
HOUSE BILL 2609

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Keiser, McCune, Poulsen, Constantine and Cooke

Read first time 01/16/98. Referred to Committee on Transportation Policy & Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to airport noise property tax exemptions for port
2 district property taxes; amending RCW 84.55.010; adding a new section
3 to chapter 47.68 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 84.36 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 47.68 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) For the purposes of property tax exemptions under section 2 of
8 this act, the department shall adopt noise exposure maps for each
9 airport operated by a port district that serves more than twenty
10 scheduled jet aircraft flights per day. Noise exposure maps must be
11 prepared in accordance with the methodology described in 14 C.F.R.
12 Appendix A to Part 150 -- Noise Exposure Maps. Noise exposure maps
13 must include a 55 Ldn noise level contour. For the purposes of this
14 section, "Ldn" means yearly day-night average sound level.

15 (2) The department shall adopt noise exposure maps each year by
16 March 31st, based on forecasted aircraft operations at the airport for
17 the following calendar year. The department shall hold a public
18 hearing before adopting noise exposure maps. The assumptions used in
19 the development of a noise exposure map must be made available for
20 public comment as far in advance of the hearing as practical. After

1 adoption, the department shall provide a copy of noise exposure maps to
2 the appropriate county assessor and the department of revenue.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 84.36 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) If any portion of a tract or parcel of real property is within
6 the 55 Ldn contour of an airport noise exposure map, the entire tract
7 or parcel is exempt from port taxes levied for collection in the year
8 following the year in which the map was adopted.

9 (2) The county assessor shall not require an exemption application
10 for properties that the assessor knows are eligible for exemption under
11 this section based on an airport noise map. However, a property owner
12 may submit a written request to the assessor requesting exemption under
13 this section. After determining whether the property is eligible for
14 exemption under this section, the assessor shall give written notice of
15 denial or approval to the property owner within thirty days of the date
16 the request was received. A denial may be appealed to the board of
17 equalization of the county in which the property is located within
18 thirty days of the date the denial notice is mailed.

19 (3) For the purposes of this section:

20 (a) "Airport noise map" means a map adopted under section 1 of this
21 act;

22 (b) "Ldn" is defined as provided in section 1 of this act;

23 (c) "Port taxes" means taxes imposed by the port district that
24 operates the airport for which an airport noise map was adopted;

25 (d) "Real property" includes a mobile home that has substantially
26 lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its being fixed in
27 location upon land owned or leased by the owner of the mobile home and
28 placed on a foundation (posts or blocks) with fixed pipe, connections
29 with sewer, water, or other utilities.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 84.55.010 and 1997 c 3 s 202 (Referendum Bill No. 47)
31 are each amended to read as follows:

32 (1) Except as provided in this chapter, the levy for a taxing
33 district in any year shall be set so that the regular property taxes
34 payable in the following year shall not exceed the limit factor
35 multiplied by the amount of regular property taxes lawfully levied for
36 such district in the highest of the three most recent years in which
37 such taxes were levied for such district plus an additional dollar

1 amount calculated by multiplying the increase in assessed value in that
2 district resulting from new construction, improvements to property, and
3 any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property by the
4 regular property tax levy rate of that district for the preceding year.

5 (2) The levy computed for a taxing district in any year under this
6 chapter shall be reduced so that exemptions under section 2 of this act
7 do not result in increased regular property taxes for nonexempt
8 taxpayers.

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