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SENATE BILL 5962

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature      2017 2nd Special Session

By Senator Chase

Read first time 06/21/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to lowering the property tax levy limit from one  
2 percent to zero to prohibit certain annual property tax increases;  
3 amending RCW 84.55.005 and 84.55.0101; and declaring an emergency.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.55.005 and 2014 c 97 s 316 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9            (1) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the implicit price  
10 deflator for personal consumption expenditures for the United States  
11 as published for the most recent twelve-month period by the bureau of  
12 economic analysis of the federal department of commerce by September  
13 25th of the year before the taxes are payable;

14            (2) "Limit factor" means:

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

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

1 (c) For all other districts, the (~~lesser of one hundred one~~  
2 ~~percent or~~) one hundred percent (~~plus inflation~~); and

3 (3) "Regular property taxes" has the meaning given it in RCW  
4 84.04.140.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.55.0101 and 2007 sp.s. c 1 s 2 are each amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 Upon a finding of substantial need, the legislative authority of  
8 a taxing district other than the state may provide for the use of a  
9 limit factor under this chapter of one hundred (~~one~~) percent or  
10 less. In districts with legislative authorities of four members or  
11 less, two-thirds of the members must approve an ordinance or  
12 resolution under this section. In districts with more than four  
13 members, a majority plus one vote must approve an ordinance or  
14 resolution under this section. The new limit factor (~~shall be~~) is  
15 effective for taxes collected in the following year only.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If any provision of this act or its  
17 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
18 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
19 persons or circumstances is not affected.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
22 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
23 effect immediately.

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