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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1546**

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**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Nelson, Haugen, Brough, Hine, Locke, Heavey, Valle, G. Fisher, O'Brien, Zellinsky, R. Fisher, Rust, Brekke, Belcher, Prentice, H. Sommers, Cole, Jacobsen, Phillips and Braddock).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to port districts; amending RCW 53.06.030; adding  
2 a new section to chapter 53.36 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 43.09 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 53.36 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            A port district with a population of one hundred thousand or more  
8 may not impose a nonvoter-approved tax levy under RCW 53.36.020 or  
9 53.36.100 in any year unless, prior to imposing or requesting the  
10 imposition of such a nonvoter-approved tax levy, the port prepares a  
11 study justifying the imposition of the property tax levy and holds a  
12 public hearing on the study at which it shall receive public testimony  
13 on the proposed nonvoter-approved tax levy or levies.

14            The study shall address the following: (1) An analysis of the  
15 proposed tax dollars and other public benefits that the port district

1 receives; (2) a comparison of these tax dollars and other public  
2 benefits that the port district receives with any tax dollars and other  
3 public benefits that other public maritime shipping port authorities in  
4 California, Oregon, and British Columbia receive, including both dollar  
5 amounts and the relative percentage of supplement that each receives;  
6 (3) a description of purposes for which these tax dollars will be  
7 expended; and (4) a justification of the use of the proposed property  
8 tax dollars.

9       **Sec. 2.** RCW 53.06.030 and 1989 c 425 s 4 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11       The port district commissions in this state are empowered to  
12 designate the Washington public ports association as a coordinating  
13 agency through which the duties imposed by RCW 53.06.020 may be  
14 performed, harmonized or correlated. The purposes of the Washington  
15 public ports association shall be:

16       (1) To initiate and carry on the necessary studies, investigations  
17 and surveys required for the proper development and improvement of the  
18 commerce and business generally common to all port districts, and to  
19 assemble and analyze the data thus obtained and to cooperate with the  
20 state of Washington, port districts both within and without the state  
21 of Washington, and other operators of terminal and transportation  
22 facilities for this purpose, and to make such expenditures as are  
23 necessary for these purposes, including the proper promotion and  
24 advertising of all such properties, utilities and facilities;

25       (2) To establish coordinating and joint marketing bodies comprised  
26 of association members, including but not limited to establishment of  
27 a federation of Washington ports as described in RCW 53.06.070, as may  
28 be necessary to provide effective and efficient marketing of the  
29 state's trade, tourism, and travel resources;

1 (3) To exchange information relative to port construction,  
2 maintenance, operation, administration and management;

3 (4) To promote and encourage port development along sound economic  
4 lines;

5 (5) To promote and encourage the development of transportation,  
6 commerce and industry;

7 (6) To operate as a clearing house for information, public  
8 relations and liaison for the port districts of the state and to serve  
9 as a channel for cooperation among the various port districts and for  
10 the assembly and presentation of information relating to the needs and  
11 requirements of port districts to the public; and

12 (7) To publish annually a summary of port district finances showing  
13 for each port district, among other items, the amount of property tax  
14 collections and the percentage of total income that the property tax  
15 collections constitute, and to distribute these summaries to the  
16 legislature and interested citizens.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.09 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

19 The system of accounting and reporting for port districts shall  
20 treat all property tax receipts as a discrete category or categories of  
21 nonoperating income.