

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5159**

67th Legislature  
2021 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 8, 2021  
Yeas 47 Nays 2

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 10, 2021  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

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**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5159** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 5159**

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Passed Legislature - 2021 Regular Session

**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:~~

19 **County**

20	Adams.....	1,909
21	Asotin.....	36,123
22	Chelan.....	24,757
23	Columbia.....	7,795
24	Ferry.....	6,781
25	Garfield.....	4,840
26	Grant.....	37,443
27	Kittitas.....	143,974
28	Klickitat.....	21,906
29	Lincoln.....	13,535
30	Okanogan.....	151,402
31	Pend Oreille.....	3,309
32	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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