
SENATE BILL 5786

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Weinstein, Pridemore, Prentice, Franklin, Keiser, Kline and McAuliffe

Read first time 02/07/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to county property tax levies for school purposes;
2 amending RCW 29A.36.210, 84.52.043, and 84.55.005; adding a new section
3 to chapter 84.52 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective
4 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature that
7 additional funding provided under section 2 of this act be used by
8 school districts to provide regional cost-of-living salary supplements
9 to school district employees, as determined through collective
10 bargaining, and to provide local funds to support the purposes defined
11 in RCW 28A.505.210(1) (c) and (d) (Initiative 728).

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 84.52 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) A county may impose a regular property tax levy for the
15 maintenance and operation of schools within the county in accordance
16 with this section.

17 (2) Upon receiving resolutions requesting a levy under this section
18 from the board of directors of school districts within the county where

1 the petitioning school districts represent a majority of the students
2 within the county, the county legislative authority shall submit an
3 authorizing proposition to the county voters.

4 (3) If the proposition is approved by a majority of the voters
5 voting on the proposition, the county shall impose a levy not to exceed
6 seventy-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

7 (4) Ballot propositions shall conform with RCW 29A.36.210.

8 (5) Any tax imposed under this section shall be used only for the
9 maintenance and operation of schools. The county shall distribute levy
10 proceeds to each school district within the county based on the
11 district's full-time equivalent student enrollment in the prior school
12 year.

13 (6) The tax levy authorized in this section is not part of the
14 county levy in RCW 84.52.043(1) and the limitations in RCW 84.52.043(2)
15 do not apply.

16 (7) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the tax levy
17 authorized in this section.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.36.210 and 2004 c 80 s 2 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) The ballot proposition authorizing a taxing district to impose
21 the regular property tax levies authorized in RCW 36.69.145, 67.38.130,
22 84.52.069, or 84.52.135 shall contain in substance the following:

23 "Shall the (insert the name of the taxing district) be
24 authorized to impose regular property tax levies of (insert
25 the maximum rate) or less per thousand dollars of assessed valuation
26 for each of (insert the maximum number of years allowable)
27 consecutive years?

28 Yes

29 No

30 Each voter shall indicate either "Yes" or "No" on his or her ballot
31 in accordance with the procedures established under this title.

32 (2) The ballot proposition authorizing a taxing district to impose
33 a permanent regular tax levy under RCW 84.52.069 or section 2 of this
34 act shall contain the following:

35 "Shall the (insert the name of the taxing district) be

1 authorized to impose a PERMANENT regular property levy of
2 (insert the maximum rate) or less per thousand dollars of assessed
3 valuation?

- 4 Yes
- 5 No

6 **Sec. 4.** RCW 84.52.043 and 2004 c 80 s 4 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 Within and subject to the limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 as
9 amended, the regular ad valorem tax levies upon real and personal
10 property by the taxing districts hereafter named shall be as follows:

11 (1) Levies of the senior taxing districts shall be as follows: (a)
12 The levy by the state shall not exceed three dollars and sixty cents
13 per thousand dollars of assessed value adjusted to the state equalized
14 value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state
15 department of revenue to be used exclusively for the support of the
16 common schools; (b) the levy by any county shall not exceed one dollar
17 and eighty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value; (c) the levy
18 by any road district shall not exceed two dollars and twenty-five cents
19 per thousand dollars of assessed value; and (d) the levy by any city or
20 town shall not exceed three dollars and thirty-seven and one-half cents
21 per thousand dollars of assessed value. However any county is hereby
22 authorized to increase its levy from one dollar and eighty cents to a
23 rate not to exceed two dollars and forty-seven and one-half cents per
24 thousand dollars of assessed value for general county purposes if the
25 total levies for both the county and any road district within the
26 county do not exceed four dollars and five cents per thousand dollars
27 of assessed value, and no other taxing district has its levy reduced as
28 a result of the increased county levy.

29 (2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior
30 taxing districts, other than the state, shall not exceed five dollars
31 and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The term
32 "junior taxing districts" includes all taxing districts other than the
33 state, counties, road districts, cities, towns, port districts, and
34 public utility districts. The limitations provided in this subsection
35 shall not apply to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by existing law
36 by or for any port or public utility district; (b) excess property tax
37 levies authorized in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution;

1 (c) levies for acquiring conservation futures as authorized under RCW
2 84.34.230; (d) levies for emergency medical care or emergency medical
3 services imposed under RCW 84.52.069; (e) levies to finance affordable
4 housing for very low-income housing imposed under RCW 84.52.105; (f)
5 the portions of levies by metropolitan park districts that are
6 protected under RCW 84.52.120; (g) levies imposed by ferry districts
7 under RCW 36.54.130; ~~((and))~~ (h) levies for criminal justice purposes
8 under RCW 84.52.135; and (i) levies by counties for school purposes
9 under section 2 of this act.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 84.55.005 and 2002 c 1 s 2 are each amended to read as
11 follows:

12 As used in this chapter:

13 (1) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the implicit price
14 deflator for personal consumption expenditures for the United States as
15 published for the most recent twelve-month period by the bureau of
16 economic analysis of the federal department of commerce in September of
17 the year before the taxes are payable;

18 (2) "Limit factor" means:

19 (a) For taxing districts with a population of less than ten
20 thousand in the calendar year prior to the assessment year, one hundred
21 one percent;

22 (b) For taxing districts for which a limit factor is authorized
23 under RCW 84.55.0101, the lesser of the limit factor under that section
24 or one hundred one percent;

25 (c) For all other districts, the lesser of one hundred one percent
26 or one hundred percent plus inflation; and

27 (3) "Regular property taxes" has the meaning given it in RCW
28 84.04.140, except does not include tax levies under section 2 of this
29 act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
31 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
32 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
33 July 1, 2005.

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