HOUSE BILL 2126

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 2nd Special Session

By Representatives Armstrong, Condotta, and Hunter; by request of State Treasurer

Prefiled 11/23/11. Read first time 11/28/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

AN ACT Relating to a plan of finance to prevent the default of bonds issued by distressed public facilities districts; amending RCW 82.14.390, 82.14.050, and 43.79A.040; adding new sections to chapter 35.57 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 82.14 RCW; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. Findings. The legislature finds that preventing a default on debt issued by public facilities districts is 8 9 in the best interest of the state, its municipalities, and its citizens 10 as a whole. The legislature further finds that it is an important 11 state purpose to provide sufficient tools to assist public facilities districts when the threat of default is imminent. 12 Therefore, the 13 legislature finds it is necessary to act swiftly to provide the tools necessary to prevent a default on debt issued by public facilities 14 15 districts prior to the next regularly scheduled legislative session.

16 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 35.57 RCW 17 to read as follows:

18 When a public facilities district qualifies as a distressed public

facilities district, the provisions of sections 1 through 10 of this act supersede any agreements or any terms of any agreements between or among the jurisdictions forming the public facilities district to the extent agreements or any terms thereof are inconsistent with sections 1 through 10 of this act.

6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 35.57 RCW 7 to read as follows:

8 The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and 9 sections 1, 2, and 4 through 10 of this act unless the context clearly 10 requires otherwise.

(1) "Anchor jurisdiction" means the city that has entered into an agreement to form a public facilities district that constitutes a distressed public facilities district under this chapter and in which the largest asset of the distressed public facilities district is located.

16 (2) "Distressed public facilities district" means a public 17 facilities district that is at imminent risk of default due to an 18 inability to pay indebtedness on or before December 31, 2011, as 19 determined by the state treasurer.

20 (3) "Indebtedness" means bonds, notes, or other evidences of 21 indebtedness together with interest.

22 (4) "Identified obligation" means an indebtedness of a distressed 23 public facilities district which, without intervention, is at imminent risk of default according to its terms. Notwithstanding any form of 24 25 refinancing of the identified obligation, including but not limited to 26 a loan administered by the state and any subsequent refinancing of that loan in whole or in part, such an obligation will remain the 27 28 "identified obligation" until the original amount of the obligation, 29 plus accrued interest, is paid in full.

30 (5) "Loan" or "loan administered by the state" means any 31 expenditure made out of the distressed public facilities district 32 obligation account pursuant to section 4 of this act.

33 (6) "Related jurisdiction" means a city or county that has entered 34 into an agreement to form a public facilities district that is 35 determined to be a distressed public facilities district under this 36 chapter.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 35.57 RCW
 to read as follows:

(1) The distressed public facilities district obligation account is
created in the custody of the state treasurer. Expenditures from the
account may be used only for loans to distressed public facilities
districts made in accordance with the terms set forth in this section.
Only the state treasurer may authorize expenditures from this account.

8 (2) The state treasurer is authorized to make a loan from the 9 distressed public facilities district obligation account to pay the 10 identified obligation of any distressed public facilities district with 11 funds transferred pursuant to section 5 of this act.

12 (3) Any funds applied to the repayment of the loan must be 13 deposited into the distressed public facilities district obligation 14 account. After any expenditures from the account are made as directed in subsection (2) of this section, the state treasurer periodically 15 must transfer the balance in the distressed public facilities district 16 17 obligation account to the local sales and use tax account, which must 18 include interest accruing on the loan as well as any interest earnings 19 attributable to the distressed public facilities district obligation 20 account.

(4) When the state makes a loan to pay an identified obligation, the state treasurer must collect from the distressed public facilities district, the anchor jurisdiction, and related jurisdictions an amount equal to the total amount of the identified obligation including accrued interest. The conditions of the loan and its repayment are as follows:

(a) The term of the loan is eleven years subject to prepayment inwhole or in part;

(b) Interest accrues monthly at a variable rate equal to the twenty
bond general obligation bond buyer index plus one percentage point and
begins accruing on January 1, 2012; and

32 (c) The taxes identified in subsection (5) of this section, and in 33 the order specified therein, must be diverted from the local sales and 34 use tax account to the distressed public facilities district obligation 35 account for repayment of the loan, in amounts sufficient to make equal 36 monthly payments of principal plus interest over the remaining term. 37 If a lump sum payment is received on a portion of the loan, the 38 principal amount on the outstanding loan must be reduced by the lump

1 sum payment and monthly payments must be recalculated accordingly. In 2 no event may the requirement to make monthly payments be eliminated in 3 any month.

4 (5) The state treasurer must divert taxes collected by the 5 distressed public facilities district, anchor jurisdiction, and related 6 jurisdictions each month for deposit into the distressed public 7 facilities district obligation account in the following priority order 8 until each respective monthly obligation is met:

9 (a) If the distressed public facilities district imposes the 10 maximum tax allowed under section 6 of this act:

(i) First, all taxes collected by or on behalf of the distressed public facilities district pursuant to RCW 82.14.390 beginning January 1, 2013;

14 (ii) Second, all taxes collected by or on behalf of the distressed 15 public facilities district pursuant to section 6 of this act beginning 16 on the first day such taxes would otherwise be disbursed to the 17 distressed public facilities district;

(iii) Third, all taxes collected by or on behalf of the anchor jurisdiction under section 7 of this act beginning on the first day such taxes would otherwise be disbursed to the anchor jurisdiction;

(iv) Fourth, all taxes collected by or on behalf of any related jurisdiction under section 7 of this act beginning on the first day such taxes would otherwise be disbursed to the related jurisdiction; and

(v) Fifth, taxes collected by or on behalf of the anchor jurisdiction under RCW 82.14.030 beginning January 1, 2013, to the extent monthly payment obligations cannot be met with revenues collected from (a)(i) through (iv) of this subsection (5).

(b) If the distressed public facilities district does not imposethe maximum amount of the tax provided for in section 6 of this act:

(i) First, all taxes collected by or on behalf of the distressed public facilities district pursuant to RCW 82.14.390 beginning January 1, 2013;

34 (ii) Second, all taxes collected by or on behalf of the distressed 35 public facilities district pursuant to section 6 of this act beginning 36 on the first day such taxes would otherwise be disbursed to the 37 distressed public facilities district;

(iii) Third, taxes collected by or on behalf of a related 1 2 jurisdiction or anchor jurisdiction pursuant to section 7 of this act beginning on the first day such taxes would otherwise be disbursed to 3 4 the jurisdiction. The amount so collected by or on behalf of a jurisdiction in a given month must be credited against the amount owed 5 in that month by such jurisdiction under (b)(iv) of this subsection 6 7 (5). Any excess collected must also be applied to repayment of the 8 loan;

9 (iv) Fourth, taxes collected by or on behalf of the anchor 10 jurisdiction and related jurisdictions pursuant to RCW 82.14.030 in an aggregate amount which, when combined with any taxes collected under 11 12 section 6 of this act, will equal fifty percent of the monthly payment 13 due on the loan. Such aggregate amount must be collected from the 14 anchor jurisdiction and related jurisdictions on a pro rata basis based on the percentage of local sales tax collected by each jurisdiction in 15 the preceding calendar year, or based on an allocation among the 16 17 jurisdictions specified in an agreement adopted by all of the related 18 jurisdictions. If a lump sum payment is received on a portion of the 19 loan, the principal amount on the outstanding loan must be reduced by 20 the lump sum payment and monthly payments must be recalculated 21 accordingly; and

(v) Fifth, taxes collected by or on behalf of the anchor jurisdiction pursuant to RCW 82.14.030 and any other legally available revenue of the anchor jurisdiction to the extent monthly payment obligations cannot be met with revenues collected from (b)(i) through (iv) of this subsection (5).

(6) Diversion of taxes under subsection (5) of this section terminates once the loan and any accumulated interest have been paid in full. Any excess remaining in the distressed public facilities district obligation account must be transferred to the distressed public facilities district.

32 (7) Any taxes collected pursuant to RCW 82.14.390 or section 6 or 33 7 of this act may be pledged by the distressed public facilities 34 district, anchor jurisdiction, or related jurisdiction respectively, to 35 bonds issued to retire the loan or any portion of the loan administered 36 by the state. So long as any portion of the loan to the state is 37 outstanding, taxes may be pledged accordingly:

1 (a) If a distressed public facilities district issues bonds to 2 repay a portion of the loan, taxes authorized to be levied by such 3 district under RCW 82.14.390 and section 6 of this act may be pledged 4 by such district to the repayment of the indebtedness provided that 5 amounts collected but not required for the next scheduled principal and 6 interest payment must remain available to the state for repayment of 7 the loan;

8 (b) If an anchor jurisdiction issues bonds to repay a portion of 9 the loan, taxes authorized under section 7 of this act and imposed by 10 the anchor jurisdiction may be pledged by the anchor jurisdiction to 11 the repayment of the indebtedness provided that amounts collected but 12 not required for the next scheduled principal and interest payment must 13 remain available to the state for repayment of the loan; and

(c) If a related jurisdiction issues bonds to repay a portion of the loan, taxes authorized under section 7 of this act and imposed by that related jurisdiction may be pledged to the repayment of such indebtedness. However, amounts collected but not required for the next scheduled principal and interest payment must remain available to the state for repayment of the loan.

20 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 5. On the effective date of this section, the 21 state treasurer must transfer into the distressed public facilities 22 district obligation account from the local sales and use tax account 23 the sum of forty-two million dollars.

24 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 82.14 RCW 25 to read as follows:

26 (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in law or by agreement among the cities or counties forming a public facilities district under 27 chapter 35.57 RCW, the governing body of a public facilities district 28 29 that qualifies as a distressed public facilities district, as defined 30 in section 3 of this act, may, by majority vote, impose a sales and use tax as described in this section. Alternatively, the governing body 31 32 may submit an authorizing proposition to the voters of the district, and if the proposition is approved by a majority of the persons voting, 33 34 impose such a sales and use tax. The tax is in addition to other taxes 35 authorized by law and is collected from those persons who are taxable 36 by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of

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any taxable event within the taxing jurisdiction. The rate of tax may
 not exceed two-tenths of one percent of the selling price, in the case
 of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

4 (2) The governing body of a distressed public facilities district
5 must provide in its resolution authorizing such a tax:

6 (a) The maximum amount of the identified obligation, as defined in 7 section 3 of this act, to be paid with the proceeds of the tax and the 8 maximum term or terms of its repayment;

9 (b) The amount of revenue currently collected by the distressed 10 public facilities district; and

11 (c) The maximum amount of tax revenue needed to pay the identified 12 obligation.

(3) Once imposed, this tax remains in effect so long as any portionof the identified obligation is outstanding.

(4) A distressed public facilities district may not impose the tax
authorized in this section after December 31st of the year in which the
identified obligation has been paid or legally defeased.

18 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 82.14 RCW 19 to read as follows:

20 (1) The legislative authority of either an anchor jurisdiction or 21 a related jurisdiction of a distressed public facilities district as 22 defined in section 3 of this act, may, by majority vote, impose a sales 23 and use tax in accordance with the requirements of this section. 24 Alternatively, the legislative authority may submit an authorizing 25 proposition to the voters, and if the proposition is approved by a 26 majority of the persons voting, impose such a sales and use tax. The 27 tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and is collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 28 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the 29 30 taxing jurisdiction. The rate of tax may not exceed two-tenths of one 31 percent of the selling price, in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax. 32

33 (2) Any tax imposed under this section must be directed in the 34 following priority order:

(a) First, to make debt service payments or other repayments on
debt issued to which the taxes are pledged by the anchor jurisdiction
or related jurisdiction as defined in section 3 of this act;

1 (b) Second, to repay the loan administered by the state to the 2 distressed public facilities district as defined in section 3 of this 3 act, according to its terms; and

4 (c) Third, to make payments to the distressed public facilities
5 district to increase revenues available to it for capital improvements,
6 operations, or to build reserves.

7 (3) Neither an anchor jurisdiction nor a related jurisdiction may 8 impose the tax authorized in this section after December 31st of the 9 year in which the identified obligation has been paid or legally 10 defeased.

11 **Sec. 8.** RCW 82.14.390 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 s 973 are each 12 amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, the 13 governing body of a public facilities district (a) created before July 14 31, 2002, under chapter 35.57 or 36.100 RCW that commences construction 15 16 of a new regional center, or improvement or rehabilitation of an existing new regional center, before January 1, 2004; (b) created 17 18 before July 1, 2006, under chapter 35.57 RCW in a county or counties in which there are no other public facilities districts on June 7, 2006, 19 20 and in which the total population in the public facilities district is 21 greater than ninety thousand that commences construction of a new 22 regional center before February 1, 2007; (c) created under the authority of RCW 35.57.010(1)(d); or (d) created before September 1, 23 2007, under chapter 35.57 or 36.100 RCW, in a county or counties in 24 25 which there are no other public facilities districts on July 22, 2007, 26 and in which the total population in the public facilities district is greater than seventy thousand, that commences construction of a new 27 regional center before January 1, 2009, or before January 1, 2011, in 28 29 the case of a new regional center in a county designated by the president as a disaster area in December 2007, may impose a sales and 30 31 use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax is in 32 addition to other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from 33 those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 34 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the public 35 facilities district. The rate of tax may not exceed 0.033 percent of 36 the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article 37 used in the case of a use tax.

(2)(a) The governing body of a public facilities district imposing 1 2 a sales and use tax under the authority of this section may increase the rate of tax up to 0.037 percent if, within three fiscal years of 3 July 1, 2008, the department determines that, as a result of RCW 4 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020, 5 a public facilities district's sales and use tax collections for fiscal 6 years after July 1, 2008, have been reduced by a net loss of at least 7 8 0.50 percent from the fiscal year before July 1, 2008. The fiscal year 9 in which this section becomes effective is the first fiscal year after 10 July 1, 2008.

(b) The department must determine sales and use tax collection net losses under this section as provided in RCW 82.14.500 (2) and (3). The department must provide written notice of its determinations to public facilities districts. Determinations by the department of a public facilities district's sales and use tax collection net losses as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020 are final and not appealable.

18 (c) A public facilities district may increase its rate of tax after 19 it has received written notice from the department as provided in (b) of this subsection. The increase in the rate of tax must be made in 20 21 0.001 percent increments and must be the least amount necessary to 22 mitigate the net loss in sales and use tax collections as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 23 24 82.14.020. The increase in the rate of tax is subject to RCW 25 82.14.055.

26 (3) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section must be 27 deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or 28 paid over to the department of revenue under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 29 The department of revenue must perform the collection of such RCW. 30 taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the public facilities During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, distributions by the 31 district. 32 state to a public facilities district based on the additional rate 33 authorized in subsection (2) of this section must be reduced by 3.4 34 percent.

35 (4)(a) No tax may be collected under this section before August 1, 36 2000. <u>Subject to (b) of this subsection, the tax imposed in this</u> 37 section expires when:

1 (i) The bonds issued for the construction of the regional center
2 and related parking facilities are retired((, but)); or

3 (ii) The identified obligation of a distressed public facilities
4 district has been paid. For the purposes of this subsection,
5 "identified obligation" and "distressed public facilities district"
6 have the same meanings as provided in section 3 of this act.

7 (b) The tax imposed in this section must expire not more than 8 twenty-five years after the tax is first collected.

(5) Moneys collected under this section may only be used for the 9 purposes set forth in RCW 35.57.020 and, sections 2 and 4 of this act 10 and must be matched with an amount from other public or private sources 11 12 equal to thirty-three percent of the amount collected under this section; however, amounts generated from nonvoter approved taxes 13 14 authorized under chapter 35.57 RCW or nonvoter approved taxes authorized under chapter 36.100 RCW do not constitute a public or 15 private source. For the purpose of this section, public or private 16 17 sources includes, but is not limited to cash or in-kind contributions used in all phases of the development or improvement of the regional 18 center, land that is donated and used for the siting of the regional 19 center, cash or in-kind contributions from public or private 20 21 foundations, or amounts attributed to private sector partners as part 22 of a public and private partnership agreement negotiated by the public 23 facilities district.

(6) The combined total tax levied under this section may not be greater than 0.037 percent. If both a public facilities district created under chapter 35.57 RCW and a public facilities district created under chapter 36.100 RCW impose a tax under this section, the tax imposed by a public facilities district created under chapter 35.57 RCW must be credited against the tax imposed by a public facilities district created under chapter 36.100 RCW.

31 (7) A public facilities district created under chapter 36.100 RCW 32 is not eligible to impose the tax under this section if the legislative 33 authority of the county where the public facilities district is located 34 has imposed a sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.0485 or 82.14.0494.

35 **Sec. 9.** RCW 82.14.050 and 2009 c 469 s 107 are each amended to 36 read as follows:

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(1) The counties, cities, and transportation authorities under RCW

82.14.045, public facilities districts under chapters 36.100 and 35.57 1 2 RCW, public transportation benefit areas under RCW 82.14.440, regional transportation investment districts, and transportation benefit 3 4 districts under chapter 36.73 RCW shall contract, prior to the effective date of a resolution or ordinance imposing a sales and use 5 tax, the administration and collection to the state department of 6 revenue, which shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by 7 contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected for 8 9 administration and collection expenses incurred by the department. The remainder of any portion of any tax authorized by this chapter that is 10 11 collected by the department of revenue shall be deposited by the state 12 department of revenue in the local sales and use tax account hereby 13 created in the state treasury. Moneys in the local sales and use tax account may be withdrawn only for: 14

(a) Distribution to counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, public transportation benefit areas, regional transportation investment districts, and transportation benefit districts imposing a sales and use tax; ((and))

(b) Making refunds of taxes imposed under the authority of this chapter and RCW 81.104.170 and exempted under RCW 82.08.962 and 82.12.962; and

(c) Transfers to the distressed public facilities district
 obligation account as provided in section 5 of this act.

(2) All administrative provisions in chapters 82.03, 82.08, 82.12,
and 82.32 RCW, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended, shall,
insofar as they are applicable to state sales and use taxes, be
applicable to taxes imposed pursuant to this chapter.

(3) Counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities
 districts, and regional transportation investment districts may not
 conduct independent sales or use tax audits of sellers registered under
 the streamlined sales tax agreement.

32 (4) Except as provided in RCW 43.08.190, all earnings of 33 investments of balances in the local sales and use tax account shall be 34 credited to the local sales and use tax account and distributed to the 35 counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities 36 districts, public transportation benefit areas, regional transportation 37 investment districts, and transportation benefit districts monthly. 1 Sec. 10. RCW 43.79A.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 37 s 603 are each
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited, invested, 4 and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.84.080 5 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the money were in the 6 state treasury, and may be commingled with moneys in the state treasury 7 for cash management and cash balance purposes.

8 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust 9 fund must be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be 10 known as the investment income account.

11 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment 12 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds 13 but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, including, and 14 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to 15 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to 16 17 financial institutions. Payments must occur prior to distribution of 18 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

19 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer must distribute the earnings 20 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund 21 except under (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection.

22 (b) The following accounts and funds must receive their 23 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's 24 daily balance for the period: The Washington promise average 25 scholarship account, the college savings program account, the 26 Washington advanced college tuition payment program account, the 27 accessible communities account, the community and technical college 28 innovation account, the agricultural local fund, the American Indian 29 scholarship endowment fund, the foster care scholarship endowment fund, 30 the foster care endowed scholarship trust fund, the students with dependents grant account, the basic health plan self-insurance reserve 31 32 account, the contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state combined fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the 33 34 county enhanced 911 excise tax account, the Washington international 35 exchange scholarship endowment fund, the toll collection account, the 36 developmental disabilities endowment trust fund, the distressed public 37 facilities district obligation account, the energy account, the fair fund, the family leave insurance account, the food animal veterinarian 38

conditional scholarship account, the fruit and vegetable inspection 1 2 account, the future teachers conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative account, the GET ready for math and science 3 scholarship account, the Washington global health technologies and 4 product development account, the grain inspection revolving fund, the 5 6 industrial insurance rainy day fund, the juvenile accountability incentive account, the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' plan 7 8 2 expense fund, the local tourism promotion account, the pilotage account, the produce railcar pool account, the regional transportation 9 10 investment district account, the rural rehabilitation account, the 11 stadium and exhibition center account, the youth athletic facility 12 account, the self-insurance revolving fund, the sulfur dioxide 13 abatement account, the children's trust fund, the Washington horse racing commission Washington bred owners' bonus fund and breeder awards 14 15 account, the Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account, the individual development account program account, the 16 17 Washington horse racing commission operating account (earnings from the 18 Washington horse racing commission operating account must be credited 19 to the Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account), the life sciences discovery fund, the Washington state heritage center 20 21 account, the reduced cigarette ignition propensity account, and the 22 reading achievement account.

(c) The following accounts and funds must receive eighty percent of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right-of-way revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving account, the federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high occupancy vehicle account, the local rail service assistance account, and the miscellaneous transportation programs account.

30 (d) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts 31 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the custody of the 32 state treasurer that deposits funds into a fund or account in the 33 custody of the state treasurer pursuant to an agreement with the office 34 of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share of 35 earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for 36 the period.

37 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state

Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings
 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

3 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 11. If any provision of this act or its 4 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the 5 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other 6 persons or circumstances is not affected.

7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 12.** This act is necessary for the immediate 8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the 9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect 10 immediately.

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