

---

**SENATE BILL 5696**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Warnick and Takko

1 AN ACT Relating to payments in lieu of real property taxes;  
2 amending RCW 77.12.201 and 77.12.203; providing an effective date;  
3 and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.12.201 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 983 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The legislative authority of a county may elect, by giving  
8 written notice to the director and the treasurer prior to January 1st  
9 of any year, to obtain for the following year an amount in lieu of  
10 real property taxes on game lands as provided in RCW 77.12.203. Upon  
11 the election, the county shall keep a record of all fines,  
12 forfeitures, reimbursements, and costs assessed and collected, in  
13 whole or in part, under this title for violations of law or rules  
14 adopted pursuant to this title(~~(, with the exception of the 2015-2017~~  
15 ~~and 2017-2019 fiscal biennia, and shall monthly remit an amount equal~~  
16 ~~to the amount collected to the state treasurer for deposit in the~~  
17 ~~state general fund)). The election shall continue until the~~  
18 department is notified differently prior to January 1st of any year.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.12.203 and 2018 c 299 s 913 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1           (1) (~~Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section and~~  
2 ~~notwithstanding RCW 84.36.010 or other statutes to the contrary, the~~  
3 ~~director must pay by April 30th of each year on game lands,~~  
4 ~~regardless of acreage, in each county, if requested by an election~~  
5 ~~under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in lieu of real property taxes equal~~  
6 ~~to that amount paid on similar parcels of open space land taxable~~  
7 ~~under chapter 84.34 RCW or the greater of seventy cents per acre per~~  
8 ~~year or the amount paid in 1984 plus)) The state treasurer, on behalf  
9 of the department, must distribute to counties for eligible game  
10 lands, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in  
11 lieu of real property taxes equal to fifty percent of the assessed  
12 value divided by one thousand multiplied by the local levy rate less  
13 the state levy portion. The county must provide a list to the  
14 department of eligible parcels, assessed value, and local levy rate  
15 by parcel by December 31st for payment the following year. This  
16 amount may not be assessed or paid on department buildings,  
17 structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water access  
18 sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas. The director must pay an  
19 additional amount for control of noxious weeds equal to that which  
20 would be paid if such lands were privately owned. ((This amount may  
21 not be assessed or paid on department buildings, structures,  
22 facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water access sites,  
23 tidelands, or public fishing areas.))~~

24           (2) "Game lands," as used in this section and RCW 77.12.201,  
25 means those tracts, regardless of acreage, owned in fee by the  
26 department and used for wildlife habitat and public recreational  
27 purposes. All lands purchased for wildlife habitat, public access, or  
28 recreation purposes with federal funds in the Snake River drainage  
29 basin are considered game lands regardless of acreage.

30           (3) This section does not apply to lands transferred after April  
31 23, 1990, to the department from other state agencies.

32           (4) The county must distribute the amount received under this  
33 section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing  
34 districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way  
35 it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The  
36 county must distribute the amount received under this section for  
37 weed control to the appropriate weed district.

38           (~~(5) For the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 fiscal biennia, the~~  
39 ~~director must pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each~~



1	Lincoln.....	13,535
2	Okanogan.....	264,036
3	Pend Oreille.....	5,546
4	Yakima.....	186,056

5 ~~These amounts may not be assessed or paid on department buildings,~~  
6 ~~structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water access~~  
7 ~~sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas.)~~)

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
10 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
11 effect July 1, 2019.

--- END ---