

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SJR 8202

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As of January 9, 2007

**Brief Description:** Amending the Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize a school levy.

**Sponsors:** Senators Eide, McAuliffe, Weinstein, Jacobsen, Shin, Kohl-Welles, Pridemore, Fairley, Spanel, Rockefeller, Berkey, Rasmussen, Kastama, Keiser, Poulsen, Hatfield, Tom, Prentice, Haugen, Regala, Franklin, Brown, Kilmer, Murray, Fraser, Marr, Kline and Kauffman.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/15/07.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Staff:** Bryon Moore (786-7726)

**Background:** The Washington State Constitution gives school districts the power to levy additional taxes and assume debt upon voter approval.

Excess Property Tax Levies: There are two methods for authorizing excess property taxes for school districts. The first method requires a 40 percent voter turnout; the other does not. In the first method, a levy is approved if at least 60 percent of those voting in a school district election vote "yes" and the number of voters who turn out exceeds 40 percent of the voters who participated in the district's last general election. In the second method, a levy is approved if the number of "yes" votes is at least equal to 60 percent of the 40 percent of the number of voters who voted in the district's last general election.

To amend the Constitution, a bill must be passed by a two-thirds majority of both houses of the Legislature and approved by a majority of the people.

**Summary of Bill:** An amendment to the Washington State Constitution is proposed to provide for a simple majority of voters to authorize excess capital, maintenance and operation, and transportation levies for school districts. The amendment removes the 40 percent election validation requirement for levy elections.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 6, 2007.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Effective Date:** Upon approval by the voters.