

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5443

As Passed Senate, March 3, 1995

Title: An act relating to public hearings for collection of authorized taxes.

Brief Description: Requiring taxing districts to hold hearings about using the authorized amount of property tax.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Drew, Fairley, Quigley, McAuliffe, Hargrove, Haugen, Owen, Rasmussen, Loveland, Smith, Gaspard and Franklin).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 2/9/95, 2/21/95 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 3/3/95, 45-3.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5443 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Drew, Hale, Heavey, McCaslin and Winsley.

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Background: A number of taxing districts collect regular property tax levies. They include, but are not limited to: counties; cities; towns; a metropolitan park district; fire protection districts; library districts; hospital districts; flood control zone districts; cemetery districts; park and recreation districts; and emergency medical service districts.

The levy for a taxing district in any year must be set so that the regular property taxes payable in the following year do not exceed 106 percent of the levies for the district in the highest of the three most recent years in which the taxes were levied (plus an increase in value resulting from new construction and improvements to property).

Summary of Bill: A taxing district, other than the state, that collects regular levies must hold a public hearing, not earlier than July 1 and not later than September 30 on revenue sources for the taxing districts following year's operating budget. The hearing must include consideration of possible increases in property tax revenues.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: People deserve a public hearing to learn about tax revenue increases.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Stan Finkelstein, AWC (pro).

House Amendment(s): The House amendment removes the dates for the revenue sources hearing. It is also clarified that a local government does not require a second hearing to be held, if the taxing district is otherwise required to hold a hearing on its tax levy.