

SSB 6355 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-3830.1/26) **2658**

By Representative Dye

ADOPTED 03/11/2026

1 On page 12, after line 10 of the striking amendment, insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** (1) For electric transmission facilities
4 owned by the authority that are exempt from property tax under RCW
5 84.36.010, the authority must make payments in lieu of property taxes
6 to counties in which such facilities are located.

7 (2) Beginning in the first tax year in which improvements
8 associated with a transmission facility owned in whole or in part by
9 the authority would be subject to assessment under chapters 84.40 RCW
10 and 84.12 RCW if the facility were owned by a taxable entity, the
11 authority must annually make payments in lieu of property taxes as
12 provided in this section.

13 (3)(a) The amount of the payment must be determined jointly and in
14 good faith negotiation between the authority, in consultation with the
15 project partner, lessee, or operator of the transmission facility, and
16 the county in which the facility is located.

17 (b) The amount agreed upon may not exceed the property tax amount
18 that would be owed on the facility if it were owned by a taxable
19 entity as calculated by the county assessor. The authority must
20 provide information necessary for the county assessor to make the
21 required valuation under this subsection. The authority must provide
22 payment to the county treasurer on at least an annual basis in a
23 manner agreed upon between the authority and county.

24 (c) If the authority and a county cannot agree on the amount of
25 the payment in lieu of taxes, either party may invoke binding
26 arbitration by providing written notice to the other party. The
27 authority and county must each select one arbitrator, the two of whom

1 must pick a third arbitrator. Costs of the arbitration, including
2 compensation for the arbitrators' services, must be borne equally by
3 the parties participating in the arbitration.

4 (4) Payments made under this section must be distributed by the
5 county treasurer in the same manner as property tax revenues collected
6 under Title 84 RCW and must be allocated among all taxing districts
7 within the county in proportion to their respective levy rates.

8 (5) Payments required under this section must be collected by the
9 authority from a lessee, project partner, or operator of the
10 applicable facility on a schedule set forth in a lease or project
11 agreement, and such collected funds shall be considered the only funds
12 available to the authority to make the required payments.

13 (6) The payments required under this section are intended to
14 ensure that counties and local taxing districts receive fiscal
15 benefits for hosting transmission infrastructure owned by the
16 authority."

17

18 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
19 internal references accordingly.

20

21 On page 36, at the beginning of line 16 of the striking amendment,
22 strike "11" and insert "12"

EFFECT: Requires the Washington Electric Transmission Authority (Transmission Authority) to make annual payments in lieu of property taxes to counties for transmission facilities that are located in such counties. Requires the Transmission Authority, in consultation with the project partner, lessee, or operator, and the county to determine the payment amount in good faith negotiation. Provides a process involving binding arbitration if there is a disagreement on the payment amount. Requires the Transmission Authority to collect from a lessee, project partner, or operator of the facility the payments and provide the payments to the county treasurer.

--- END ---