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SENATE BILL 6575

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes and Van De Wege

1 AN ACT Relating to protected lands not being assessed local fire  
2 district levies; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) On September 13, 2017, the joint  
5 legislative audit and review committee distributed 17-06 final  
6 report: Fees assessed for forest fire protection. The report  
7 identified more than twenty thousand parcels of land that do not pay  
8 the forest fire protection assessment or a local fire district levy,  
9 but are likely still protected by the department of natural resources  
10 or a local fire district.

11 The legislature finds that fire protection services at the state  
12 and local level are vital to the preservation of public and personal  
13 property throughout the state. The legislature further finds that  
14 fire protection resources are very limited in carrying out the  
15 substantial duties that fire protection services are asked to  
16 perform. Therefore, properties that benefit from fire protection  
17 should be required to contribute to the operation and maintenance of  
18 such essential services.

19 (2) County assessors must submit a list of any parcel or parcels  
20 of land within their county that are under the protection of a local

1 fire district's jurisdiction but are not presently being assessed a  
2 local fire district levy.

3 (3) By resolution, the legislative authority of a county must  
4 approve the annexation of any parcel or parcels of land submitted  
5 under subsection (2) of this section into a respective local fire  
6 district.

7 (4) Annexations of a parcel or parcels of land under subsection  
8 (3) of this section must be completed by January 1, 2020.

9 (5) For the purposes of this section, "local fire district" means  
10 a fire district, regional fire protection service authority, city,  
11 town, port, district, or municipal airport.

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