
HOUSE BILL 2677

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Schual-Berke and Nixon

Read first time 01/23/2002. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to restricting port district property tax
2 authority; amending RCW 53.36.020, 53.36.070, and 53.36.100; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.36.020 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 56 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 A district, other than a countywide district in a county with a
8 population of more than one million, may raise revenue by levy of an
9 annual tax not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of
10 assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property
11 in such port district for general port purposes, including the
12 establishment of a capital improvement fund for future capital
13 improvements, except that any levy for the payment of the principal and
14 interest of the general bonded indebtedness of the port district shall
15 be in excess of any levy made by the port district under the forty-five
16 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value limitation. The levy
17 shall be made and taxes collected in the manner provided for the levy
18 and collection of taxes in school districts of the first class.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 53.36.070 and 1983 c 3 s 162 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 Any port district, other than a countywide district in a county
4 with a population of more than one million, organized under the laws of
5 this state shall, in addition to the powers otherwise provided by law,
6 have the power to raise revenue by the levy and collection of an annual
7 tax on all taxable property within such port district of not to exceed
8 forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the
9 assessed valuation of the taxable property in such port district, for
10 dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes, the
11 proceeds of any such levy to be used exclusively for such dredging,
12 canal construction, or land leveling and filling purposes: PROVIDED,
13 That no such levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or
14 filling purposes under the provisions of RCW 53.36.070 and 53.36.080
15 shall be made unless and until the question of authorizing the making
16 of such additional levy shall have been submitted to a vote of the
17 electors of the district in the manner provided by law for the
18 submission of the question of making additional levies in school
19 districts of the first class at an election held under the provisions
20 of RCW 29.13.020 and shall have been authorized by a majority of the
21 electors voting thereon.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 53.36.100 and 1994 c 278 s 1 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (1) A port district, other than a countywide district in a county
25 with a population of more than one million, having adopted a
26 comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments
27 may thereafter raise revenue, for six years only, and a second six
28 years if the procedures are followed under subsection (2) of this
29 section, in addition to all other revenues now authorized by law, by an
30 annual levy not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of
31 assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property
32 in such port district. In addition, if voters approve a ballot
33 proposition authorizing additional levies by a simple majority vote, a
34 port district located in a county bordering on the Pacific Ocean having
35 adopted a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial
36 developments may impose these levies for a third six-year period. Said
37 levies shall be used exclusively for the exercise of the powers granted
38 to port districts under chapter 53.25 RCW except as provided in RCW

1 53.36.110. The levy of such taxes is herein authorized notwithstanding
2 the provisions of RCW 84.52.050 and 84.52.043. The revenues derived
3 from levies made under RCW 53.36.100 and 53.36.110 not expended in the
4 year in which the levies are made may be paid into a fund for future
5 use in carrying out the powers granted under chapter 53.25 RCW, which
6 fund may be accumulated and carried over from year to year, with the
7 right to continue to levy the taxes provided for in RCW 53.36.100 and
8 53.36.110 for the purposes herein authorized.

9 (2) If a port district intends to levy a tax under this section for
10 one or more years after the first six years these levies were imposed,
11 the port commission shall publish notice of this intention, in one or
12 more newspapers of general circulation within the district, by June 1
13 of the year in which the first levy of the seventh through twelfth year
14 period is to be made. If within ninety days of the date of publication
15 a petition is filed with the county auditor containing the signatures
16 of eight percent of the number of voters registered and voting in the
17 port district for the office of the governor at the last preceding
18 gubernatorial election, the county auditor shall canvass the signatures
19 in the same manner as prescribed in RCW 29.79.200 and certify their
20 sufficiency to the port commission within two weeks. The proposition
21 to make these levies in the seventh through twelfth year period shall
22 be submitted to the voters of the port district at a special election,
23 called for this purpose, no later than the date on which a primary
24 election would be held under RCW 29.13.070. The levies may be made in
25 the seventh through twelfth year period only if approved by a majority
26 of the voters of the port district voting on the proposition.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act applies to taxes levied for
28 collection in 2003 and thereafter.

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