
SENATE BILL 6053

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Loveland, Snyder and Haugen

Read first time 01/10/94. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to county assessors; amending RCW 36.21.011; adding
2 a new section to chapter 36.21 RCW; making an appropriation; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.21.011 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 11 s 1 are each amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Any assessor who deems it necessary to enable ~~((him))~~ the
8 assessor to complete the listing and the valuation of the property of
9 ~~((his))~~ the county within the time prescribed by law, ~~((+1+))~~ (a) may
10 appoint one or more well qualified persons to act as ~~((his))~~ assistants
11 or deputies who shall not engage in the private practice of appraising
12 within the county in which he or she is employed without the written
13 permission of the county assessor filed with the county auditor; and
14 each such assistant or deputy so appointed shall, under the direction
15 of the assessor, after taking the required oath, perform all the duties
16 enjoined upon, vested in or imposed upon assessors, and ~~((+2+))~~ (b) may
17 contract with any persons, firms or corporations, who are expert
18 appraisers, to assist in the valuation of property.

1 (2) To assist each assessor in obtaining adequate and well
2 qualified assistants or deputies, the state department of personnel,
3 after consultation with the Washington state association of county
4 assessors, the Washington state association of counties, and the
5 department of revenue, shall establish by July 1, 1967, and shall
6 thereafter maintain, a classification and salary plan for those
7 employees of an assessor who act as appraisers. The plan shall
8 recommend the salary range and employment qualifications for each
9 position encompassed by it, and shall, to the fullest extent
10 practicable, conform to the classification plan, salary schedules and
11 employment qualifications for state employees performing similar
12 appraisal functions.

13 (3) If an assessor intends to put such plan into effect in ((his))
14 the county, ((he)) the assessor shall inform the department of revenue
15 and the board of county commissioners of this intent in writing. ((The
16 department of revenue and the board may thereupon each designate a
17 representative, and such representative or representatives as may be
18 designated by the department of revenue or the board, or both, shall
19 form with the assessor a committee. The committee so formed may, by
20 unanimous vote only, determine the required number of certified
21 appraiser positions and their salaries necessary to enable the county
22 assessor to carry out the requirements relating to revaluation of
23 property in chapter 84.41 RCW. The determination of the committee
24 shall be certified to the board of county commissioners. The committee
25 provided for herein may be formed only once in a period of four
26 calendar years.

27 After such determination, the assessor may provide, in each of his
28 four next succeeding annual budget estimates, for as many positions as
29 are established in such determination. Each board of county
30 commissioners to which such a budget estimate is submitted shall allow
31 sufficient funds for such positions. An employee may be appointed to
32 a position covered by the plan only if the employee meets the
33 employment qualifications established by the plan.)) One county
34 commissioner and a representative of the department of revenue shall be
35 designated to form a committee with the assessor. The committee shall,
36 by unanimous vote only, determine the funding level and duration to
37 provide adequate real estate appraisers, support staff, computer
38 equipment and software, and other resources for the assessor to

1 adequately perform and maintain the revaluation program, and place new
2 construction on the tax rolls on a regular annual basis.

3 (4) At the conclusion of sixty days, the representative of the
4 department of revenue shall report on the committee's findings to the
5 director of the department of revenue and make recommendations
6 regarding any unresolved issues, which shall be decided by the
7 director. The department of revenue shall prepare a contract to be
8 signed by the assessor and the board of county commissioners. The
9 contract shall include:

10 (a) A specified funding level to be provided by the board of county
11 commissioners;

12 (b) A specified level of new construction to be included on the tax
13 rolls over a specified time period;

14 (c) Assurance by the assessor that the revaluation cycle will be
15 maintained;

16 (d) A procedure for evaluation of the assessor's performance by the
17 department of revenue if requested by the board of county
18 commissioners; and

19 (e) A provision that the board of county commissioners is not
20 obligated to provide the specified funding level if the evaluation by
21 the department of revenue finds that the assessor is not meeting
22 contract obligations.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 36.21 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 The assessors' assistance account is created in the custody of the
26 state treasurer. The account may be used only for making loans to
27 counties to fund contracts developed under RCW 36.21.011. All receipts
28 from repayment and interest of the loans shall be deposited into the
29 account. Only the director of the department of revenue or the
30 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The
31 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but
32 no appropriation is required for expenditures.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The sum of dollars, or as much
34 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
35 June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the department of revenue for
36 the purposes of funding the assessors' assistance account created in
37 section 2 of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
4 effect immediately.

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