
HOUSE BILL 1820

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Volz, Tharinger, Senn, McCaslin, Koster, Haler, Shea, Irwin, and Holy

Read first time 01/31/17. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to the maintenance and operations of parks and
2 recreational land acquired through the conservation futures program;
3 and amending RCW 84.34.240.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.34.240 and 2005 c 449 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Conservation futures are a useful tool for counties to preserve
8 lands of public interest for future generations. Counties are
9 encouraged to use some conservation futures as one tool for salmon
10 preservation purposes.

11 (1) Any board of county commissioners may establish by resolution
12 a special fund which may be termed a conservation futures fund to
13 which it may credit all taxes levied pursuant to RCW 84.34.230.
14 Amounts placed in this fund may be used for the purpose of acquiring
15 rights and interests in real property pursuant to the terms of RCW
16 84.34.210 and 84.34.220, and for the maintenance and operation of any
17 property acquired with these funds.

18 (2)(a) Generally, the amount of revenue used for maintenance and
19 operations of parks and recreational land may not exceed fifteen
20 percent of the total amount collected from the tax levied under RCW

1 84.34.230 in the preceding calendar year. Revenues from this tax may
2 not be used to supplant existing maintenance and operation funding.

3 (b) A county may use up to twenty-five percent of the total
4 amount for maintenance and operations of recreational land if the
5 county has:

6 (i) Acquired rights and interests in four hundred or more acres
7 of real property under RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220; and

8 (ii) Collected a conservation futures levy for twenty or more
9 years.

10 (3) Any rights or interests in real property acquired under this
11 section must be located within the assessing county. (~~Further,~~) The
12 county must determine if the rights or interests in real property
13 acquired with these funds would reduce the capacity of land suitable
14 for development necessary to accommodate the allocated housing and
15 employment growth, as adopted in the countywide planning policies.
16 When actions are taken that reduce capacity to accommodate planned
17 growth, the jurisdiction (~~shall~~) must adopt reasonable measures to
18 increase the capacity lost by such actions.

19 (~~(+2)~~) (4) In counties greater than one hundred thousand in
20 population, the board of county commissioners or county legislative
21 authority shall develop a process to help ensure distribution of the
22 tax levied under RCW 84.34.230, over time, throughout the county.

23 (~~(+3)~~) (5)(a) Between July 24, 2005, and July 1, 2008, the
24 county legislative authority of a county with a population density of
25 fewer than four persons per square mile may enact an ordinance
26 offering a ballot proposal to the people of the county to determine
27 whether or not the county legislative authority may make a one-time
28 emergency reallocation of unspent conservation futures funds to pay
29 for other county government purposes, where such conservation futures
30 funds were originally levied under RCW 84.34.230 but never spent to
31 acquire rights and interests in real property.

32 (b) Upon adoption by the county legislative authority of a ballot
33 proposal ordinance under (a) of this subsection the county auditor
34 shall: (i) Confer with the county legislative authority and review
35 any proposal to the people as to form and style; (ii) give the ballot
36 proposal a number, which thereafter (~~shall~~) must be the identifying
37 number for the proposal; (iii) transmit a copy of the proposal to the
38 prosecuting attorney; and (iv) submit the proposal to the people at
39 the next general or special election that is not less than ninety

1 days after the adoption of the ordinance by the county legislative
2 authority.

3 (c) The county prosecuting attorney (~~shall~~) must within fifteen
4 working days of receipt of the proposal compose a concise statement,
5 posed as a positive question, not to exceed twenty-five words, which
6 shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the
7 proposal. Such concise statement (~~shall~~) must be the ballot title.

8 (d) If the measure is affirmed by a majority voting on the issue
9 it shall become effective ten days after the results of the election
10 are certified.

11 (~~(4)~~) (6) Nothing in this section (~~shall~~) may be construed as
12 limiting in any manner methods and funds otherwise available to a
13 county for financing the acquisition of such rights and interests in
14 real property.

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