

---

SENATE BILL 5594

---

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, McCaslin, Deccio, Finkbeiner, Johnson, Schow and West

Read first time 01/27/95. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to lowering tax levy limitations; and amending RCW  
2 84.55.010, 84.55.020, 35.61.210, 70.44.060, and 84.08.115.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.55.010 and 1979 ex.s. c 218 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Except as provided in this chapter, the levy for a taxing district  
7 in any year shall be set so that the regular property taxes payable in  
8 the following year shall not exceed one hundred (~~six~~) five and one-  
9 half percent of the amount of regular property taxes lawfully levied  
10 for such district in the highest of the three most recent years in  
11 which such taxes were levied for such district plus an additional  
12 dollar amount calculated by multiplying the increase in assessed value  
13 in that district resulting from new construction, improvements to  
14 property, and any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed  
15 property by the regular property tax levy rate of that district for the  
16 preceding year.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.55.020 and 1971 ex.s. c 288 s 21 are each amended  
18 to read as follows:

1 Notwithstanding the limitation set forth in RCW 84.55.010, the  
2 first levy for a taxing district created from consolidation of similar  
3 taxing districts shall be set so that the regular property taxes  
4 payable in the following year shall not exceed one hundred (~~(six)~~) five  
5 and one-half percent of the sum of the amount of regular property taxes  
6 lawfully levied for each component taxing district in the highest of  
7 the three most recent years in which such taxes were levied for such  
8 district plus the additional dollar amount calculated by multiplying  
9 the increase in assessed value in each component district resulting  
10 from new construction and improvements to property by the regular  
11 property tax rate of each component district for the preceding year.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.61.210 and 1990 c 234 s 3 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 The board of park commissioners may levy or cause to be levied a  
15 general tax on all the property located in said park district each year  
16 not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of the  
17 property in such park district. In addition, the board of park  
18 commissioners may levy or cause to be levied a general tax on all  
19 property located in said park district each year not to exceed twenty-  
20 five cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Although park  
21 districts are authorized to impose two separate regular property tax  
22 levies, the levies shall be considered to be a single levy for purposes  
23 of the one hundred (~~(six)~~) five and one-half percent limitation  
24 provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW.

25 The board is hereby authorized to levy a general tax in excess of  
26 its regular property tax levy or levies when authorized so to do at a  
27 special election conducted in accordance with and subject to all the  
28 requirements of the Constitution and laws of the state now in force or  
29 hereafter enacted governing the limitation of tax levies. The board is  
30 hereby authorized to call a special election for the purpose of  
31 submitting to the qualified voters of the park district a proposition  
32 to levy a tax in excess of the seventy-five cents per thousand dollars  
33 of assessed value herein specifically authorized. The manner of  
34 submitting any such proposition, of certifying the same, and of giving  
35 or publishing notice thereof, shall be as provided by law for the  
36 submission of propositions by cities or towns.

37 The board shall include in its general tax levy for each year a  
38 sufficient sum to pay the interest on all outstanding bonds and may

1 include a sufficient amount to create a sinking fund for the redemption  
2 of all outstanding bonds. The levy shall be certified to the proper  
3 county officials for collection the same as other general taxes and  
4 when collected, the general tax shall be placed in a separate fund in  
5 the office of the county treasurer to be known as the "metropolitan  
6 park district fund" and paid out on warrants.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.44.060 and 1990 c 234 s 2 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 All public hospital districts organized under the provisions of  
10 this chapter shall have power:

11 (1) To make a survey of existing hospital and other health care  
12 facilities within and without such district.

13 (2) To construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, lease,  
14 add to, maintain, operate, develop and regulate, sell and convey all  
15 lands, property, property rights, equipment, hospital and other health  
16 care facilities and systems for the maintenance of hospitals,  
17 buildings, structures, and any and all other facilities, and to  
18 exercise the right of eminent domain to effectuate the foregoing  
19 purposes or for the acquisition and damaging of the same or property of  
20 any kind appurtenant thereto, and such right of eminent domain shall be  
21 exercised and instituted pursuant to a resolution of the commission and  
22 conducted in the same manner and by the same procedure as in or may be  
23 provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by  
24 incorporated cities and towns of the state of Washington in the  
25 acquisition of property rights: PROVIDED, That no public hospital  
26 district shall have the right of eminent domain and the power of  
27 condemnation against any health care facility.

28 (3) To lease existing hospital and other health care facilities and  
29 equipment and/or other property used in connection therewith, including  
30 ambulances, and to pay such rental therefor as the commissioners shall  
31 deem proper; to provide hospital and other health care services for  
32 residents of said district by facilities located outside the boundaries  
33 of said district, by contract or in any other manner said commissioners  
34 may deem expedient or necessary under the existing conditions; and said  
35 hospital district shall have the power to contract with other  
36 communities, corporations, or individuals for the services provided by  
37 said hospital district; and they may further receive in said hospitals  
38 and other health care facilities and furnish proper and adequate

1 services to all persons not residents of said district at such  
2 reasonable and fair compensation as may be considered proper:  
3 PROVIDED, That it must at all times make adequate provision for the  
4 needs of the district and residents of said district shall have prior  
5 rights to the available hospital and other health care facilities of  
6 said district, at rates set by the district commissioners.

7 (4) For the purpose aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any district  
8 so organized to take, condemn and purchase, lease, or acquire, any and  
9 all property, and property rights, including state and county lands,  
10 for any of the purposes aforesaid, and any and all other facilities  
11 necessary or convenient, and in connection with the construction,  
12 maintenance, and operation of any such hospitals and other health care  
13 facilities, subject, however, to the applicable limitations provided in  
14 subsection (2) of this section.

15 (5) To contract indebtedness or borrow money for corporate purposes  
16 on the credit of the corporation or the revenues of the hospitals  
17 thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services that the  
18 district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide, and to  
19 issue and sell: (a) Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue  
20 obligations therefor payable solely out of a special fund or funds into  
21 which the district may pledge such amount of the revenues of the  
22 hospitals thereof, and the revenues of any other facilities or services  
23 that the district is or hereafter may be authorized by law to provide,  
24 to pay the same as the commissioners of the district may determine,  
25 such revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations to be issued and  
26 sold in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as provided  
27 for the issuance of revenue bonds, warrants, or other obligations by  
28 cities or towns under the Municipal Revenue Bond Act, chapter 35.41  
29 RCW, as may hereafter be amended; (b) general obligation bonds therefor  
30 in the manner and form as provided in RCW 70.44.110 and 70.44.130, as  
31 may hereafter be amended; or (c) interest-bearing warrants to be drawn  
32 on a fund pending deposit in such fund of money sufficient to redeem  
33 such warrants and to be issued and paid in such manner and upon such  
34 terms and conditions as the board of commissioners may deem to be in  
35 the best interest of the district; and to assign or sell hospital  
36 accounts receivable, and accounts receivable for the use of other  
37 facilities or services that the district is or hereafter may be  
38 authorized by law to provide, for collection with or without recourse.  
39 General obligation bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with

1 chapter 39.46 RCW. Revenue bonds, revenue warrants, or other revenue  
2 obligations may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46  
3 RCW.

4 (6) To raise revenue by the levy of an annual tax on all taxable  
5 property within such public hospital district not to exceed fifty cents  
6 per thousand dollars of assessed value, and an additional annual tax on  
7 all taxable property within such public hospital district not to exceed  
8 twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, or such  
9 further amount as has been or shall be authorized by a vote of the  
10 people. Although public hospital districts are authorized to impose  
11 two separate regular property tax levies, the levies shall be  
12 considered to be a single levy for purposes of the one hundred (~~six~~)  
13 five and one-half percent limitation provided for in chapter 84.55 RCW.  
14 Public hospital districts are authorized to levy such a general tax in  
15 excess of their regular property taxes when authorized so to do at a  
16 special election conducted in accordance with and subject to all of the  
17 requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the state of  
18 Washington now in force or hereafter enacted governing the limitation  
19 of tax levies. The said board of district commissioners is authorized  
20 and empowered to call a special election for the purpose of submitting  
21 to the qualified voters of the hospital district a proposition or  
22 propositions to levy taxes in excess of its regular property taxes.  
23 The superintendent shall prepare a proposed budget of the contemplated  
24 financial transactions for the ensuing year and file the same in the  
25 records of the commission on or before the first Monday in September.  
26 Notice of the filing of said proposed budget and the date and place of  
27 hearing on the same shall be published for at least two consecutive  
28 weeks in a newspaper printed and of general circulation in said county.  
29 On the first Monday in October the commission shall hold a public  
30 hearing on said proposed budget at which any taxpayer may appear and be  
31 heard against the whole or any part of the proposed budget. Upon the  
32 conclusion of said hearing, the commission shall, by resolution, adopt  
33 the budget as finally determined and fix the final amount of  
34 expenditures for the ensuing year. Taxes levied by the commission  
35 shall be certified to and collected by the proper county officer of the  
36 county in which such public hospital district is located in the same  
37 manner as is or may be provided by law for the certification and  
38 collection of port district taxes. The commission is authorized, prior  
39 to the receipt of taxes raised by levy, to borrow money or issue

1 warrants of the district in anticipation of the revenue to be derived  
2 by such district from the levy of taxes for the purpose of such  
3 district, and such warrants shall be redeemed from the first money  
4 available from such taxes when collected, and such warrants shall not  
5 exceed the anticipated revenues of one year, and shall bear interest at  
6 a rate or rates as authorized by the commission.

7 (7) To enter into any contract with the United States government or  
8 any state, municipality, or other hospital district, or any department  
9 of those governing bodies, for carrying out any of the powers  
10 authorized by this chapter.

11 (8) To sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction:  
12 PROVIDED, That all suits against the public hospital district shall be  
13 brought in the county in which the public hospital district is located.

14 (9) To pay actual necessary travel expenses and living expenses  
15 incurred while in travel status for (a) qualified physicians who are  
16 candidates for medical staff positions, and (b) other qualified persons  
17 who are candidates for superintendent or other managerial and technical  
18 positions, when the district finds that hospitals or other health care  
19 facilities owned and operated by it are not adequately staffed and  
20 determines that personal interviews with said candidates to be held in  
21 the district are necessary or desirable for the adequate staffing of  
22 said facilities.

23 (10) To make contracts, employ superintendents, attorneys, and  
24 other technical or professional assistants and all other employees; to  
25 make contracts with private or public institutions for employee  
26 retirement programs; to print and publish information or literature;  
27 and to do all other things necessary to carry out the provisions of  
28 this chapter.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 84.08.115 and 1991 c 218 s 2 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 (1) The department shall prepare a clear and succinct explanation  
32 of the property tax system, including but not limited to:

33 (a) The standard of true and fair value as the basis of the  
34 property tax.

35 (b) How the assessed value for particular parcels is determined.

36 (c) The procedures and timing of the assessment process.

37 (d) How district levy rates are determined, including the one  
38 hundred (~~six~~) five and one-half percent limit.

1 (e) How the composite tax rate is determined.  
2 (f) How the amount of tax is calculated.  
3 (g) How a taxpayer may appeal an assessment, and what issues are  
4 appropriate as a basis of appeal.  
5 (h) A summary of tax exemption and relief programs, along with the  
6 eligibility standards and application processes.  
7 (2) Each county assessor shall provide copies of the explanation to  
8 taxpayers on request, free of charge. Each revaluation notice shall  
9 include information regarding the availability of the explanation.

--- END ---