
HOUSE BILL 1658

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Waters, Reed, Chase, Eslick, Scott, Simmons, and Timmons

Read first time 01/28/25. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring dedicated funding for history and
2 heritage museums and county historic preservation programs; and
3 amending RCW 36.22.170.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.22.170 and 2009 c 337 s 5 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Except as provided in (~~(b)~~) (c) of this subsection, a
8 surcharge of five dollars per instrument shall be charged by the
9 county auditor for each document recorded, which will be in addition
10 to any other charge authorized by law. One dollar of the surcharge
11 shall be deposited into a designated fund as required by (b) of this
12 subsection, to be used at the discretion of the county commissioners
13 (to promote historical preservation or historical programs, which
14 may include preservation of historic documents.

15 ~~(b))~~, or an advisory board, commission, or program established
16 by the county commissioners for conducting historical preservation
17 activities, for:

18 (i) The support of operations and capital expenditures of history
19 or heritage museum facilities owned and operated by municipalities or
20 nonprofit organizations recognized by the internal revenue service as

1 described in section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986,
2 as amended; and

3 (ii) Supporting historic preservation activities authorized by
4 RCW 35.21.395 or 36.32.435.

5 (b) Each county shall establish a historic preservation and
6 programs fund, held by the county treasurer. Moneys from the fund
7 must be used only as provided in (a) of this subsection.

8 (c) A surcharge of two dollars per instrument shall be charged by
9 the county auditor for each document presented for recording by the
10 employment security department, which will be in addition to any
11 other charge authorized by law.

12 (d) For the purposes of this subsection, "history or heritage
13 museum" means a facility open to the public that has, as its primary
14 purpose, the preservation and presentation of the history of the
15 people, land, and state of Washington and the education of the public
16 about this history.

17 (2) Of the remaining revenue generated through the surcharges
18 under subsection (1) of this section:

19 (a) Fifty percent shall be transmitted monthly to the state
20 treasurer who shall distribute such funds to each county treasurer
21 within the state in July of each year in accordance with the formula
22 described in RCW 36.22.190. The county treasurer shall place the
23 funds received in a special account titled the auditor's centennial
24 document preservation and modernization account to be used solely for
25 ongoing preservation of historical documents of all county offices
26 and departments and shall not be added to the county current expense
27 fund; and

28 (b) Fifty percent shall be retained by the county and deposited
29 in the auditor's operation and maintenance fund for ongoing
30 preservation of historical documents of all county offices and
31 departments.

32 (3) The centennial document preservation and modernization
33 account is hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer and
34 shall be classified as a treasury trust account. State distributions
35 from the centennial document preservation and modernization account
36 shall be made without appropriation.

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