
HOUSE BILL 1981

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Dye and Klicker

Read first time 02/14/25. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to imposing a local option tax on the sale or
2 transfer of renewable energy facilities; adding a new section to
3 chapter 82.46 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective
4 date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that wind and solar
7 energy production companies often generate substantial revenue from
8 operations in rural communities without reinvesting those funds
9 locally. These companies frequently transfer earnings out-of-state,
10 leaving limited opportunities for economic development within the
11 regions where they operate.

12 The legislature finds that the lack of retained revenue from
13 renewable energy projects exacerbates economic challenges in rural
14 areas, including underfunded infrastructure, limited access to
15 education and health care resources, and diminished prospects for
16 local business growth. As a result, the economic benefits of hosting
17 renewable energy facilities are not equitably shared with the
18 communities that support their operations.

19 Therefore, the legislature intends to enact legislation that
20 secures a new revenue option that would be supported by wind and
21 solar production companies for rural communities to reinvest. By

1 doing so, the legislature aims to create a more equitable
2 distribution of benefits and foster long-term prosperity in these
3 regions.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.46
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislative authority of any county may impose an
7 additional excise tax on the purchase and sale or transfer of a
8 controlling interest of a renewable energy facility. The tax must be
9 imposed if approved by a majority of the voters of the taxing
10 district voting on the proposition at a general election held within
11 the county or at a special election within the county called by the
12 county for the purpose of submitting such proposition to the voters.

13 (2) The tax rate is three percent of the selling price of the
14 renewable energy facility and must be assessed on the seller. The
15 proceeds of this tax must be considered general county revenues.

16 (3) For the purposes of this section, "renewable energy" has the
17 same meaning as in RCW 82.96.010.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2026.

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