
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5901

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Spanel, Haugen and Rasmussen)

Read first time 03/01/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorized uses for the proceeds of the special
2 excise tax on lodging imposed by counties and cities; and amending RCW
3 67.28.210 and 67.28.270.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 67.28.210 and 1994 c 290 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 All taxes levied and collected under RCW 67.28.180, 67.28.240, and
8 67.28.260 shall be credited to a special fund in the treasury of the
9 county or city imposing such tax. Such taxes shall be levied only for
10 the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of acquisition,
11 construction, or operating of stadium facilities, convention center
12 facilities, performing arts center facilities, and/or visual arts
13 center facilities or to pay or secure the payment of all or any portion
14 of general obligation bonds or revenue bonds issued for such purpose or
15 purposes under this chapter, or to pay for advertising, publicizing, or
16 otherwise distributing information for the purpose of attracting
17 visitors and encouraging tourist expansion when a county or city has
18 imposed such tax for such purpose, or as one of the purposes hereunder,
19 and until withdrawn for use, the moneys accumulated in such fund or

1 funds may be invested in interest bearing securities by the county or
2 city treasurer in any manner authorized by law. In addition such taxes
3 may be used to develop strategies to expand tourism: PROVIDED, That
4 any county, and any city within a county, bordering upon Grays Harbor
5 may use the proceeds of such taxes for construction and maintenance of
6 a movable tall ships tourist attraction in cooperation with a tall
7 ships restoration society, except to the extent that such proceeds are
8 used for payment of principal and interest on debt incurred prior to
9 June 11, 1986: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any city or county may use the
10 proceeds of such taxes for the refurbishing and operation of a steam
11 railway for tourism promotion purposes: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any
12 city bordering on the Pacific Ocean or on Baker Bay with a population
13 of not less than eight hundred and the county in which such a city is
14 located, a city wholly located on an island, a city bordering on the
15 Skagit river with a population of not less than twenty thousand, or any
16 city with a population of not less than ten thousand within a county
17 made up entirely of islands may use the proceeds of such taxes for
18 funding special events or festivals, or for the acquisition,
19 construction, or operation of publicly owned tourist promotional
20 infrastructures, structures, or buildings including but not limited to
21 an ocean beach boardwalk, public docks, and viewing towers: PROVIDED
22 FURTHER, That any county which imposes a tax under RCW 67.28.182 or any
23 city with a population less than fifty thousand in such county may use
24 the proceeds of the tax levied and collected under RCW 67.28.180 to
25 provide public restroom facilities available to and intended for use by
26 visitors: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any county made up entirely of
27 islands, and any city or town that has a population less than five
28 thousand, may use the proceeds of the tax levied and collected under
29 RCW 67.28.180 to provide public restroom facilities available to and
30 intended for use by visitors: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any city or
31 county may use the proceeds of such taxes for funding a civic festival,
32 if the following conditions are met: The festival is a community-wide
33 event held not more than once annually; the festival is approved by the
34 city, town, or county in which it is held; the festival is sponsored by
35 an exempt organization defined in section 501(c)(3), (4), or (6) of the
36 federal internal revenue code; the festival provides family-oriented
37 events suiting a broad segment of the community; and the proceeds of
38 such taxes are used solely for advertising and promotional materials
39 intended to attract overnight visitors.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 67.28.270 and 1991 c 357 s 4 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 In addition to the other uses authorized in this chapter, any city
4 with a population of not less than one thousand people located on one
5 of the San Juan islands or the county within which such city is located
6 may impose the tax as provided in RCW 67.28.180, and use the ((tax))
7 proceeds from that tax as provided herein for the acquisition,
8 construction, or operation of publicly owned facilities that are used
9 either for county fairs occurring no more than once a year and not
10 extending over a period of more than seven days or to mitigate the
11 impacts of tourism. Mitigation may include paying all or any part of
12 the cost of acquisition, construction, or operation of public
13 information and educational facilities designed to inform visitors of
14 the historical, cultural, ecological, and environmental resources of
15 the county; of overnight or day use parks used by visitors; of kayak
16 and canoe access to public tidelands; of rest, information, and
17 assembly areas for bicycle visitors; of special signage to inform
18 visitors of local points of interest; and of sport and recreational
19 facilities that provide activities of interest to visitors.

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