

2 **HB 1154** - S AMD - 359

3 By Senators Goings, Swecker, McCaslin, Benton, Fraser, Costa,
4 Roach, Haugen, Snyder and Zarelli

5 ADOPTED 4/13/99

6 On page 1, strike everything after the enacting clause and insert
7 the following:

8 "**Sec. 1.** RCW 84.52.069 and 1995 c 318 s 9 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) As used in this section, "taxing district" means a county,
11 emergency medical service district, city or town, public hospital
12 district, urban emergency medical service district, or fire protection
13 district.

14 (2) A taxing district may impose additional regular property tax
15 levies in an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars
16 of the assessed value of property in the taxing district (~~(in each year~~
17 ~~for six consecutive years when specifically authorized so to do)).~~ The
18 tax shall be imposed (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each
19 year for ten consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A tax levy under
20 this section must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least
21 three-fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition
22 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at
23 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition
24 shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the
25 total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last
26 preceding general election when the number of registered voters voting
27 on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of
28 voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general
29 election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered
30 voters thereof voting on the proposition when the number of registered
31 voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total
32 number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding
33 general election. Ballot propositions shall conform with RCW
34 29.30.111. A taxing district shall not submit to the voters at the
35 same election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this
36 section.

1 (3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section
2 shall provide for separate accounting of expenditures of the revenues
3 generated by the levy. The taxing district shall maintain a statement
4 of the accounting which shall be updated at least every two years and
5 shall be available to the public upon request at no charge.

6 (4) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section
7 shall provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the ordinance or
8 resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure shall specify
9 that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with a filing
10 officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution. Within ten
11 days, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning
12 form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification
13 number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from
14 the designated local official. The petitioner shall have thirty days
15 in which to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of
16 the registered voters of the taxing district, as of the last general
17 election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the
18 full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall
19 verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if
20 sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, shall certify the
21 referendum measure to the next election within the taxing district if
22 one is to be held within one hundred eighty days from the date of
23 filing of the referendum petition, or at a special election to be
24 called for that purpose in accordance with RCW 29.13.020.

25 The referendum procedure provided in this subsection shall be
26 exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax
27 under this section and shall supersede the procedures provided under
28 all other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum
29 which might otherwise apply.

30 ~~((+3))~~ (5) Any tax imposed under this section shall be used only
31 for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical
32 services, including related personnel costs, training for such
33 personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures
34 needed for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical
35 services.

36 ~~((+4))~~ (6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing
37 district within the county may levy a tax under this section. No other
38 taxing district may levy a tax under this section if another taxing
39 district has levied a tax under this section within its boundaries:

1 PROVIDED, That if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand
2 dollars of the assessed value of property, then any other taxing
3 district may levy a tax under this section equal to the difference
4 between the rate of the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED
5 FURTHER, That if a taxing district within a county levies this tax, and
6 the voters of the county subsequently approve a levying of this tax,
7 then the amount of the taxing district levy within the county shall be
8 reduced, when the combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax
9 is levied county-wide, the service shall, insofar as is feasible, be
10 provided throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no county-wide
11 levy proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the
12 legislative authority of each city exceeding fifty thousand population
13 within the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW
14 36.32.480 shall not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual
15 excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER,
16 That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this section, no
17 other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under this section by
18 another taxing district in the county may be placed before the voters
19 at the same election at which the county ballot proposition is placed:
20 AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district emergency medical
21 service levy that is limited in duration and that is authorized
22 subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy that is limited
23 in duration, shall expire concurrently with the county emergency
24 medical service levy.

25 ((+5+)) (7) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 shall not apply to the
26 tax levy authorized in this section.

27 ((+6+)) (8) If a ballot proposition approved under subsection (2)
28 of this section did not impose the maximum allowable levy amount
29 authorized for the taxing district under this section, any future
30 increase up to the maximum allowable levy amount must be specifically
31 authorized by the voters in accordance with subsection (2) of this
32 section at a general or special election.

33 (9) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 shall not apply to the first
34 levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of such
35 levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.30.111 and 1984 c 131 s 3 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

