

SHB 2348 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/29/2024

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 36.62.010 and 1984 c 26 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The legislative authority of any county may establish, provide,
6 and maintain hospitals for the care and treatment of the indigent,
7 sick, injured, or infirm, and for this purpose the county legislative
8 authority may:

9 (1) Purchase or lease real property or use lands already owned by
10 the county;

11 (2) Erect all necessary buildings, make all necessary
12 improvements and repairs and alter any existing building for the use
13 of said hospitals;

14 (3) Use county moneys, levy taxes, and issue bonds as authorized
15 by law, to raise a sufficient amount of money to ~~((cover))~~ pay,
16 finance, or refinance the cost of procuring the site, constructing
17 and operating hospitals, and for the maintenance and capital expenses
18 thereof and all other necessary and proper expenses; and

19 (4) Accept and hold in trust for the county any grant of land,
20 gift or bequest of money, or any donation for the benefit of the
21 purposes of this chapter, and apply the same in accordance with the
22 terms of the gift.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.62.090 and 1984 c 26 s 6 are each amended to read
24 as follows:

25 If the hospital is established, the county legislative authority,
26 at the time of levying general taxes, may levy an additional regular
27 property tax, not to exceed ~~((fifty))~~ 20 cents per thousand dollars
28 of assessed value in any one year, for the operation, maintenance,
29 and capital expenses of the hospital, and any outpatient clinics
30 operated by the hospital, and for the payment of principal and
31 interest on bonds issued for such purposes. The limitations in RCW

1 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax levy authorized in this section and
2 the limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first year that
3 the tax levy is imposed under this section.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 84.52.043 and 2023 c 28 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Within and subject to the limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 as
7 amended, the regular ad valorem tax levies upon real and personal
8 property by the taxing districts hereafter named are as follows:

9 (1) Levies of the senior taxing districts are as follows: (a) The
10 levies by the state may not exceed the applicable aggregate rate
11 limit specified in RCW 84.52.065 (2) or (4) adjusted to the state
12 equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the
13 state department of revenue to be used exclusively for the support of
14 the common schools; (b) the levy by any county may not exceed \$1.80
15 per \$1,000 of assessed value; (c) the levy by any road district may
16 not exceed \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value; and (d) the levy by
17 any city or town may not exceed \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
18 However, any county is hereby authorized to increase its levy from
19 \$1.80 to a rate not to exceed \$2.475 per \$1,000 of assessed value for
20 general county purposes if the total levies for both the county and
21 any road district within the county do not exceed \$4.05 per \$1,000 of
22 assessed value, and no other taxing district has its levy reduced as
23 a result of the increased county levy.

24 (2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior
25 taxing districts, other than the state, may not exceed \$5.90 per
26 \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The term "junior taxing districts"
27 includes all taxing districts other than the state, counties, road
28 districts, cities, towns, port districts, and public utility
29 districts. The limitations provided in this subsection do not apply
30 to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any
31 port or public utility district; (b) excess property tax levies
32 authorized in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution; (c)
33 levies for acquiring conservation futures as authorized under RCW
34 84.34.230; (d) levies for emergency medical care or emergency medical
35 services imposed under RCW 84.52.069; (e) levies to finance
36 affordable housing imposed under RCW 84.52.105; (f) the portions of
37 levies by metropolitan park districts that are protected under RCW
38 84.52.120; (g) levies imposed by ferry districts under RCW 36.54.130;
39 (h) levies for criminal justice purposes under RCW 84.52.135; (i) the

1 portions of levies by fire protection districts and regional fire
2 protection service authorities that are protected under RCW
3 84.52.125; (j) levies by counties for transit-related purposes under
4 RCW 84.52.140; (k) the portion of the levy by flood control zone
5 districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.816; (l) levies imposed
6 by a regional transit authority under RCW 81.104.175; (m) levies
7 imposed by any park and recreation district described under RCW
8 84.52.010(3)(a)(viii); ~~((and))~~ (n) the portion of any levy resulting
9 from the correction of a levy error under RCW 84.52.085(3); and (o)
10 levies for county hospital purposes under RCW 36.62.090.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 84.52.043 and 2023 c 28 s 6 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 Within and subject to the limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 as
14 amended, the regular ad valorem tax levies upon real and personal
15 property by the taxing districts hereafter named are as follows:

16 (1) Levies of the senior taxing districts are as follows: (a) The
17 levies by the state may not exceed the applicable aggregate rate
18 limit specified in RCW 84.52.065 (2) or (4) adjusted to the state
19 equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the
20 state department of revenue to be used exclusively for the support of
21 the common schools; (b) the levy by any county may not exceed \$1.80
22 per \$1,000 of assessed value; (c) the levy by any road district may
23 not exceed \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value; and (d) the levy by
24 any city or town may not exceed \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
25 However any county is hereby authorized to increase its levy from
26 \$1.80 to a rate not to exceed \$2.475 per \$1,000 of assessed value for
27 general county purposes if the total levies for both the county and
28 any road district within the county do not exceed \$4.05 per \$1,000 of
29 assessed value, and no other taxing district has its levy reduced as
30 a result of the increased county levy.

31 (2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior
32 taxing districts, other than the state, may not exceed \$5.90 per
33 \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The term "junior taxing districts"
34 includes all taxing districts other than the state, counties, road
35 districts, cities, towns, port districts, and public utility
36 districts. The limitations provided in this subsection do not apply
37 to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any
38 port or public utility district; (b) excess property tax levies
39 authorized in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution; (c)

1 levies for acquiring conservation futures as authorized under RCW
2 84.34.230; (d) levies for emergency medical care or emergency medical
3 services imposed under RCW 84.52.069; (e) levies to finance
4 affordable housing imposed under RCW 84.52.105; (f) the portions of
5 levies by metropolitan park districts that are protected under RCW
6 84.52.120; (g) levies imposed by ferry districts under RCW 36.54.130;
7 (h) levies for criminal justice purposes under RCW 84.52.135; (i) the
8 portions of levies by fire protection districts and regional fire
9 protection service authorities that are protected under RCW
10 84.52.125; (j) levies by counties for transit-related purposes under
11 RCW 84.52.140; (k) the portion of the levy by flood control zone
12 districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.816; (l) levies imposed
13 by a regional transit authority under RCW 81.104.175; ~~((and))~~ (m) the
14 portion of any levy resulting from the correction of a levy error
15 under RCW 84.52.085(3); and (n) levies for county hospital purposes
16 under RCW 36.62.090.

17 **Sec. 5.** RCW 84.52.010 and 2023 c 28 s 3 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

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

21 (2) The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes,
22 and purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, must be
23 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
24 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
25 assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the
26 completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes
27 levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county must be
28 determined, calculated, and fixed by the county assessors of the
29 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
30 assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts
31 respectively.

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

37 (a) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county,
38 county road district, regional transit authority, and city or town
39 purposes must be extended on the tax rolls in amounts not exceeding

1 the limitations established by law; however, any state levy takes
2 precedence over all other levies and may not be reduced for any
3 purpose other than that required by RCW 84.55.010. If, as a result of
4 the levies imposed under RCW 36.54.130, 36.69.145 by a park and
5 recreation district described under (a)(viii) of this subsection (3),
6 84.34.230, 84.52.069, 84.52.105, 36.62.090, the portion of the levy
7 by a metropolitan park district that was protected under RCW
8 84.52.120, 84.52.125, 84.52.135, and 84.52.140, the portion of the
9 levy by a flood control zone district that was protected under RCW
10 84.52.816, and any portion of a levy resulting from the correction of
11 a levy error under RCW 84.52.085(3), the combined rate of regular
12 property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation
13 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then
14 these levies must be reduced as follows:

15 (i) The portion of any levy resulting from the correction of a
16 levy error under RCW 84.52.085(3) must be reduced until the combined
17 rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any
18 property or must be eliminated;

19 (ii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
20 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
21 the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy by a
22 flood control zone district that was protected under RCW 84.52.816
23 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent
24 of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

25 (iii) 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, the levy imposed by a
28 county under RCW 84.52.140 must be reduced until the combined rate no
29 longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property
30 or must be eliminated;

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

38 (v) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
39 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
40 the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a county

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

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

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

16 (viii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
17 are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent
18 of the true and fair value of any property, then the levies imposed
19 under RCW 36.69.145 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer
20 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or
21 must be eliminated. This subsection (3)(a)(viii) only applies to a
22 park and recreation district located on an island and within a county
23 with a population exceeding 2,000,000;

24 (ix) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
25 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
26 the true and fair value of any property, then the levies imposed
27 under RCW 84.34.230, 84.52.105, 36.62.090, and any portion of the
28 levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 that is in excess of 30 cents per
29 \$1,000 of assessed value, must be reduced on a pro rata basis until
30 the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair
31 value of any property or must be eliminated; and

32 (x) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
33 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
34 the true and fair value of any property, then the 30 cents per \$1,000
35 of assessed value of tax levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 must be
36 reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the
37 true and fair value of any property or eliminated.

38 (b) The certified rates of tax levy subject to these limitations
39 by all junior taxing districts imposing taxes on such property must

1 be reduced or eliminated as follows to bring the consolidated levy of
2 taxes on such property within the provisions of these limitations:

3 (i) First, the certified property tax levy authorized under RCW
4 84.52.821 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

5 (ii) Second, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
6 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of those
7 junior taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525, 36.69.145
8 except a park and recreation district described under (a)(viii) of
9 this subsection, 35.95A.100, and 67.38.130 must be reduced on a pro
10 rata basis or eliminated;

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

16 (iv) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
17 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all other
18 junior taxing districts, other than fire protection districts,
19 regional fire protection service authorities, library districts, the
20 first 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation levies for
21 metropolitan park districts, and the first 50 cents per \$1,000 of
22 assessed valuation levies for public hospital districts, must be
23 reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

24 (v) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
25 limitations, the first 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation
26 levies for metropolitan park districts created on or after January 1,
27 2002, must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

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

33 (vii) Seventh, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
34 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized
35 for fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, regional fire
36 protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1)(a), library
37 districts, metropolitan park districts created before January 1,
38 2002, under their first 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation
39 levy, and public hospital districts under their first 50 cents per

1 \$1,000 of assessed valuation levy, must be reduced on a pro rata
2 basis or eliminated.

3 **Sec. 6.** RCW 84.52.010 and 2023 c 28 s 4 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

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

7 (2) The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes,
8 and purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, must be
9 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
10 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
11 assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the
12 completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes
13 levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county must be
14 determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the
15 respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the
16 assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts
17 respectively.

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

23 (a) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county,
24 county road district, regional transit authority, and city or town
25 purposes must be extended on the tax rolls in amounts not exceeding
26 the limitations established by law; however any state levy takes
27 precedence over all other levies and may not be reduced for any
28 purpose other than that required by RCW 84.55.010. If, as a result of
29 the levies imposed under RCW 36.54.130, 84.34.230, 84.52.069,
30 84.52.105, 36.62.090, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park
31 district that was protected under RCW 84.52.120, 84.52.125,
32 84.52.135, and 84.52.140, the portion of the levy by a flood control
33 zone district that was protected under RCW 84.52.816, and the portion
34 of any levy resulting from the correction of a levy error under RCW
35 84.52.085(3), the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
36 are subject to the one percent limitation exceeds one percent of the
37 true and fair value of any property, then these levies must be
38 reduced as follows:

1 (i) The portion of any levy resulting from the correction of a
2 levy error under RCW 84.52.085(3) must be reduced until the combined
3 rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any
4 property or must be eliminated;

5 (ii) 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 portion of the levy by a
8 flood control zone district that was protected under RCW 84.52.816
9 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent
10 of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

11 (iii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
12 are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent
13 of the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a
14 county under RCW 84.52.140 must be reduced until the combined rate no
15 longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property
16 or must be eliminated;

17 (iv) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
18 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
19 the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy by a
20 fire protection district or regional fire protection service
21 authority that is protected under RCW 84.52.125 must be reduced until
22 the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair
23 value of any property or must be eliminated;

24 (v) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
25 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
26 the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a county
27 under RCW 84.52.135 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer
28 exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or
29 must be eliminated;

30 (vi) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are
31 subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of
32 the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a ferry
33 district under RCW 36.54.130 must be reduced until the combined rate
34 no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any
35 property or must be eliminated;

36 (vii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
37 are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent
38 of the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy
39 by a metropolitan park district that is protected under RCW 84.52.120

1 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent
2 of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

3 (viii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that
4 are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent
5 of the true and fair value of any property, then the levies imposed
6 under RCW 84.34.230, 84.52.105, 36.62.090, and any portion of the
7 levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 that is in excess of 30 cents per
8 \$1,000 of assessed value, must be reduced on a pro rata basis until
9 the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair
10 value of any property or must be eliminated; and

11 (ix) 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, then the 30 cents per \$1,000
14 of assessed value of tax levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 must be
15 reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the
16 true and fair value of any property or eliminated.

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

21 (i) First, the certified property tax levy authorized under RCW
22 84.52.821 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

23 (ii) Second, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
24 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of those
25 junior taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525, 36.69.145,
26 35.95A.100, and 67.38.130 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or
27 eliminated;

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

33 (iv) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
34 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all other
35 junior taxing districts, other than fire protection districts,
36 regional fire protection service authorities, library districts, the
37 first 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation levies for
38 metropolitan park districts, and the first 50 cents per \$1,000 of
39 assessed valuation levies for public hospital districts, must be
40 reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

1 (v) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these
2 limitations, the first 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation
3 levies for metropolitan park districts created on or after January 1,
4 2002, must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

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

10 (vii) Seventh, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds
11 these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized
12 for fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, regional fire
13 protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1)(a), library
14 districts, metropolitan park districts created before January 1,
15 2002, under their first 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation
16 levy, and public hospital districts under their first 50 cents per
17 \$1,000 of assessed valuation levy, must be reduced on a pro rata
18 basis or eliminated.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 3 and 5 of this act expire
20 January 1, 2027.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 4 and 6 of this act take effect
22 January 1, 2027."

SHB 2348 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 02/29/2024

23 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "funding;" strike the
24 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 36.62.010, 36.62.090,
25 84.52.043, 84.52.043, 84.52.010, and 84.52.010; providing an
26 effective date; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Reduces the maximum levy rate from 50 cents to 20 cents.

--- END ---