
SENATE BILL 6031

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senator Van De Wege

Prefiled 12/15/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to veterans' assistance levies; amending RCW
2 73.08.080, 84.52.043, 84.52.010, and 84.55.005; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 73.08.080 and 2013 c 123 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The legislative authority in each county must budget and
8 levy, in addition to the county general levy and the taxes now levied
9 by law, a tax in a sum equal to the amount which would be raised by
10 not less than one and one-eighth cents per thousand dollars of
11 assessed value, and not greater than twenty-seven cents per thousand
12 dollars of assessed value against the taxable property of their
13 respective counties, to be levied and collected as now prescribed by
14 law for the assessment and collection of taxes, for the purpose of
15 creating a veterans' assistance fund. Expenditures from the veterans'
16 assistance fund, and interest earned on balances from the fund, may
17 be used only for:

18 (a) The veterans' assistance programs authorized by RCW
19 73.08.010;

1 (b) The burial or cremation of a deceased indigent veteran or
2 deceased family member of an indigent veteran as authorized by RCW
3 73.08.070; and

4 (c) The direct and indirect costs incurred in the administration
5 of the fund as authorized by subsection (2) of this section.

6 (2) If the funds on deposit in the veterans' assistance fund,
7 less outstanding warrants, on the first Tuesday in September exceed
8 the lesser of the expected yield of one and one-eighth cents per
9 thousand dollars of assessed value against the taxable property of
10 the county or the expected yield of a levy determined as set forth in
11 subsection (5) of this section, the county legislative authority may
12 levy a lesser amount than would otherwise be required under
13 subsection (1) or (5) of this section.

14 (3) The direct and indirect costs incurred in the administration
15 of the veterans' assistance fund must be computed by the county
16 auditor, or the chief financial officer in a county operating under a
17 charter, not less than annually. Following the computation of these
18 direct and indirect costs, an amount equal to these costs may then be
19 transferred from the veterans' assistance fund to the county current
20 expense fund.

21 (4) The amount of a levy allocated to the purposes specified in
22 this section may be reduced in the same proportion as the regular
23 property tax levy of the county is reduced by chapter 84.55 RCW.

24 (5)(a) The amount of a levy allocated to the purposes specified
25 in this section may be modified from the amount required by
26 subsection (1) of this section as follows:

27 (i) If the certified levy is reduced from the preceding year's
28 certified levy, the amount of the levy allocated to the purposes
29 specified in this section may be reduced by no more than the same
30 percentage as the certified levy is reduced from the preceding year's
31 certified levy;

32 (ii) If the certified levy is increased from the preceding year's
33 certified levy, the amount of the levy allocated to the purposes
34 specified in this section may not be less than the base allocation
35 increased by the same percentage as the certified levy is increased
36 from the preceding year's certified levy. However, the amount of the
37 levy allocated to the purposes specified in this section does not
38 have to be increased under this subsection (5)(a)(ii) for the portion
39 of a certified levy increase resulting from a voter-approved increase
40 under RCW 84.55.050 that is dedicated to a specific purpose; or

1 (iii) If the certified levy is unchanged from the preceding
2 year's certified levy, the amount of the levy allocated to the
3 purposes specified in this section must be equal to or greater than
4 the base allocation.

5 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions
6 apply:

7 (i) "Base allocation" means the most recent allocation that was
8 not reduced under subsection (2) of this section.

9 (ii) "Certified levy" means the property tax levy for general
10 county purposes certified to the county assessor as required by RCW
11 84.52.070, excluding any amounts certified under chapters 84.69 and
12 84.68 RCW.

13 (6) Subsections (2), (4), and (5) of this section do not preclude
14 a county from increasing the levy amount in subsection (1) of this
15 section to an amount that is greater than the change in the regular
16 county levy.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.52.043 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 13 s 304 are each
18 amended to read as follows:

19 CONFORMING AMENDMENT. Within and subject to the limitations
20 imposed by RCW 84.52.050 as amended, the regular ad valorem tax
21 levies upon real and personal property by the taxing districts
22 hereafter named are as follows:

23 (1) Levies of the senior taxing districts are as follows: (a) The
24 levies by the state may not exceed the applicable aggregate rate
25 limit specified in RCW 84.52.065 (2) or (4) adjusted to the state
26 equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the
27 state department of revenue to be used exclusively for the support of
28 the common schools; (b) the levy by any county may not exceed one
29 dollar and eighty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value; (c)
30 the levy by any road district may not exceed two dollars and twenty-
31 five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value; and (d) the levy
32 by any city or town may not exceed three dollars and thirty-seven and
33 one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. However any
34 county is hereby authorized to increase its levy from one dollar and
35 eighty cents to a rate not to exceed two dollars and forty-seven and
36 one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for general
37 county purposes if the total levies for both the county and any road
38 district within the county do not exceed four dollars and five cents

1 per thousand dollars of assessed value, and no other taxing district
2 has its levy reduced as a result of the increased county levy.

3 (2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior
4 taxing districts, other than the state, may not exceed five dollars
5 and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The term
6 "junior taxing districts" includes all taxing districts other than
7 the state, counties, road districts, cities, towns, port districts,
8 and public utility districts. The limitations provided in this
9 subsection do not apply to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by
10 existing law by or for any port or public utility district; (b)
11 excess property tax levies authorized in Article VII, section 2 of
12 the state Constitution; (c) levies for acquiring conservation futures
13 as authorized under RCW 84.34.230; (d) levies for emergency medical
14 care or emergency medical services imposed under RCW 84.52.069; (e)
15 levies to finance affordable housing for very low-income housing
16 imposed under RCW 84.52.105; (f) the portions of levies by
17 metropolitan park districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.120;
18 (g) levies imposed by ferry districts under RCW 36.54.130; (h) levies
19 for criminal justice purposes under RCW 84.52.135; (i) the portions
20 of levies by fire protection districts and regional fire protection
21 service authorities that are protected under RCW 84.52.125; (j)
22 levies by counties for transit-related purposes under RCW 84.52.140;
23 (k) the portion of the levy by flood control zone districts that are
24 protected under RCW 84.52.816; ~~((and))~~ (l) levies imposed by a
25 regional transit authority under RCW 81.104.175; and (m) levies for
26 veterans' assistance under RCW 73.08.080.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 84.52.010 and 2017 c 196 s 10 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) Except as is permitted under RCW 84.55.050, all taxes must be
30 levied or voted in specific amounts.

31 (2) The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes,
32 and purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, must be
33 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
34 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
35 assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the
36 completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes
37 levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county must be
38 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
39 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the

1 assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts
2 respectively.

3 (3) When a county assessor finds that the aggregate rate of tax
4 levy on any property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in
5 RCW 84.52.043 or 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in
6 either of these sections, the assessor must recompute and establish a
7 consolidated levy in the following manner:

8 (a) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county,
9 county road district, regional transit authority, and city or town
10 purposes must be extended on the tax rolls in amounts not exceeding
11 the limitations established by law; however any state levy takes
12 precedence over all other levies and may not be reduced for any
13 purpose other than that required by RCW 84.55.010. If, as a result of
14 the levies imposed under RCW 36.54.130, 73.08.080, 84.34.230,
15 84.52.069, 84.52.105, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park
16 district that was protected under RCW 84.52.120, 84.52.125,
17 84.52.135, and 84.52.140, and the portion of the levy by a flood
18 control zone district that was protected under RCW 84.52.816, the
19 combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the
20 one percent limitation exceeds one percent of the true and fair value
21 of any property, then these levies must be reduced as follows:

22 (i) The portion of the levy by a flood control zone district that
23 was protected under RCW 84.52.816 must be reduced until the combined
24 rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any
25 property or must be eliminated;

26 (ii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
27 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
28 the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a county
29 under RCW 84.52.140 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer
30 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or
31 must be eliminated;

32 (iii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
33 are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent
34 of the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy
35 by a fire protection district or regional fire protection service
36 authority that is protected under RCW 84.52.125 must be reduced until
37 the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair
38 value of any property or must be eliminated;

39 (iv) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
40 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of

1 the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a county
2 under RCW 84.52.135 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer
3 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or
4 must be eliminated;

5 (v) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
6 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
7 the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a ferry
8 district under RCW 36.54.130 must be reduced until the combined rate
9 no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any
10 property or must be eliminated;

11 (vi) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
12 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
13 the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy by a
14 metropolitan park district that is protected under RCW 84.52.120 must
15 be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of
16 the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

17 (vii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
18 are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent
19 of the true and fair value of any property, then the levies imposed
20 under RCW 84.34.230, 84.52.105, and any portion of the levy imposed
21 under RCW 84.52.069 that is in excess of thirty cents per thousand
22 dollars of assessed value, must be reduced on a pro rata basis until
23 the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair
24 value of any property or must be eliminated; and

25 (viii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
26 are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent
27 of the true and fair value of any property, then the thirty cents per
28 thousand dollars of assessed value of tax levy imposed under RCW
29 84.52.069 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds
30 one percent of the true and fair value of any property or eliminated.

31 (b) The certified rates of tax levy subject to these limitations
32 by all junior taxing districts imposing taxes on such property must
33 be reduced or eliminated as follows to bring the consolidated levy of
34 taxes on such property within the provisions of these limitations:

35 (i) First, the certified property tax levy authorized under RCW
36 84.52.821 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

37 (ii) Second, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
38 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of those
39 junior taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525, 36.69.145,

1 35.95A.100, and 67.38.130 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or
2 eliminated;

3 (iii) Third, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
4 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of flood
5 control zone districts other than the portion of a levy protected
6 under RCW 84.52.816 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or
7 eliminated;

8 (iv) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
9 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all other
10 junior taxing districts, other than fire protection districts,
11 regional fire protection service authorities, library districts, the
12 first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies
13 for metropolitan park districts, and the first fifty cent per
14 thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for public hospital
15 districts, must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

16 (v) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
17 limitations, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed
18 valuation levies for metropolitan park districts created on or after
19 January 1, 2002, must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

20 (vi) Sixth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
21 limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized to fire
22 protection districts under RCW 52.16.140 and 52.16.160 and regional
23 fire protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1) (b) and
24 (c) must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated; and

25 (vii) Seventh, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
26 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized
27 for fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, regional fire
28 protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1)(a), library
29 districts, metropolitan park districts created before January 1,
30 2002, under their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed
31 valuation levy, and public hospital districts under their first fifty
32 cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy, must be reduced
33 on a pro rata basis or eliminated.

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 84.55.005 and 2014 c 97 s 316 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
37 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

38 (1) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the implicit price
39 deflator for personal consumption expenditures for the United States

1 as published for the most recent twelve-month period by the bureau of
2 economic analysis of the federal department of commerce by September
3 25th of the year before the taxes are payable((+)).

4 (2) "Limit factor" means:

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

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

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

13 (d) For the veterans' assistance levy under RCW 73.08.080, the
14 greater of one hundred one percent or inflation.

15 (3) "Regular property taxes" has the meaning given it in RCW
16 84.04.140.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act applies to taxes levied for
18 collection in 2019 and thereafter.

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