
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5245

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Krishnadasan, Valdez, Nobles, Shewmake, and J. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing county commissioners to administer
2 oaths of office to state legislators; and amending RCW 36.32.120.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.32.120 and 2020 c 20 s 1019 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The legislative authorities of the several counties shall:

7 (1) Provide for the erection and repairing of courthouses, jails,
8 and other necessary public buildings for the use of the county;

9 (2) Lay out, discontinue, or alter county roads and highways
10 within their respective counties, and do all other necessary acts
11 relating thereto according to law, except within cities and towns
12 which have jurisdiction over the roads within their limits;

13 (3) License and fix the rates of ferriage; grant grocery and
14 other licenses authorized by law to be by them granted at fees set by
15 the legislative authorities which shall not exceed the costs of
16 administration and operation of such licensed activities;

17 (4) Fix the amount of county taxes to be assessed according to
18 the provisions of law, and cause the same to be collected as
19 prescribed by law;

20 (5) Allow all accounts legally chargeable against the county not
21 otherwise provided for, and audit the accounts of all officers having

1 the care, management, collection, or disbursement of any money
2 belonging to the county or appropriated to its benefit;

3 (6) Have the care of the county property and the management of
4 the county funds and business and in the name of the county prosecute
5 and defend all actions for and against the county, and such other
6 powers as are or may be conferred by law;

7 (7) Make and enforce, by appropriate resolutions or ordinances,
8 all such police and sanitary regulations as are not in conflict with
9 state law, and within the unincorporated area of the county may adopt
10 by reference Washington state statutes and recognized codes and/or
11 compilations printed in book form relating to the construction of
12 buildings, the installation of plumbing, the installation of electric
13 wiring, health, or other subjects, and may adopt such codes and/or
14 compilations or portions thereof, together with amendments thereto,
15 or additions thereto: PROVIDED, That except for Washington state
16 statutes, there shall be filed in the county auditor's office one
17 copy of such codes and compilations ten days prior to their adoption
18 by reference, and additional copies may also be filed in library or
19 city offices within the county as deemed necessary by the county
20 legislative authority: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no such regulation,
21 code, compilation, and/or statute shall be effective unless before
22 its adoption, a public hearing has been held thereon by the county
23 legislative authority of which at least ten days' notice has been
24 given. Any violation of such regulations, ordinances, codes,
25 compilations, and/or statutes or resolutions shall constitute a
26 misdemeanor or a civil violation subject to a monetary penalty:
27 PROVIDED FURTHER, That violation of a regulation, ordinance, code,
28 compilation, and/or statute relating to traffic including parking,
29 standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction,
30 except that violation of a regulation, ordinance, code, compilation,
31 and/or statute equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set
32 forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor. However, the punishment
33 for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment
34 provided in state law for the same crime and no act that is a state
35 crime may be made a civil violation. The notice must set out a copy
36 of the proposed regulations or summarize the content of each proposed
37 regulation; or if a code is adopted by reference the notice shall set
38 forth the full official title and a statement describing the general
39 purpose of such code. For purposes of this subsection, a summary
40 shall mean a brief description which succinctly describes the main

1 points of the proposed regulation. When the county publishes a
2 summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text
3 of the proposed regulation will be mailed upon request. An
4 inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the text or a summary
5 of the content of a proposed regulation shall not render the
6 regulation invalid if it is adopted. The notice shall also include
7 the day, hour, and place of hearing and must be given by publication
8 in the newspaper in which legal notices of the county are printed;

9 (8) Have power to compound and release in whole or in part any
10 debt due to the county when in their opinion the interest of their
11 county will not be prejudiced thereby, except in cases where they or
12 any of them are personally interested;

13 (9) Have power to administer oaths or affirmations necessary in
14 the discharge of their duties (~~(and)~~), and to administer oaths of
15 office to state legislators;

16 (10) Have power to commit for contempt any witness refusing to
17 testify before them with the same power as district judges;

18 (~~(10)~~) (11) Have power to declare by ordinance what shall be
19 deemed a nuisance within the county, including but not limited to
20 "litter" and "potentially dangerous litter" as defined in RCW
21 70A.200.030; to prevent, remove, and abate a nuisance at the expense
22 of the parties creating, causing, or committing the nuisance; and to
23 levy a special assessment on the land or premises on which the
24 nuisance is situated to defray the cost, or to reimburse the county
25 for the cost of abating it. This assessment shall constitute a lien
26 against the property which shall be of equal rank with state, county,
27 and municipal taxes.

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