S-2325.1			

SENATE BILL 6120

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Swecker, and Fraser

Read first time 03/06/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

- AN ACT Relating to the creation of a state property tax levy dedicated to parks; amending RCW 84.52.043, 84.52.065, 79A.05.215, 84.52.068, 39.89.020, and 39.102.020; creating a new section; providing an expiration date; and providing for submission of this act to a vote of the people.
- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

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- 7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.52.043 and 2005 c 122 s 3 are each amended to read 8 as follows:
 - Within and subject to the limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 as amended, the regular ad valorem tax levies upon real and personal property by the taxing districts hereafter named shall be as follows:
 - (1) Levies of the senior taxing districts shall be as follows: (a) The levy by the state <u>under RCW 84.52.065(1)</u> shall not exceed three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue to be used exclusively for the support of the common schools; (b) <u>the levy by the state under RCW 84.52.065(2)</u> shall not exceed one cent per thousand dollars of assessed value adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the

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indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue to be used 1 2 exclusively for the support of the state parks; (c) the levy by any county shall not exceed one dollar and eighty cents per thousand 3 4 dollars of assessed value; $((\frac{c}{c}))$ dollars of assessed value; $(\frac{c}{c})$ shall not exceed two dollars and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars 5 of assessed value; and $((\frac{d}{d}))$ <u>(e)</u> the levy by any city or town shall 6 7 not exceed three dollars and thirty-seven and one-half cents per 8 thousand dollars of assessed value. However any county is hereby authorized to increase its levy from one dollar and eighty cents to a 9 rate not to exceed two dollars and forty-seven and one-half cents per 10 thousand dollars of assessed value for general county purposes if the 11 12 total levies for both the county and any road district within the 13 county do not exceed four dollars and five cents per thousand dollars 14 of assessed value, and no other taxing district has its levy reduced as a result of the increased county levy. 15

(2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior taxing districts, other than the state, shall not exceed five dollars and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The term "junior taxing districts" includes all taxing districts other than the state, counties, road districts, cities, towns, port districts, and public utility districts. The limitations provided in this subsection shall not apply to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any port or public utility district; (b) excess property tax levies authorized in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution; (c) levies for acquiring conservation futures as authorized under RCW 84.34.230; (d) levies for emergency medical care or emergency medical services imposed under RCW 84.52.069; (e) levies to finance affordable housing for very low-income housing imposed under RCW 84.52.105; (f) the portions of levies by metropolitan park districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.120; (g) levies imposed by ferry districts under RCW 36.54.130; (h) levies for criminal justice purposes under RCW 84.52.135; and (i) the portions of levies by fire protection districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.125.

34 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.52.065 and 1991 sp.s. c 31 s 16 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the limitations in RCW 84.55.010, in each year the state shall levy for collection in the following year for the support

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of common schools of the state a tax of three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the state adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue.

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- (2) Subject to the limitations in RCW 84.55.010, in each year the state shall levy for collection in the following year for the support of the state parks a tax of one cent per thousand dollars of assessed value upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the state adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue. Revenue from the state parks levy shall be deposited into the state parks renewal and stewardship account created in RCW 79A.05.215.
- 14 <u>(3)</u> As used in this section, "the support of common schools" 15 includes the payment of the principal and interest on bonds issued for 16 capital construction projects for the common schools.
- 17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 79A.05.215 and 2007 c 340 s 2 are each amended to read 18 as follows:

The state parks renewal and stewardship account is created in the 19 20 state treasury. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all 21 receipts from the state property tax levy dedicated to state parks 22 under RCW 84.52.065(2), user fees, concessions, leases, donations collected under RCW 46.16.076, and other state park-based activities 23 24 shall be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may 25 be used for operating state parks, developing and renovating park 26 facilities, undertaking deferred maintenance, enhancing park stewardship, and other state park purposes, except that the revenue 27 from the state property tax levy dedicated to state parks under RCW 28 29 84.52.065(2) may only be used for deferred and preventive maintenance, historical preservation, renovation, and repair of existing state park 30 31 facilities and land. Expenditures from the account may be made only after appropriation by the legislature. 32

- 33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 84.52.068 and 2005 c 514 s 1104 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) A portion of the proceeds of the state property tax levy for

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the support of the common schools under RCW 84.52.065(1) shall be deposited into the student achievement fund as provided in this section.

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- (2)(a) The amount of the deposit shall be based upon the average number of full-time equivalent students in the school districts during the previous school year as reported to the office of the superintendent of public instruction by August 31st of the previous school year.
- (b) For the 2004-2005 through 2007-2008 school years, an annual amount equal to two hundred fifty-four dollars per full-time equivalent student in all school districts shall be deposited in the student achievement fund.
- (c) For the 2008-2009 school year, an annual amount equal to two hundred sixty-five dollars per full-time equivalent student in all school districts shall be deposited in the student achievement fund.
- (d) For the 2009-2010 school year, an annual amount equal to two hundred seventy-seven dollars per full-time equivalent student in all school districts shall be deposited in the student achievement fund.
- (e) For the 2010-2011 school year and each year thereafter, an annual amount equal to two hundred seventy-eight dollars per full-time equivalent student in all school districts shall be deposited in the student achievement fund.
- (f) The school district annual amounts shall be deposited based on the monthly apportionment schedule as defined in RCW 28A.510.250. The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall notify the department of the monthly amounts to be deposited into the student achievement fund to meet the apportionment schedule.
- 28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 39.89.020 and 2001 c 212 s 2 are each amended to read 29 as follows:
- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 32 (1) "Assessed value of real property" means the valuation of real 33 property as placed on the last completed assessment roll.
- 34 (2) "Local government" means any city, town, county, port district, 35 or any combination thereof.
- 36 (3) "Ordinance" means any appropriate method of taking legislative 37 action by a local government.

1 (4) "Public improvements" means:

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- 2 (a) Infrastructure improvements within the increment area that include:
 - (i) Street and road construction and maintenance;
- 5 (ii) Water and sewer system construction and improvements;
- 6 (iii) Sidewalks and streetlights;
 - (iv) Parking, terminal, and dock facilities;
 - (v) Park and ride facilities of a transit authority;
- 9 (vi) Park facilities and recreational areas; and
- 10 (vii) Storm water and drainage management systems; and
- 11 (b) Expenditures for any of the following purposes:
- (i) Providing environmental analysis, professional management, planning, and promotion within the increment area, including the management and promotion of retail trade activities in the increment area;
- 16 (ii) Providing maintenance and security for common or public areas 17 in the increment area; or
- 18 (iii) Historic preservation activities authorized under RCW 19 35.21.395.
 - (5) "Public improvement costs" means the costs of: (a) Design, planning, acquisition, site preparation, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, and installation of public improvements; relocating, maintaining, and operating property construction of public improvements; (c) relocating utilities as a result of public improvements; (d) financing public improvements, including interest during construction, legal and other professional services, taxes, insurance, principal and interest costs on general indebtedness issued to finance public improvements, and any necessary for general indebtedness; (e) assessments reserves incurred revaluing real property for the purpose of determining the tax allocation base value that are in excess of costs incurred by the assessor in accordance with the revaluation plan under chapter 84.41 RCW, and the costs of apportioning the taxes and complying with this chapter and other applicable law; and (f) administrative expenses and feasibility studies reasonably necessary and related to these costs, including related costs that may have been incurred before adoption of the ordinance authorizing the public improvements and the use of

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1 community revitalization financing to fund the costs of the public 2 improvements.

- (6) "Regular property taxes" means regular property taxes as defined in RCW 84.04.140, except: (a) Regular property taxes levied by port districts or public utility districts specifically for the purpose of making required payments of principal and interest on general indebtedness; and (b) regular property taxes levied by the state for the support of the common schools and for the support of state parks under RCW 84.52.065. Regular property taxes do not include excess property tax levies that are exempt from the aggregate limits for junior and senior taxing districts as provided in RCW 84.52.043.
- (7) "Tax allocation base value" means the true and fair value of real property located within an increment area for taxes imposed in the year in which the increment area is created, plus twenty-five percent of any increase in the true and fair value of real property located within an increment area that is placed on the assessment rolls after the increment area is created.
- (8) "Tax allocation revenues" means those tax revenues derived from the imposition of regular property taxes on the increment value and distributed to finance public improvements.
- (9) "Increment area" means the geographic area from which taxes are to be appropriated to finance public improvements authorized under this chapter.
- (10) "Increment value" means seventy-five percent of any increase in the true and fair value of real property in an increment area that is placed on the tax rolls after the increment area is created.
- (11) "Taxing districts" means a governmental entity that levies or has levied for it regular property taxes upon real property located within a proposed or approved increment area.
- 30 (12) "Value of taxable property" means the value of the taxable property as defined in RCW 39.36.015.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 39.102.020 and 2008 c 209 s 1 are each amended to read 33 as follows:
- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 36 (1) "Annual state contribution limit" means seven million five 37 hundred thousand dollars statewide per fiscal year.

- 1 (2) "Assessed value" means the valuation of taxable real property 2 as placed on the last completed assessment roll.
 - (3) "Base year" means the first calendar year following the calendar year in which a sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, receives approval by the board for a project award, provided that the approval is granted before October 15th. If approval by the board is received on or after October 15th but on or before December 31st, the "base year" is the second calendar year following the calendar year in which a sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, receives approval by the board for a project award.
- 12 (4) "Board" means the community economic revitalization board under chapter 43.160 RCW.
 - (5) "Demonstration project" means one of the following projects:
 - (a) Bellingham waterfront redevelopment project;
 - (b) Spokane river district project at Liberty Lake; and
 - (c) Vancouver riverwest project.

- (6) "Department" means the department of revenue.
- 19 (7) "Fiscal year" means the twelve-month period beginning July 1st 20 and ending the following June 30th.
 - (8) "Local excise taxes" means local revenues derived from the imposition of sales and use taxes authorized in RCW 82.14.030 at the tax rate that was in effect at the time the revenue development area was approved by the board, except that if a local government reduces the rate of such tax after the revenue development area was approved by the board, "local excise taxes" means the local revenues derived from the imposition of the sales and use taxes authorized in RCW 82.14.030 at the lower tax rate.
 - (9) "Local excise tax allocation revenue" means the amount of local excise taxes received by the local government during the measurement year from taxable activity within the revenue development area over and above the amount of local excise taxes received by the local government during the base year from taxable activity within the revenue development area, except that:
 - (a) If a sponsoring local government adopts a revenue development area and reasonably determines that no activity subject to tax under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW occurred within the boundaries of the revenue development area in the twelve months immediately preceding the

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approval of the revenue development area by the board, "local excise tax allocation revenue" means the entire amount of local excise taxes received by the sponsoring local government during a calendar year period beginning with the calendar year immediately following the approval of the revenue development area by the board and continuing with each measurement year thereafter;

- (b) For revenue development areas approved by the board in calendar years 2006 and 2007 that do not meet the requirements in (a) of this subsection and if legislation is enacted in this state during the 2007 legislative session that adopts the sourcing provisions of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, "local excise tax allocation revenue" means the amount of local excise taxes received by the sponsoring local government during the measurement year from taxable activity within the revenue development area over and above an amount of local excise taxes received by the sponsoring local government during the 2007 or 2008 base year, as the case may be, adjusted by the department for any estimated impacts from retail sales and use tax sourcing changes effective in 2008. The amount of base year adjustment determined by the department is final; and
- (c) If the sponsoring local government of a revenue development area related to a demonstration project reasonably determines that no local excise tax distributions were received between August 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, from within the boundaries of the revenue development area, "local excise tax allocation revenue" means the entire amount of local excise taxes received by the sponsoring local government during a calendar year period beginning with 2009 and continuing with each measurement year thereafter.
- (10) "Local government" means any city, town, county, port district, and any federally recognized Indian tribe.
- (11) "Local infrastructure financing" means the use of revenues received from local excise tax allocation revenues, local property tax allocation revenues, other revenues from local public sources, and revenues received from the local option sales and use tax authorized in RCW 82.14.475, dedicated to pay either the principal and interest on bonds authorized under RCW 39.102.150 or to pay public improvement costs on a pay-as-you-go basis subject to RCW 39.102.195, or both.
- 37 (12) "Local property tax allocation revenue" means those tax

revenues derived from the receipt of regular property taxes levied on the property tax allocation revenue value and used for local infrastructure financing.

(13)(a) "Revenues from local public sources" means:

- (i) Amounts of local excise tax allocation revenues and local property tax allocation revenues, dedicated by sponsoring local governments, participating local governments, and participating taxing districts, for local infrastructure financing; and
- (ii) Any other local revenues, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, including revenues derived from federal and private sources.
- (b) Revenues from local public sources do not include any local funds derived from state grants, state loans, or any other state moneys including any local sales and use taxes credited against the state sales and use taxes imposed under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW.
- (14) "Low-income housing" means residential housing for low-income persons or families who lack the means which is necessary to enable them, without financial assistance, to live in decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings, without overcrowding. For the purposes of this subsection, "low income" means income that does not exceed eighty percent of the median family income for the standard metropolitan statistical area in which the revenue development area is located.
- (15) "Measurement year" means a calendar year, beginning with the calendar year following the base year and each calendar year thereafter, that is used annually to measure state and local excise tax allocation revenues.
- (16) "Ordinance" means any appropriate method of taking legislative action by a local government.
- (17) "Participating local government" means a local government having a revenue development area within its geographic boundaries that has entered into a written agreement with a sponsoring local government as provided in RCW 39.102.080 to allow the use of all or some of its local excise tax allocation revenues or other revenues from local public sources dedicated for local infrastructure financing.
- 35 (18) "Participating taxing district" means a local government 36 having a revenue development area within its geographic boundaries that 37 has entered into a written agreement with a sponsoring local government

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as provided in RCW 39.102.080 to allow the use of some or all of its local property tax allocation revenues or other revenues from local public sources dedicated for local infrastructure financing.

- (19)(a)(i) "Property tax allocation revenue value" means seventy-five percent of any increase in the assessed value of real property in a revenue development area resulting from:
- (A) The placement of new construction, improvements to property, or both, on the assessment roll, where the new construction and improvements are initiated after the revenue development area is approved by the board;
- (B) The cost of new housing construction, conversion, and rehabilitation improvements, when such cost is treated as new construction for purposes of chapter 84.55 RCW as provided in RCW 84.14.020, and the new housing construction, conversion, and rehabilitation improvements are initiated after the revenue development area is approved by the board;
- (C) The cost of rehabilitation of historic property, when such cost is treated as new construction for purposes of chapter 84.55 RCW as provided in RCW 84.26.070, and the rehabilitation is initiated after the revenue development area is approved by the board.
- (ii) Increases in the assessed value of real property in a revenue development area resulting from (a)(i)(A) through (C) of this subsection are included in the property tax allocation revenue value in the initial year. These same amounts are also included in the property tax allocation revenue value in subsequent years unless the property becomes exempt from property taxation.
- (b) "Property tax allocation revenue value" includes seventy-five percent of any increase in the assessed value of new construction consisting of an entire building in the years following the initial year, unless the building becomes exempt from property taxation.
- (c) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, "property tax allocation revenue value" does not include any increase in the assessed value of real property after the initial year.
- (d) There is no property tax allocation revenue value if the assessed value of real property in a revenue development area has not increased as a result of any of the reasons specified in (a)(i)(A) through (C) of this subsection.
 - (e) For purposes of this subsection, "initial year" means:

- (i) For new construction and improvements to property added to the assessment roll, the year during which the new construction and improvements are initially placed on the assessment roll;
 - (ii) For the cost of new housing construction, conversion, and rehabilitation improvements, when such cost is treated as new construction for purposes of chapter 84.55 RCW, the year when such cost is treated as new construction for purposes of levying taxes for collection in the following year; and
- 9 (iii) For the cost of rehabilitation of historic property, when 10 such cost is treated as new construction for purposes of chapter 84.55 11 RCW, the year when such cost is treated as new construction for 12 purposes of levying taxes for collection in the following year.
- 13 (20) "Taxing district" means a government entity that levies or has 14 levied for it regular property taxes upon real property located within 15 a proposed or approved revenue development area.
 - (21) "Public improvements" means:

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- 17 (a) Infrastructure improvements within the revenue development area 18 that include:
- 19 (i) Street, bridge, and road construction and maintenance, 20 including highway interchange construction;
- 21 (ii) Water and sewer system construction and improvements, 22 including wastewater reuse facilities;
 - (iii) Sidewalks, traffic controls, and streetlights;
 - (iv) Parking, terminal, and dock facilities;
 - (v) Park and ride facilities of a transit authority;
- 26 (vi) Park facilities and recreational areas, including trails; and
- 27 (vii) Storm water and drainage management systems;
- 28 (b) Expenditures for facilities and improvements that support 29 affordable housing as defined in RCW 43.63A.510.
 - (22) "Public improvement costs" means the cost of: (a) Design, planning, acquisition including land acquisition, site preparation including land clearing, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, and installation of public improvements; (b) demolishing, relocating, maintaining, and operating property pending construction of public improvements; (c) the local government's portion of relocating utilities as a result of public improvements; (d) financing public improvements, including interest during construction, legal and other professional services, taxes, insurance, principal and interest costs

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on general indebtedness issued to finance public improvements, and any necessary reserves for general indebtedness; (e) assessments incurred in revaluing real property for the purpose of determining the property tax allocation revenue base value that are in excess of costs incurred by the assessor in accordance with the revaluation plan under chapter 84.41 RCW, and the costs of apportioning the taxes and complying with this chapter and other applicable law; (f) administrative expenses and feasibility studies reasonably necessary and related to these costs; and (g) any of the above-described costs that may have been incurred before adoption of the ordinance authorizing the public improvements and the use of local infrastructure financing to fund the costs of the public improvements.

- (23) "Regular property taxes" means regular property taxes as defined in RCW 84.04.140, except: (a) Regular property taxes levied by public utility districts specifically for the purpose of making required payments of principal and interest on general indebtedness; (b) regular property taxes levied by the state for the support of the common schools and for the support of state parks under RCW 84.52.065; and (c) regular property taxes authorized by RCW 84.55.050 that are limited to a specific purpose. "Regular property taxes" do not include excess property tax levies that are exempt from the aggregate limits for junior and senior taxing districts as provided in RCW 84.52.043.
- (24) "Property tax allocation revenue base value" means the assessed value of real property located within a revenue development area for taxes levied in the year in which the revenue development area is adopted for collection in the following year, plus one hundred percent of any increase in the assessed value of real property located within a revenue development area that is placed on the assessment rolls after the revenue development area is adopted, less the property tax allocation revenue value.
- (25) "Relocating a business" means the closing of a business and the reopening of that business, or the opening of a new business that engages in the same activities as the previous business, in a different location within a one-year period, when an individual or entity has an ownership interest in the business at the time of closure and at the time of opening or reopening. "Relocating a business" does not include the closing and reopening of a business in a new location where the

business has been acquired and is under entirely new ownership at the new location, or the closing and reopening of a business in a new location as a result of the exercise of the power of eminent domain.

- (26) "Revenue development area" means the geographic area adopted by a sponsoring local government and approved by the board, from which local excise and property tax allocation revenues are derived for local infrastructure financing.
- 8 (27) "Small business" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 9 19.85.020.
 - (28) "Sponsoring local government" means a city, town, or county, and for the purpose of this chapter a federally recognized Indian tribe or any combination thereof, that adopts a revenue development area and applies to the board to use local infrastructure financing.
 - (29) "State contribution" means the lesser of:
 - (a) One million dollars;

- (b) The state excise tax allocation revenue and state property tax allocation revenue received by the state during the preceding calendar year;
 - (c) The total amount of local excise tax allocation revenues, local property tax allocation revenues, and other revenues from local public sources, that are dedicated by a sponsoring local government, any participating local governments, and participating taxing districts, in the preceding calendar year to the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued under RCW 39.102.150 or to pay public improvement costs on a pay-as-you-go basis subject to RCW 39.102.195, or both; or
 - (d) The amount of project award granted by the board in the notice of approval to use local infrastructure financing under RCW 39.102.040.
 - (30) "State excise taxes" means revenues derived from state retail sales and use taxes under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW, less the amount of tax distributions from all local retail sales and use taxes, other than the local sales and use taxes authorized by RCW 82.14.475, imposed on the same taxable events that are credited against the state retail sales and use taxes under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW.
 - (31) "State excise tax allocation revenue" means the amount of state excise taxes received by the state during the measurement year from taxable activity within the revenue development area over and above the amount of state excise taxes received by the state during the

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base year from taxable activity within the revenue development area, except that:

- (a) If a sponsoring local government adopts a revenue development area and reasonably determines that no activity subject to tax under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW occurred within the boundaries of the revenue development area in the twelve months immediately preceding the approval of the revenue development area by the board, "state excise tax allocation revenue" means the entire amount of state excise taxes received by the state during a calendar year period beginning with the calendar year immediately following the approval of the revenue development area by the board and continuing with each measurement year thereafter;
- (b) For revenue development areas approved by the board in calendar years 2006 and 2007 that do not meet the requirements in (a) of this subsection and if legislation is enacted in this state during the 2007 legislative session that adopts the sourcing provisions of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, "state excise tax allocation revenue" means the amount of state excise taxes received by the state during the measurement year from taxable activity within the revenue development area over and above an amount of state excise taxes received by the state during the 2007 or 2008 base year, as the case may be, adjusted by the department for any estimated impacts from retail sales and use tax sourcing changes effective in 2008. The amount of base year adjustment determined by the department is final; and
- (c) If the sponsoring local government of a revenue development area related to a demonstration project reasonably determines that no local excise tax distributions were received between August 1, 2008, and December 31, 2008, from within the boundaries of the revenue development area, "state excise tax allocation revenue" means the entire amount of state excise taxes received by the state during a calendar year period beginning with 2009 and continuing with each measurement year thereafter.
- (32) "State property tax allocation revenue" means those tax revenues derived from the imposition of property taxes levied by the state for the support of common schools <u>and for the support of state parks</u> under RCW 84.52.065 on the property tax allocation revenue value.

- 1 (33) "Real property" has the same meaning as in RCW 84.04.090 and 2 also includes any privately owned improvements located on publicly 3 owned land that are subject to property taxation.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. The secretary of state shall submit this act to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state, in accordance with Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to facilitate its operation.
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act expire July 1, 2015.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2010 through 2014.

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