CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5231

56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 5, 1999 YEAS 44 NAYS 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 6, 1999 YEAS 92 NAYS 0

CERTIFICATE

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5231** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Speaker of the

House of Representatives

Approved

FILED

Secretary

Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5231

Passed Legislature - 1999 Regular Session

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on State & Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Hale, Winsley and Snyder)

Read first time 02/09/99.

AN ACT Relating to duties of the county treasurer pertaining to
 treasury management; amending RCW 28A.320.300, 28A.320.310,
 28A.320.320, 36.29.020, 36.48.070, 54.24.010, 84.64.050, 84.64.080, and
 84.64.120; and providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.320.300 and 1990 c 33 s 335 are each amended to 7 read as follows:

Any common school district board of directors is empowered to 8 9 direct and authorize, and to delegate authority to an employee, 10 officer, or agent of the common school district or the educational service district to direct and authorize, the county treasurer to 11 invest funds described in RCW 28A.320.310 and 28A.320.320 and funds 12 13 from state and federal sources as are then or thereafter received by 14 the educational service district, and such funds from county sources as then or thereafter received by the county treasurer, for 15 are 16 distribution to the common school districts. Funds from state, county 17 and federal sources which are so invested may be invested only for the period the funds are not required for the immediate necessities of the 18 common school district as determined by the school district board of 19

directors or its delegatee, and shall be invested in behalf of the 1 common school district pursuant to the terms of RCW 28A.320.310, 2 28A.320.320, ((or)) 36.29.020<u>, 36.29.022</u>, or <u>36.29.024</u> as the nature of 3 4 the funds shall dictate. A grant of authority by a common school district pursuant to this section shall be by resolution of the board 5 of directors and shall specify the duration and extent of the authority 6 7 so granted. Any authority delegated to an educational service district 8 pursuant to this section may be redelegated pursuant to RCW 9 28A.310.220.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.310 and 1990 c 33 s 336 are each amended to 11 read as follows:

The board of directors of any school district of the state of 12 Washington which now has, or hereafter shall have, funds in the capital 13 14 projects fund of the district in the office of the county treasurer 15 which in the judgment of said board are not required for the immediate necessities of the district, may invest and reinvest all, or any part, 16 of such funds ((in United States securities, as hereinafter specified 17 18 after and pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board, authorizing 19 and directing the county treasurer, as ex officio the treasurer of said district, to invest or reinvest, said moneys or any designated amount 20 thereof in United States securities and specifying the type or 21 character of the United States securities in which said moneys shall be 22 23 invested)) pursuant to RCW 35.39.030, 36.29.020, 36.29.022, 36.29.024, 39.59.020, 39.59.030, and 43.84.080: PROVIDED, That nothing herein 24 25 authorized, or the type and character of the securities thus specified, shall have in itself the effect of delaying any program of building for 26 which said funds shall have been authorized. Said funds and said 27 securities and the profit and interest thereon, and the proceeds 28 29 thereof, shall be held by the county treasurer to the credit and 30 benefit of the capital projects fund of the district in the county treasurer's office. ((If in the judgment of the board it shall be 31 necessary to redeem or to sell any of the purchased securities before 32 33 their ultimate maturity date, the board may, by resolution, direct the 34 county treasurer to cause such redemption to be had at the "Redemption Value" of said securities or to sell said bonds and securities at not 35 36 less than market value and accrued interest. The foregoing "securities" shall include United States bonds, federal treasury notes 37 and treasury bonds and United States certificates of indebtedness and 38

1 other federal securities which may, during the life of this statute,

2 come within the terms of this section.))

3 Sec. 3. RCW 28A.320.320 and 1983 c 66 s 1 are each amended to read 4 as follows:

5 The county treasurer, or the trustee, guardian, or any other custodian of any school fund, when authorized to do so by the board of 6 7 directors of any school district, shall invest or reinvest any school funds of such district in investment ((deposits in any qualified public 8 depositary, or any obligations, securities, certificates, notes, bonds, 9 10 or short term securities or obligations, of the United States)) securities pursuant to RCW 36.29.020 and 36.29.022. 11 The county 12 treasurer shall have the power to select the particular investment in which said funds may be invested. All earnings and income from such 13 14 investments shall inure to the benefit of any school fund designated by the board of directors of the school district which such board may 15 lawfully designate: PROVIDED, That any interest or earnings being 16 credited to a fund different from that which earned the interest or 17 18 earnings shall only be expended for instructional supplies, equipment 19 or capital outlay purposes. This section shall apply to all funds which may be lawfully so invested or reinvested which in the judgment 20 21 of the school board are not required for the immediate necessities of 22 the district.

Five percent of the interest or earnings, with an annual minimum of ten dollars or annual maximum of fifty dollars, on any transactions authorized by each resolution of the board of school directors shall be paid as an investment service fee to the office of county treasurer when the interest or earnings becomes available to the school district or an amount as determined pursuant to RCW 36.29.022 and 36.29.024.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 36.29.020 and 1997 c 393 s 4 are each amended to read 30 as follows:

The county treasurer shall keep all moneys belonging to the state, or to any county, in his or her own possession until disbursed according to law. The county treasurer shall not place the same in the possession of any person to be used for any purpose; nor shall he or she loan or in any manner use or permit any person to use the same; but it shall be lawful for a county treasurer to deposit any such moneys in any regularly designated qualified public depositary. Any municipal

corporation may by action of its governing body authorize any of its 1 2 funds which are not required for immediate expenditure, and which are in the custody of the county treasurer or other municipal corporation 3 4 treasurer, to be invested by such treasurer. The county treasurer may invest in savings or time accounts in designated qualified public 5 depositaries or in certificates, notes, or bonds of the United States, 6 7 or other obligations of the United States or its agencies, or of any 8 corporation wholly owned by the government of the United States; in 9 bankers' acceptances purchased on the secondary market, in federal home 10 loan bank notes and bonds, federal land bank bonds and federal national 11 mortgage association notes, debentures and guaranteed certificates of 12 participation, or the obligations of any other government sponsored 13 corporation whose obligations are or may become eligible as collateral for advances to member banks as determined by the board of governors of 14 15 the federal reserve system or deposit such funds or any portion thereof 16 in investment deposits as defined in RCW 39.58.010 secured by 17 collateral in accordance with the provisions of chapters 39.58 and 39.59 RCW: PROVIDED, Five percent of the earnings, with an annual 18 19 maximum of fifty dollars, on each transaction authorized by the 20 governing body shall be paid as an investment service fee to the office of the county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer when 21 22 the earnings become available to the governing body: PROVIDED FURTHER, 23 That if such investment service fee amounts to five dollars or less the 24 county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer may waive 25 such fee.

If in the judgment of the governing body of the municipal corporation or the county treasurer it is necessary to redeem or to sell any of the purchased securities before their ultimate maturity date, the governing body may, by resolution, direct the county treasurer pursuant to RCW 36.29.010(8) to cause such redemption to be had at the redemption value of the securities or to sell the securities at not less than market value and accrued interest.

33 Whenever the funds of any municipal corporation which are not 34 required for immediate expenditure are in the custody or control of the 35 county treasurer, and the governing body of such municipal corporation 36 has not taken any action pertaining to the investment of any such 37 funds, the county finance committee shall direct the county treasurer, 38 under the investment policy of the county finance committee, to invest, 39 to the maximum prudent extent, such funds or any portion thereof in

savings or time accounts in designated qualified public depositaries or 1 in certificates, notes, or bonds of the United States, or other 2 3 obligations of the United States or its agencies, or of any corporation 4 wholly owned by the government of the United States, in bankers' acceptances purchased on the secondary market, in federal home loan 5 bank notes and bonds, federal land bank bonds and federal national 6 7 mortgage association notes, debentures and guaranteed certificates of 8 participation, or the obligations of any other government sponsored 9 corporation whose obligations are or may become eligible as collateral 10 for advances to member banks as determined by the board of governors of the federal reserve system or deposit such funds or any portion thereof 11 in investment deposits as defined in RCW 39.58.010 secured by 12 collateral in accordance with the provisions of chapters 39.58 and 13 14 39.59 RCW: PROVIDED, That the county treasurer shall have the power to 15 select the specific qualified financial institution in which the funds 16 may be invested. The interest or other earnings from such investments or deposits shall be deposited in the current expense fund of the 17 county and may be used for general county purposes. The investment or 18 19 deposit and disposition of the interest or other earnings therefrom 20 authorized by this paragraph shall not apply to such funds as may be prohibited by the state Constitution from being so invested or 21 22 deposited.

23 **Sec. 5.** RCW 36.48.070 and 1991 c 245 s 11 are each amended to read 24 as follows:

25 The county treasurer, the county auditor, and the chair of the county legislative authority, ex officio, shall constitute the county 26 27 finance committee. The county treasurer shall act as chair of the committee and the county auditor as secretary thereof. The committee 28 29 shall keep a full and complete record of all its proceedings in 30 appropriate books of record and all such records and all correspondence relating to the committee shall be kept in the office of the county 31 auditor and shall be open to public inspection. 32 The committee shall 33 approve county investment policy and a debt policy and shall make 34 appropriate rules and regulations for the carrying out of the 35 provisions of RCW 36.48.010 through 36.48.060, not inconsistent with 36 law.

1 Sec. 6. RCW 54.24.010 and 1959 c 218 s 2 are each amended to read 2 as follows:

3 The treasurer of the county in which a utility district is located 4 shall be ex officio treasurer of the district: PROVIDED, That the commission by resolution may designate some other person having 5 experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the utility б 7 district. The commission may((, and if the treasurer is not the county 8 treasurer it shall,)) require a bond, with a surety company authorized 9 to do business in the state of Washington, in an amount and under the 10 terms and conditions which the commission by resolution from time to time finds will protect the district against loss. The premium on any 11 such bond shall be paid by the district. 12

All district funds shall be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by him only on warrants issued by an auditor appointed by the commission, upon orders or vouchers approved by it. The treasurer shall establish a public utility district fund, into which shall be paid all district funds, and he shall maintain such special funds as may be created by the commission, into which he shall place all money as the commission may, by resolution, direct.

20 If the treasurer of the district is the treasurer of the county all district funds shall be deposited with the county depositaries under 21 the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county 22 depositaries; if the treasurer of the district is some other person, 23 24 all funds shall be deposited in such bank or banks authorized to do 25 business in this state as the commission by resolution shall designate, 26 and with surety bond to the district or securities in lieu thereof of 27 the kind, no less in amount, as provided in RCW 36.48.020 for deposit of county funds. 28

29 Such surety bond or securities in lieu thereof shall be filed or 30 deposited with the treasurer of the district, and approved by 31 resolution of the commission.

All interest collected on district funds shall belong to the district and be deposited to its credit in the proper district funds. A district may provide and require a reasonable bond of any other person handling moneys or securities of the district: PROVIDED, That the district pays the premium thereon.

37 Sec. 7. RCW 84.64.050 and 1991 c 245 s 25 are each amended to read 38 as follows:

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After the expiration of three years from the date of delinquency, 1 2 when any property remains on the tax rolls for which no certificate of delinquency has been issued, the county treasurer shall proceed to 3 4 issue certificates of delinquency on the property to the county for all years' taxes, interest, and costs: 5 PROVIDED, That the county treasurer, with the consent of the county legislative authority, may б 7 elect to issue a certificate for fewer than all years' taxes, interest, 8 and costs to a minimum of the taxes, interest, and costs for the 9 earliest year.

10 Certificates of delinquency shall be prima facie evidence that:

(1) The property described was subject to taxation at the time thesame was assessed;

13 (2) The property was assessed as required by law;

14 (3) The taxes or assessments were not paid at any time before the 15 issuance of the certificate;

16 (4) Such certificate shall have the same force and effect as a lis 17 pendens required under chapter 4.28 RCW.

The county treasurer may include in the certificate of delinquency any assessments which are due on the property and are the responsibility of the county treasurer to collect. For purposes of this chapter, "taxes, interest, and costs" include any assessments which are so included by the county treasurer, and "interest" means interest and penalties unless the context requires otherwise.

24 The treasurer shall file the certificates when completed with the 25 clerk of the court at no cost to the treasurer, and the treasurer shall 26 thereupon, with legal assistance from the county prosecuting attorney, 27 proceed to foreclose in the name of the county, the tax liens embraced in such certificates. Notice and summons must be served or notice 28 given in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the owner or owners, 29 30 and any person having a recorded interest in or lien of record upon the property, of the foreclosure action to appear within thirty days after 31 service of such notice and defend such action or pay the amount due. 32 Either (a) personal service upon the owner or owners and any person 33 having a recorded interest in or lien of record upon the property, or 34 35 (b) publication once in a newspaper of general circulation, which is circulated in the area of the property and mailing of notice by 36 37 certified mail to the owner or owners and any person having a recorded interest in or lien of record upon the property, or, if a mailing 38 39 address is unavailable, personal service upon the occupant of the

property, if any, is sufficient. If such notice is returned as 1 2 unclaimed, the treasurer shall send notice by regular first class mail. The notice shall include the legal description on the tax rolls, the 3 4 year or years for which assessed, the amount of tax and interest due, and the name of owner, or reputed owner, if known, and the notice must 5 include the local street address, if any, for informational purposes 6 7 The certificates of delinquency issued to the county may be only. 8 issued in one general certificate in book form including all property, 9 and the proceedings to foreclose the liens against the property may be 10 brought in one action and all persons interested in any of the property 11 involved in the proceedings may be made codefendants in the action, and 12 if unknown may be therein named as unknown owners, and the publication 13 of such notice shall be sufficient service thereof on all persons interested in the property described therein, except as provided above. 14 15 The person or persons whose name or names appear on the treasurer's 16 rolls as the owner or owners of the property shall be considered and 17 treated as the owner or owners of the property for the purpose of this section, and if upon the treasurer's rolls it appears that the owner or 18 19 owners of the property are unknown, then the property shall be 20 proceeded against, as belonging to an unknown owner or owners, as the case may be, and all persons owning or claiming to own, or having or 21 claiming to have an interest therein, are hereby required to take 22 notice of the proceedings and of any and all steps thereunder: 23 24 PROVIDED, That prior to the sale of the property, the treasurer shall 25 order or conduct a title search of the property to be sold to determine the legal description of the property to be sold and the record title 26 27 holder, and if the record title holder or holders differ from the person or persons whose name or names appear on the treasurer's rolls 28 29 as the owner or owners, the record title holder or holders shall be 30 considered and treated as the owner or owners of the property for the purpose of this section, and shall be entitled to the notice provided 31 for in this section. Such title search shall be included in the costs 32 of foreclosure. 33

The county treasurer shall not sell property which is eligible for deferral of taxes under chapter 84.38 RCW but shall require the owner of the property to file a declaration to defer taxes under chapter 84.38 RCW.

1 sec. 8. RCW 84.64.080 and 1991 c 245 s 27 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The court shall examine each application for judgment foreclosing 4 tax lien, and if defense (specifying in writing the particular cause of 5 objection) be offered by any person interested in any of the lands or lots to the entry of judgment against the same, the court shall hear 6 7 and determine the matter in a summary manner, without other pleadings, 8 and shall pronounce judgment as the right of the case may be; or the 9 court may, in its discretion, continue such individual cases, wherein 10 defense is offered, to such time as may be necessary, in order to secure substantial justice to the contestants therein; but in all other 11 cases the court shall proceed to determine the matter in a summary 12 13 manner as above specified. In all judicial proceedings of any kind for the collection of taxes, and interest and costs thereon, all amendments 14 15 which by law can be made in any personal action pending in such court 16 shall be allowed, and no assessments of property or charge for any of 17 the taxes shall be considered illegal on account of any irregularity in the tax list or assessment rolls or on account of the assessment rolls 18 19 or tax list not having been made, completed or returned within the time 20 required by law, or on account of the property having been charged or listed in the assessment or tax lists without name, or in any other 21 name than that of the owner, and no error or informality in the 22 proceedings of any of the officers connected with the assessment, 23 24 levying or collection of the taxes, shall vitiate or in any manner 25 affect the tax or the assessment thereof, and any irregularities or 26 informality in the assessment rolls or tax lists or in any of the 27 proceedings connected with the assessment or levy of such taxes or any omission or defective act of any officer or officers connected with the 28 assessment or levying of such taxes, may be, in the discretion of the 29 30 court, corrected, supplied and made to conform to the law by the court. 31 The court shall give judgment for such taxes, interest and costs as shall appear to be due upon the several lots or tracts described in the 32 notice of application for judgment or complaint, and such judgment 33 34 shall be a several judgment against each tract or lot or part of a tract or lot for each kind of tax included therein, including all 35 interest and costs, and the court shall order and direct the clerk to 36 37 make and enter an order for the sale of such real property against which judgment is made, or vacate and set aside the certificate of 38 39 delinquency or make such other order or judgment as in the law or

equity may be just. The order shall be signed by the judge of the 1 superior court, shall be delivered to the county treasurer, and shall 2 be full and sufficient authority for him or her to proceed to sell the 3 property for the sum as set forth in the order and to take such further 4 steps in the matter as are provided by law. The county treasurer shall 5 immediately after receiving the order and judgment of the court proceed б to sell the property as provided in this chapter to the highest and 7 8 best bidder for cash. The acceptable minimum bid shall be the total 9 amount of taxes, interest, ((penalties,)) and costs. All sales shall 10 be made at a location in the county on a date and time (except Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays) as the county treasurer may 11 direct, and shall continue from day to day (Saturdays, Sundays, and 12 13 legal holidays excepted) during the same hours until all lots or tracts are sold, after first giving notice of the time, and place where such 14 15 sale is to take place for ten days successively by posting notice thereof in three public places in the county, one of which shall be in 16 the office of the treasurer. The notice shall be substantially in the 17 following form: 18

19

TAX JUDGMENT SALE

20 Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to real property tax 21 judgment of the superior court of the county of in the state of Washington, and an order of sale duly issued by the court, 22 23 entered the day of in proceedings for 24 foreclosure of tax liens upon real property, as per provisions of law, I shall on the day of , at o'clock 25 a.m., at in the city of , and county of 26 , state of Washington, sell the real property to the highest 27 and best bidder for cash, to satisfy the full amount of taxes, interest 28 29 and costs adjudged to be due.

32	
33	Treasurer of
34	county.

35 No county officer or employee shall directly or indirectly be a 36 purchaser of such property at such sale. 1 If any buildings or improvements are upon an area encompassing more 2 than one tract or lot, the same must be advertised and sold as a single 3 unit.

4 If the highest amount bid for any such separate unit tract or lot 5 is in excess of the minimum bid due upon the whole property included in the certificate of delinquency, the excess shall be refunded following 6 7 payment of all water and sewer district liens, on application therefor, 8 to the record owner of the property. The record owner of the property 9 is the person who held title on the date of issuance of the certificate 10 of delinquency. In the event no claim for the excess is received by the county treasurer within three years after the date of the sale he 11 or she shall at expiration of the three year period deposit such excess 12 13 in the current expense fund of the county. The county treasurer shall execute to the purchaser of any piece or parcel of land a tax deed. 14 15 The deed so made by the county treasurer, under the official seal of his or her office, shall be recorded in the same manner as other 16 17 conveyances of real property, and shall vest in the grantee, his or her heirs and assigns the title to the property therein described, without 18 19 further acknowledgment or evidence of such conveyance, and shall be 20 substantially in the following form:

21State of Washington|22}\$ ss.23County of.

Witnesseth, that, whereas, at a public sale of real property held 28 29 on the day of , pursuant to a real property tax judgment entered in the superior court in the county of 30 31 on the day of , in proceedings to foreclose 32 tax liens upon real property and an order of sale duly issued by the court, duly purchased in compliance with the laws of the 33 34 state of Washington, the following described real property, to wit: 35 (Here place description of real property conveyed) and that the has complied with the laws of the state of Washington 36 necessary to entitle (him, or her or them) to a deed for the real 37 38 property.

Now, therefore, know ye, that, I , county treasurer of the county of , state of Washington, in consideration of the premises and by virtue of the statutes of the state of Washington, in such cases provided, do hereby grant and convey unto , his or her heirs and assigns, forever, the real property hereinbefore described.

Given under my hand and seal of office this . . . day of
8 , A.D. . . .

9 10

County Treasurer.

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11 **Sec. 9.** RCW 84.64.120 and 1991 c 245 s 28 are each amended to read 12 as follows:

Appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be 13 14 sought as in other civil cases. However, review must be sought within 15 thirty days after the entry of the judgment and the party taking such appeal shall deposit a sum equal to all taxes, interest, ((penalties,)) 16 and costs with the clerk of the court, conditioned that the appellant 17 18 shall prosecute the appeal with effect, and will pay the amount of any 19 taxes, interest and costs which may be finally adjudged against the 20 real property involved in the appeal by any court having jurisdiction 21 of the cause. No appeal shall be allowed from any judgment for the 22 sale of land or lot for taxes unless the party taking such appeal shall 23 before the time of giving notice of such appeal, and within thirty days 24 herein allowed within which to appeal, deposit with the clerk of the 25 court of the county in which the land or lots are situated, an amount of money equal to the amount of the judgment and costs rendered in such 26 cause by the trial court. If, in case of an appeal, the judgment of 27 the lower court shall be affirmed, in whole or in part, the supreme 28 29 court or the court of appeals shall enter judgment for the amount of 30 taxes, interest and costs, with damages not to exceed twenty percent, and shall order that the amount deposited with the clerk of the court, 31 32 or so much thereof as may be necessary, be credited upon the judgment 33 so rendered, and execution shall issue for the balance of the judgment, 34 damages and costs. The clerk of the supreme court or the clerk of the division of the court of appeals in which the appeal is pending shall 35 36 transmit to the county treasurer of the county in which the land or lots are situated a certified copy of the order of affirmance, and it 37 38 shall be the duty of such county treasurer upon receiving the same to

apply so much of the amount deposited with the clerk of the court, as 1 shall be necessary to satisfy the amount of the judgment of the supreme 2 court, and to account for the same as collected taxes. If the judgment 3 4 of the superior court shall be reversed and the cause remanded for a rehearing, and if, upon a rehearing, judgment shall be rendered for the 5 sale of the land or lots for taxes, or any part thereof, and such 6 7 judgment be not appealed from, as herein provided, the clerk of such 8 superior court shall certify to the county treasurer the amount of such 9 judgment, and thereupon it shall be the duty of the county treasurer to 10 certify to the county clerk the amount deposited with the clerk of the court, and the county clerk shall credit such judgment with the amount 11 of such deposit, or so much thereof as will satisfy the judgment, and 12 the county treasurer shall be chargeable and accountable for the amount 13 so credited as collected taxes. Nothing herein shall be construed as 14 15 requiring an additional deposit in case of more than one appeal being 16 prosecuted in $(({the}))$ the proceeding. If, upon a final hearing, judgment shall be refused for the sale of the land or lots for the 17 taxes, ((penalties,)) interest, and costs, or any part thereof, in the 18 19 proceedings, the county treasurer shall pay over to the party who shall 20 have made such deposit, or his or her legally authorized agent or representative, the amount of the deposit, or so much thereof as shall 21 22 remain after the satisfaction of the judgment against the land or lots 23 in respect to which such deposit shall have been made.

24 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 10.** Section 5 of this act takes effect January 25 1, 2000.

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