
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5252

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Shewmake, Chapman, and Nobles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to removing the acreage limit on the property tax
2 exemption for nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places;
3 amending RCW 84.36.037; and creating new sections.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.36.037 and 2014 c 99 s 8 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Real or personal property owned by a nonprofit organization,
8 association, or corporation in connection with the operation of a
9 public assembly hall or meeting place is exempt from taxation. The
10 area exempt under this section includes the building or buildings,
11 the land under the buildings, and an additional area necessary for
12 parking (~~(, not exceeding a total of one acre)~~). When property for
13 which exemption is sought is essentially unimproved except for
14 restroom facilities and structures and this property has been used
15 primarily for annual community celebration events for at least
16 (~~ten~~) 10 years, the exempt property shall not exceed (~~twenty-~~
17 ~~nine~~) 29 acres.

18 (2) To qualify for this exemption the property must be used
19 exclusively for public gatherings and be available to all
20 organizations or persons desiring to use the property, but the owner
21 may impose conditions and restrictions which are necessary for the

1 safekeeping of the property and promote the purposes of this
2 exemption. Membership shall not be a prerequisite for the use of the
3 property.

4 (3) The use of the property for pecuniary gain or for business
5 activities, except as provided in this section and RCW 84.36.805,
6 nullifies the exemption otherwise available for the property for the
7 assessment year. If all income received from rental or use of the
8 exempt property is used for capital improvements to the exempt
9 property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or exempt
10 purposes, the exemption is not nullified as provided by RCW 84.36.805
11 or by the use of the property, in a county with a population of less
12 than twenty thousand, to promote the following business activities,
13 if the rental income or donations, if any, are reasonable and do not
14 exceed the maintenance and operation expenses attributable to the
15 portion of the property loaned or rented: Dance lessons, art classes,
16 or music lessons.

17 (4) The department of revenue must narrowly construe this
18 exemption.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.32.805 and 82.32.808 do not apply
20 to this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act applies to taxes levied for
22 collection in 2026 and thereafter.

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