H-1443.1

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**HOUSE BILL 1997**

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**State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Mendoza, Manjarrez, and Marshall

AN ACT Relating to cutting statewide property tax revenues by 10 percent without creating a shift to other taxpayers; amending RCW 84.52.065 and 84.55.010; and creating a new section.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 84.52.065 and 2022 c 56 s 13 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, subject to the limitations in RCW 84.55.010, in each year the state must levy for collection in the following year for the support of common schools of the state a tax of three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the state adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue.

(2)(a) In addition to the tax authorized under subsection (1) of this section, the state must levy an additional property tax for the support of common schools of the state.

(i) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years 2018 through 2021, the rate of tax is the rate necessary to bring the aggregate rate for state property tax levies levied under this subsection and subsection (1) of this section to a combined rate of two dollars and forty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in calendar year 2019 and two dollars and seventy cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in calendar years 2018, 2020, and 2021. The state property tax levy rates provided in this subsection (2)(a)(i) are based upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the state adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue.

(ii) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2022 and thereafter, the tax authorized under this subsection (2) is subject to the limitations of chapter 84.55 RCW.

(b)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, all taxes collected under this subsection (2) must be deposited into the state general fund.

(ii) For fiscal year 2019, taxes collected under this subsection (2) must be deposited into the education legacy trust account for the support of common schools.

(3) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years 2019 through 2021, the state property taxes levied under subsections (1) and (2) of this section are not subject to the limitations in chapter 84.55 RCW.

(4)(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2022 and thereafter, the aggregate rate limit for state property taxes levied under subsections (1) and (2) of this section is three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the state adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue.

(b) If the aggregate rate of state property taxes levied under subsections (1) and (2) of this section for collection in any calendar year after 2021 exceeds $3.60 per $1,000 of assessed value, each rate must be reduced on a pro rata basis until the aggregate rate no longer exceeds $3.60 per $1,000 of assessed value.

(5) For property taxes levied for collection in calendar years 2019 through 2021, the rate of tax levied under subsection (1) of this section is the actual rate that was levied for collection in calendar year 2018 under subsection (1) of this section.

(6) The amount of state taxes levied under this section for collection in calendar years 2026, 2027, and 2028 are as provided in this subsection.

(a) For calendar year 2026:

(i) The amount levied under subsection (1) of this section is the part I highest lawful levy for calendar year 2026 reduced by 10 percent plus any increase allowed under RCW 84.55.010.

(ii) The amount levied under subsection (2) of this section is the part II highest lawful levy for calendar year 2026 reduced by 10 percent plus any increase allowed under RCW 84.55.010.

(b) For calendar year 2027:

(i) The amount levied under subsection (1) of this section is the part I highest lawful levy for calendar year 2027. For purposes of this subsection (6), "part I highest lawful levy for calendar year 2027" means the part I highest lawful levy for calendar year 2026, plus any increase allowed under RCW 84.55.010.

(ii) The amount levied under subsection (2) of this section is the part II highest lawful levy for calendar year 2027. For purposes of this subsection (6), "part II highest lawful levy for calendar year 2027" means the part II highest lawful levy for calendar year 2026, plus any increase allowed under RCW 84.55.010.

(c) For calendar year 2028:

(i) The amount levied under subsection (1) of this section is the part I highest lawful levy for calendar year 2027, plus any increase allowed under RCW 84.55.010.

(ii) The amount levied under subsection (2) of this section is the part II highest lawful levy for calendar year 2027, plus any increase allowed under RCW 84.55.010.

(7) The amounts levied under subsections (1) and (2) of this section for collection in calendar year 2029 and thereafter are governed by the levy limits in chapter 84.55 RCW and the aggregate rate limit in subsection (4) of this section.

(8) As used in this section, "the support of common schools" includes the payment of the principal and interest on bonds issued for capital construction projects for the common schools.

**Sec.**  RCW 84.55.010 and 2021 c 207 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in this chapter, the levy for a taxing district in any year must be set so that the regular property taxes payable in the following year do not exceed the sum of:

(a) The limit factor multiplied by the amount of regular property taxes lawfully levied for such district in the highest of the three most recent years in which such taxes were levied for such district, excluding any increase due to ((~~(e)~~)) (b)(v) of this subsection, unless the highest levy was the statutory maximum rate amount((~~, plus an~~)); and

(b) An additional dollar amount calculated by multiplying the regular property tax levy rate of that district for the preceding year by the increase in assessed value in that district resulting from:

((~~(a)~~)) (i) New construction;

((~~(b)~~)) (ii) Increases in assessed value due to construction of wind turbine, solar, biomass, and geothermal facilities, if such facilities generate electricity and the property is not included elsewhere under this section for purposes of providing an additional dollar amount. The property may be classified as real or personal property;

((~~(c)~~)) (iii) Improvements to property;

((~~(d)~~)) (iv) Any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property; and

((~~(e)~~)) (v) Any increase in the assessed value of real property, as that term is defined in RCW 39.114.010, within an increment area as designated by any local government in RCW 39.114.020 provided that such increase is not included elsewhere under this section. This subsection (1)((~~(e)~~)) (b)(v) does not apply to levies by the state or by port districts and public utility districts for the purpose of making required payments of principal and interest on general indebtedness.

(2) The requirements of this section do not apply to:

(a) State property taxes levied under RCW 84.52.065(1) for collection in calendar years 2019 through 2021; and

(b) State property taxes levied under RCW 84.52.065(2) for collection in calendar years 2018 through 2021.

(3) For state property taxes levied for collection in 2026 through 2028, the levy must be set so that the regular property taxes payable in the following year equal the limit factor multiplied by the applicable part I or part II highest lawful levy amount as provided in RCW 84.52.065(6), plus an additional dollar amount calculated as provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act applies for collection in 2026 and thereafter.

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