charges billed to the customer or taxpayer. The
10 disclosures required by this section must occur through at least one
11 of the following methods:

12 (1) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in
13 written form;

14 (2) On the district's web site, if the district provides written
15 notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is available
16 on its web site; or

17 (3) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or
18 electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either
19 an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any
20 subsequent tax rate change.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 36.58
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 Any solid waste disposal district must disclose the rates of each
24 tax it collects on behalf of the state or another political
25 subdivision, if any. Solid waste disposal districts must also
26 disclose the method by which the tax rates are applied to the
27 relevant service charges billed to the customer or taxpayer. The
28 disclosures required by this section must occur through at least one
29 of the following methods:

30 (1) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in
31 written form;

32 (2) On the district's web site, if the district provides written
33 notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is available
34 on its web site; or

35 (3) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or
36 electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either
37 an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any
38 subsequent tax rate change.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 57.02
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 Any water-sewer district must disclose the rates of each tax it
4 collects on behalf of the state or another political subdivision, if
5 any. Water-sewer districts must also disclose the method by which the
6 tax rates are applied to the relevant service charges billed to the
7 customer or taxpayer. The disclosures required by this section must
8 occur through at least one of the following methods:

9 (1) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in
10 written form;

11 (2) On the district's web site, if the district provides written
12 notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is available
13 on its web site; or

14 (3) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or
15 electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either
16 an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any
17 subsequent tax rate change.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92
19 RCW to read as follows:

20 Any city or town operating as a municipal utility must disclose
21 the rates of each tax it collects on behalf of the state or another
22 political subdivision, if any. Municipal utilities must also disclose
23 the method by which the tax rates are applied to the relevant service
24 charges billed to the customer or taxpayer. The disclosures required
25 by this section must occur through at least one of the following
26 methods:

27 (1) On regular billing statements provided electronically or in
28 written form;

29 (2) On the municipal utility's web site, if it provides written
30 notice to customers or taxpayers that such information is available
31 on its web site; or

32 (3) Through a billing insert, mailer, or other written or
33 electronic communication provided to customers or taxpayers on either
34 an annual basis or within thirty days of the effective date of any
35 subsequent tax rate change.

36 **Sec. 8.** RCW 19.29A.030 and 1998 c 300 s 4 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 Except as otherwise provided in RCW 19.29A.040, an electric
2 utility (~~shall~~) must:

3 (1) Provide notice to all of its retail electric customers that
4 the disclosures required in RCW 19.29A.020 are available without
5 charge upon request. Such notice (~~shall~~) must be provided at the
6 time service is established and either included as a prominent part
7 of each customer's bill or in a written notice mailed to each
8 customer at least once a year thereafter. Required disclosures
9 (~~shall~~) must be provided without charge, in writing using plain
10 language that is understandable to an ordinary customer, and
11 presented in a form that is clear and conspicuous(~~ly~~);

12 (2) Provide written or electronic notice of public hearings where
13 changes in electricity rates will be considered or approved by the
14 commission or governing body, in a form and manner as may be required
15 by the commission or governing body;

16 (3) Disclose on each billing statement the rate of tax imposed
17 upon the electric utility under RCW 35.21.870, if any, and the amount
18 of such tax to be paid directly by the retail electric customer
19 through the billing statement;

20 (4) Disclose the following information in a prominent manner on
21 all billing statements sent to retail electric customers, or by a
22 separate written notice mailed to all retail electric customers at
23 least quarterly and at the same time as a billing statement: "YOUR
24 BILL INCLUDES CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY, DELIVERY SERVICES, GENERAL
25 ADMINISTRATION AND OVERHEAD, METERING, TAXES, CONSERVATION EXPENSES,
26 AND OTHER ITEMS.

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