
HOUSE BILL 2919

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Chopp and Tharinger

Read first time 02/03/20. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to adjusting the amount and use of county fees on
2 the real estate excise tax; and amending RCW 82.45.180.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.45.180 and 2013 c 251 s 11 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) For taxes collected by the county under this chapter, the
7 county treasurer shall collect a five dollar fee on all transactions
8 required by this chapter where the transaction does not require the
9 payment of tax. A total of five dollars shall be collected in the
10 form of a tax and fee, where the calculated tax payment is less than
11 five dollars. (~~Through June 30, 2006, the county treasurer shall~~
12 ~~place one percent of the taxes collected by the county under this~~
13 ~~chapter and the treasurer's fee in the county current expense fund to~~
14 ~~defray costs of collection. After June 30, 2006))~~

15 (b)(i) Except as otherwise provided in (b)(ii) and (c) of this
16 subsection, the county treasurer shall place one and three-tenths
17 percent of the taxes collected by the county under this chapter and
18 the treasurer's fee in the county current expense fund to defray
19 costs of collection. (~~For taxes collected by the county under this~~
20 ~~chapter before July 1, 2006, the county treasurer shall pay over to~~
21 ~~the state treasurer and account to the department of revenue for the~~

1 ~~proceeds at the same time the county treasurer remits funds to the~~
2 ~~state under RCW 84.56.280.)~~)

3 (ii) In a county with a population greater than two million, the
4 county treasurer shall retain one and three-tenths percent of the
5 taxes collected by the county under this chapter. Seventy-five
6 percent of the one and three-tenths percent of the taxes collected
7 and retained and the treasurer's fee must be deposited in the county
8 current expense fund to defray costs of collection. The remaining
9 twenty-five percent of the one and three-tenths percent of the taxes
10 collected and retained may be used for operations and maintenance of
11 permanent supportive housing programs in the county.

12 (c) For counties with a population of less than two hundred
13 thirty thousand, the county treasurer shall retain one and forty-
14 eight hundredths percent of the taxes collected by the county under
15 this chapter and the treasurer's fee in the county current expense
16 fund to defray costs of collection.

17 (d) For taxes collected by the county under this chapter ((after
18 June 30, 2006)), on a monthly basis the county treasurer shall pay
19 over to the state treasurer the month's transmittal. The month's
20 transmittal must be received by the state treasurer by 12:00 p.m. on
21 the last working day of each month. The county treasurer shall
22 account to the department for the month's transmittal by the
23 twentieth day of the month following the month in which the month's
24 transmittal was paid over to the state treasurer. The state treasurer
25 shall deposit the proceeds in the general fund.

26 ~~((b))~~ (e) For purposes of this subsection, the definitions in
27 this subsection apply.

28 (i) "Close of business" means the time when the county treasurer
29 makes his or her daily deposit of proceeds.

30 (ii) "Month's transmittal" means all proceeds deposited by the
31 county through the close of business of the day that is two working
32 days before the last working day of the month. This definition of
33 "month's transmittal" shall not be construed as requiring any change
34 in a county's practices regarding the timing of its daily deposits of
35 proceeds.

36 (iii) "Proceeds" means moneys collected and receipted by the
37 county from the taxes imposed by this chapter, less the county's
38 share of the proceeds used to defray the county's costs of collection
39 allowable in ~~((a))~~ (b) and (c) of this subsection.

1 (iv) "Working day" means a calendar day, except Saturdays,
2 Sundays, and all legal holidays as provided in RCW 1.16.050.

3 (2) For taxes collected by the department of revenue under this
4 chapter, the department shall remit the tax to the state treasurer
5 who shall deposit the proceeds of any state tax in the general fund.
6 The state treasurer shall deposit the proceeds of any local taxes
7 imposed under chapter 82.46 RCW in the local real estate excise tax
8 account hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys in the local
9 real estate excise tax account may be spent only for distribution to
10 counties, cities, and towns imposing a tax under chapter 82.46 RCW.
11 Except as provided in RCW 43.08.190, all earnings of investments of
12 balances in the local real estate excise tax account shall be
13 credited to the local real estate excise tax account and distributed
14 to the counties, cities, and towns monthly. Monthly the state
15 treasurer shall make distribution from the local real estate excise
16 tax account to the counties, cities, and towns the amount of tax
17 collected on behalf of each taxing authority. The state treasurer
18 shall make the distribution under this subsection without
19 appropriation.

20 (3) (a) (~~Through June 30, 2010, the~~) The county treasurer shall
21 collect an additional five dollar fee on all transactions required by
22 this chapter, regardless of whether the transaction requires the
23 payment of tax. The county treasurer shall remit this fee to the
24 state treasurer at the same time the county treasurer remits funds to
25 the state under subsection (1) of this section. The state treasurer
26 shall place money from this fee in the general fund. By the twentieth
27 day of the subsequent month, the state treasurer shall distribute to
28 each county treasurer according to the following formula: Three-
29 quarters of the funds available shall be equally distributed among
30 the thirty-nine counties; and the balance shall be ratably
31 distributed among the counties in direct proportion to their
32 population as it relates to the total state's population based on
33 most recent statistics by the office of financial management.

34 (b) When received by the county treasurer, the funds shall be
35 placed in a special real estate excise tax electronic technology fund
36 held by the county treasurer to be used exclusively for the
37 development, implementation, and maintenance of an electronic
38 processing and reporting system for real estate excise tax
39 affidavits. Funds may be expended to make the system compatible with
40 the automated real estate excise tax system developed by the

1 department and compatible with the processes used in the offices of
2 the county assessor and county auditor. Any funds held in the account
3 that are not expended by the earlier of: July 1, 2015, or at such
4 time that the county treasurer is utilizing an electronic processing
5 and reporting system for real estate excise tax affidavits compatible
6 with the department and compatible with the processes used in the
7 offices of the county assessor and county auditor, revert to the
8 special real estate and property tax administration assistance
9 account in accordance with subsection ~~((5))~~ (4)(c) of this section.

10 (4) ~~((Beginning July 1, 2010, through December 31, 2013, the~~
11 ~~county treasurer shall continue to collect the additional five dollar~~
12 ~~fee in subsection (3) of this section on all transactions required by~~
13 ~~this chapter, regardless of whether the transaction requires the~~
14 ~~payment of tax. During this period, the county treasurer shall remit~~
15 ~~this fee to the state treasurer at the same time the county treasurer~~
16 ~~remits funds to the state under subsection (1) of this section. The~~
17 ~~state treasurer shall place money from this fee in the annual~~
18 ~~property revaluation grant account created in RCW 84.41.170.~~

19 ~~(5))~~(a) The real estate and property tax administration
20 assistance account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.
21 An appropriation is not required for expenditures and the account is
22 not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW.

23 (b) Beginning January 1, 2014, the county treasurer must continue
24 to collect the additional five dollar fee in subsection (3) of this
25 section on all transactions required by this chapter, regardless of
26 whether the transaction requires the payment of tax. The county
27 treasurer shall deposit one-half of this fee in the special real
28 estate and property tax administration assistance account in
29 accordance with (c) of this subsection and remit the balance to the
30 state treasurer at the same time the county treasurer remits funds to
31 the state under subsection (1) of this section. The state treasurer
32 must place money from this fee in the real estate and property tax
33 administration assistance account. By the twentieth day of the
34 subsequent month, the state treasurer must distribute the funds to
35 each county treasurer according to the following formula: One-half of
36 the funds available must be equally distributed among the thirty-nine
37 counties; and the balance must be ratably distributed among the
38 counties in direct proportion to their population as it relates to
39 the total state's population based on most recent statistics by the
40 office of financial management.

1 (c) When received by the county treasurer, the funds must be
2 placed in a special real estate and property tax administration
3 assistance account held by the county treasurer to be used for:

4 (i) Maintenance and operation of an annual revaluation system for
5 property tax valuation; and

6 (ii) Maintenance and operation of an electronic processing and
7 reporting system for real estate excise tax affidavits.

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