
SENATE BILL 5159

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Warnick, Van De Wege, and Short

Read first time 01/12/21. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

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

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.12.203 and 2019 c 415 s 983 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) (~~Except as provided in subsections (5), (6), and (7) of this~~
8 ~~section and notwithstanding~~) Notwithstanding RCW 84.36.010 or other
9 statutes to the contrary, the (~~director must pay~~) state treasurer,
10 on behalf of the department, must distribute to counties by April
11 30th of each year on game lands, regardless of acreage, in each
12 county, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in
13 lieu of real property taxes equal to that amount paid on similar
14 parcels of open space land taxable under chapter 84.34 RCW or the
15 greater of seventy cents per acre per year or the amount paid in 1984
16 plus an additional amount for control of noxious weeds equal to that
17 which would be paid if such lands were privately owned. This amount
18 may not be assessed or paid on department buildings, structures,
19 facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water access sites,
20 tidelands, or public fishing areas.

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

7 (3) This section does not apply to lands transferred after April
8 23, 1990, to the department from other state agencies.

9 (4) The county must distribute the amount received under this
10 section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing
11 districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way
12 it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The
13 county must distribute the amount received under this section for
14 weed control to the appropriate weed district.

15 ~~((5) For the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 fiscal biennia, the~~
16 ~~director must pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each~~
17 ~~county, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in~~
18 ~~lieu of real property taxes and must be distributed as follows:~~

County	
Adams.....	1,909
Asotin.....	36,123
Chelan.....	24,757
Columbia.....	7,795
Ferry.....	6,781
Garfield.....	4,840
Grant.....	37,443
Kittitas.....	143,974
Klickitat.....	21,906
Lincoln.....	13,535
Okanogan.....	151,402
Pend Oreille.....	3,309
Yakima.....	126,225

33 ~~These amounts may not be assessed or paid on department buildings,~~
34 ~~structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water access~~
35 ~~sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas.~~

1 ~~(6) For the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, the director must pay by~~
2 ~~April 30th of each year on game lands in each county, if requested by~~
3 ~~an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in lieu of real property~~
4 ~~taxes and must be distributed as follows:~~

5 **County**

6 Adams.....	1,909
7 Asotin.....	36,123
8 Chelan.....	39,858
9 Columbia.....	20,713
10 Ferry.....	22,798
11 Garfield.....	12,744
12 Grant.....	71,930
13 Kittitas.....	382,638
14 Klickitat.....	51,019
15 Lincoln.....	13,535
16 Okanogan.....	264,036
17 Pend Oreille.....	5,546
18 Yakima.....	186,056

19 ~~These amounts may not be assessed or paid on department buildings,~~
20 ~~structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water access~~
21 ~~sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas.~~

22 ~~(7) During the 2019-21 [2021 fiscal] biennium, the state~~
23 ~~treasurer must distribute the payments required under this section on~~
24 ~~behalf of the director.)~~

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
27 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
28 effect July 1, 2021.

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