
SENATE BILL 5223

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Loveland, Snyder and Deccio

Read first time 01/16/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to county assessors; reenacting and amending RCW
2 36.21.011; adding a new section to chapter 36.21 RCW; creating a new
3 section; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.21.011 and 1994 c 301 s 6 and 1994 c 124 s 1 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) Any assessor who deems it necessary in order to complete the
8 listing and the valuation of the property of the county within the time
9 prescribed by law, (~~((1))~~) (a) may appoint one or more well qualified
10 persons to act as assistants or deputies who shall not engage in the
11 private practice of appraising within the county in which he or she is
12 employed without the written permission of the assessor filed with the
13 auditor; and each such assistant or deputy so appointed shall, under
14 the direction of the assessor, after taking the required oath, be
15 authorized to perform all the duties enjoined upon, vested in or
16 imposed upon assessors, and (~~((2))~~) (b) may contract with any persons,
17 firms or corporations, who are expert appraisers, to assist in the
18 valuation of property.

1 (2) To assist each assessor in obtaining adequate and well
2 qualified assistants or deputies, the state department of personnel,
3 after consultation with the Washington state association of county
4 assessors, the Washington state association of counties, and the
5 department of revenue, shall establish ~~((by July 1, 1967,))~~ and ~~((shall~~
6 ~~thereafter))~~ maintain~~((,))~~ a classification and salary plan for those
7 employees of an assessor who act as appraisers. The plan shall
8 recommend the salary range and employment qualifications for each
9 position encompassed by it, and shall, to the fullest extent
10 practicable, conform to the classification plan, salary schedules and
11 employment qualifications for state employees performing similar
12 appraisal functions.

13 (3) An assessor ~~((who intends to put such plan into effect))~~ may
14 request a committee be formed to determine the level and duration of
15 funding necessary to complete the listing and the valuation of the
16 property of the county within the time prescribed by law and shall
17 inform the department of revenue and the county legislative authority
18 and county executive, if any, of this ((intent)) request in writing.
19 ~~((The department of revenue and the county legislative authority may~~
20 ~~thereupon each designate a representative, and such representative or~~
21 ~~representatives as may be designated by the department of revenue or~~
22 ~~the county legislative authority, or both, shall form with the assessor~~
23 ~~a committee. The committee so formed may, by unanimous vote only,~~
24 ~~determine the required number of certified appraiser positions and~~
25 ~~their salaries necessary to enable the assessor to carry out the~~
26 ~~requirements relating to revaluation of property in chapter 84.41 RCW.~~
27 ~~The determination of the committee shall be certified to the county~~
28 ~~legislative authority. The committee may be formed only once in a~~
29 ~~period of four calendar years.~~

30 After such determination, the assessor may provide, in each of the
31 four next succeeding annual budget estimates, for as many positions as
32 are established in such determination. Each county legislative
33 authority to which such a budget estimate is submitted shall allow
34 sufficient funds for such positions. An employee may be appointed to
35 a position covered by the plan only if the employee meets the
36 employment qualifications established by the plan.)) The department
37 shall reply to the assessor in writing, with a copy provided to the
38 county legislative authority and county executive, if any, indicating
39 whether the department will participate in forming a committee to study

1 the assessor's request. Thereafter, in its discretion, the department
2 may designate a representative who, together with a designated member
3 of the county legislative authority and the assessor, shall form the
4 committee.

5 (4) The committee shall meet for the purpose of reviewing the
6 assessor's request and make unanimous findings and recommendations to
7 determine the level of funding and the duration of funding with respect
8 to appraisers, support staff, computer equipment and software, and
9 other resources, necessary for the assessor to adequately maintain and
10 complete the county revaluation program and list and value personal
11 property within the time required by law and to place new construction
12 on the assessment rolls on a regular annual basis.

13 (5) Within sixty days of the first meeting of the committee, or
14 such additional time as may be determined by the committee, the
15 representative of the department of revenue shall report the
16 committee's unanimous findings and recommendations to the director of
17 the department of revenue or his or her designee. The representative
18 of the department shall also make recommendations regarding any
19 unresolved issues, which shall be decided by the director or his or her
20 designee.

21 (6) The department shall prepare a contract in accordance with the
22 findings and recommendations of the committee and the decisions of the
23 director or his or her designee to be signed by the assessor and the
24 county legislative authority. The contract shall include the following
25 provisions:

26 (a) A specified level of funding for a specified number of years to
27 be provided on an annual basis to the assessor's office by the county
28 legislative authority;

29 (b) Assurance by the assessor that the funds will be used in
30 accordance with the findings and recommendations of the committee and
31 the decisions of the director or his or her designee so as to
32 adequately maintain and complete the county revaluation program within
33 the time required by law and to place new construction on the
34 assessment rolls on a regular annual basis;

35 (c) A procedure for the county legislative authority to request
36 evaluation by the department of revenue of the assessor's performance
37 under the terms of the contract; and

38 (d) A provision that the county legislative authority is not
39 obligated to continue to provide the specified funding level if the

1 evaluation by the department of revenue concludes that the assessor is
2 not meeting the contract requirements.

3 (7) The county legislative authority may request a loan under the
4 provisions of section 2 of this act to assist in carrying out the
5 provisions of the contract described in subsection (6) of this section.
6 If insufficient funding exists to make the loan, the county making the
7 request may delay providing the funding level specified in the contract
8 until such a loan can be made available.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 36.21 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The assessors' assistance fund is created in the custody of the
12 state treasurer. The fund may be used only for making loans to
13 counties in accordance with the provisions of RCW 36.21.011. All
14 receipts from repayment to the fund and interest on the loans from the
15 fund shall be deposited into the fund. Only the director of the
16 department of revenue or the director's designee may authorize
17 expenditures from the fund. The fund is subject to allotment
18 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required
19 for expenditures.

20 (2) All loans made from the assessors' assistance fund shall be
21 made subject to the availability of funds and repaid from any fund
22 under the control of the county legislative authority by the county
23 receiving the loan in accordance with a schedule established by the
24 department of revenue in consultation with the county legislative
25 authority. Interest on the outstanding balance of the loan shall
26 accrue at the rate specified in RCW 84.69.100 in effect on the date of
27 the loan and continue at that rate until paid in full.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The department of revenue shall adopt rules
29 consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW and the provisions of this chapter as
30 necessary or desirable to permit the effective administration of this
31 chapter.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
2 effect July 1, 1995.

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