

Chapter 36.01 RCW
GENERAL PROVISIONS

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85.08.500.

weed control district assessments, as subject to: RCW
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County office, defined for public assistance purposes: RCW
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County roads: Chapter 36.75 RCW.

Courthouse, county to furnish: RCW 2.28.139.

Credit not to be loaned: State Constitution Art. 8 s 7.

Debts of

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Art. 11 s 3.

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7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59).

private property not to be taken in satisfaction of: State
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Dental hygienists, licensed, county may employ: RCW 18.29.050.

Department of revenue, visitation to counties: RCW 84.08.010(3).

Detention, house or room for, establishment of: RCW 13.04.135.

Detention facilities, management of (counties with populations of one
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Detention of state felons in county jails: Chapter 72.68 RCW.

Diking and drainage intercounty districts: Chapter 85.24 RCW.

Disinfection of county property as county duty: RCW 15.08.230.

Disturbances at state penal facilities—Reimbursement to cities and
counties for certain expenses incurred: RCW 72.72.050, 72.72.060.

Electric franchises and rights-of-way, counties may grant: RCW
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Electrical construction regulations applicable to counties: RCW
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Emergency management, county participation: Chapter 38.52 RCW.

Eminent domain

airport purposes: Chapters 14.07, 14.08 RCW.

flood control purposes: RCW 86.12.030.

flood control purposes by counties jointly: RCW 86.13.040.

generally: Chapter 8.08 RCW.

military purposes: RCW 8.04.170, 8.04.180.

of tidelands: RCW 88.24.070.

parks, bathing beaches, public camps: RCW 67.20.010.

wharves purposes: RCW 88.24.070.

Existing counties recognized: State Constitution Art. 11 s 1.

Family courts in: Chapter 26.12 RCW.

Federal areas in counties, generally: Chapter 37.08 RCW.

Federal property, purchase of from government by counties: Chapter
39.32 RCW.

Fireworks, county participation in control: Chapter 70.77 RCW.

Fiscal agent for: Chapter 43.80 RCW.

Flood control

county: Chapter 86.12 RCW.

county participation with
district: RCW 86.24.040.

state and federal government: Chapter 86.24 RCW.
districts (1937 act), public lands included in: RCW
86.09.013.
maintenance, county participation with state: Chapter 86.26
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Forest protection in counties: Chapter 76.04 RCW.

Funding indebtedness in counties: Chapter 39.52 RCW.

Group life insurance, public employee associations: RCW 48.24.060.

Hospitals, private, for care of individuals with mental illness,
alcoholics, county may prescribe standards: RCW 71.12.550.

Housing authority
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property as exempt from county taxation: RCW 35.82.210.

Housing cooperation law: Chapter 35.83 RCW.

Indebtedness, county: State Constitution Art. 8.

Industrial development districts, county lands may be conveyed to:
Chapter 53.25 RCW.

Intercounty weed districts: Chapter 17.06 RCW.

Intergovernmental disposition of property, county participation: RCW
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Irrigation districts, cancellation of county taxes against, when: RCW
87.64.060.

Island counties, refund of motor vehicle license and fuel tax fees to:
RCW 46.68.080.

Joint aid river and harbor improvements, county participation: RCW
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Joint planning for improvement of navigable stream, county
participation: RCW 88.32.240 through 88.32.250.

Juvenile detention facility as mandatory county function: RCW
13.16.030.

Leases, mineral and petroleum, on county land: Chapter 78.16 RCW.

Leases of property, ballot proposition
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from by city or town: RCW 35.42.200.

Legal aid: Chapter 2.50 RCW.

Legal publications of: Chapter 65.16 RCW.

Libraries: Title 27 RCW.

Lien for labor, material and taxes on public works: Chapter 60.28 RCW.

Limitation of indebtedness of taxing districts: Chapter 39.36 RCW.

Liquor revolving fund moneys, distribution to counties: Chapter 66.08 RCW.

Local milk inspection service units: Chapter 15.36 RCW.

Martial law, proclamation of county under: RCW 38.08.030.

*Metropolitan municipal corporations
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county participation: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*

Military offenses, jurisdiction by county when: Chapter 38.32 RCW.

*Mosquito control
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districts, counties where authorized: RCW 17.28.020.*

Motor freight carrier, county vehicle exempt as: RCW 81.80.040.

*Motor vehicle
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fund moneys for county purposes: RCW 46.68.070 and
46.68.120.
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*Municipal airports
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1945 act: Chapter 14.08 RCW.*

Old age and survivors' insurance, acceptance of for counties: Chapter 41.47 RCW.

*Operating agencies (electricity, water resources) to act for counties:
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Park and recreation service areas: RCW 36.68.400 through 36.68.620.

*Parks, bathing beaches, public camps, county may acquire and operate:
Chapter 67.20 RCW.*

Person defined to include counties for RCW code purposes: RCW 1.16.080.

Pesticide application act, county as subject to: RCW 17.21.220.

*Police and sanitary regulations, power to enforce: State Constitution
Art. 11 s 11.*

*Port districts
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53.08.140, 53.08.240.
motor vehicle regulation in by county authorities,
procedure: RCW 53.08.230.*

regulations of, adoption as county ordinance: RCW 53.08.220.

Printing for counties to be done in state: RCW 43.19.748.

Public assistance

as county function: RCW 74.04.040.

county participation: Chapter 74.04 RCW.

Public contracts and indebtedness: Title 39 RCW.

Public documents (state), distribution to counties: Chapter 40.04 RCW.

Public employees

hospitalization and medical aid for: RCW 41.04.180,
41.04.190.

interchange of personnel with federal agency, rights
preserved: RCW 41.04.140 through 41.04.170.

military leave for: RCW 38.40.060.

minimum wage act, public employee exclusion: RCW 49.46.010.

payroll deductions for: RCW 41.04.020, 41.04.036.

public employees' retirement system, county employees as
members: RCW 41.40.062.

retirement systems, retention of rights: Chapter 41.04 RCW.

social security, federal coverage includes: Chapter 41.48
RCW.

Public lands

rights-of-way over for county bridges, trestles, across
waterways, tide or shore lands: RCW 79.110.120.

rights-of-way over for roads, county wharves: RCW 79.36.440.

sale of road material on to counties: RCW 79.15.320.

Public officers

campaign financing, reporting: Chapter 42.17A RCW.

code of ethics for: Chapter 42.23 RCW.

financial affairs and gifts, reporting: RCW 42.17A.700.

misconduct of enumerated: Chapter 42.20 RCW.

not to receive witness fees: RCW 42.16.020, 42.16.030.

resignations: RCW 42.12.020.

terms when vacancies filled: RCW 42.12.030.

Public purchase preferences: Chapter 39.24 RCW.

Public works

emergency, county participation: Chapter 39.28 RCW.

department of transportation, cooperation: RCW 47.08.070.

prevailing wages to be paid on: Chapter 39.12 RCW.

Publicly owned vehicles

exempt from license fee: RCW 46.16A.170.

license plate retained when change in ownership: RCW
46.16A.200(8).

registration of: RCW 46.16A.170.

to be marked: RCW 46.08.065.

Railroad grade crossings

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81.53.130.
counties duty to maintain: RCW 81.53.090.
county participation in grants for: Chapter 81.53 RCW.

Railroad signals, warning devices on county roads: RCW 81.53.261
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Reclamation and irrigation districts in United States reclamation
areas, contract to bring county lands into: RCW 89.12.110.

Reclamation districts of one million acres, lands in more than one
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Reforestation

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grants of county lands for: RCW 79.22.040.

Regional jail camps, county prisoners may be committed to: RCW
72.64.100, 72.64.110.

River and harbor improvements by counties jointly: RCW 88.32.180
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Rural housing projects: Chapter 35.82 RCW.

Savings and loan associations, counties as member: RCW 33.20.060.

Soft tree fruits commission law, counties constituting districts
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Soil and water conservation districts, county may cooperate with: RCW
89.08.341.

State patrol retirement allowances exempt from county taxation: RCW
43.43.310.

State vehicle regulations precedence over local: RCW 46.08.020.

State's title to abandoned channels granted to counties: RCW
86.13.110.

Stock restricted areas in: Chapter 16.24 RCW.

Street railroads in counties: Chapter 81.64 RCW.

Superior court judges, each county entitled to: State Constitution
Art. 4 s 5, chapter 2.08 RCW.

Surplus federal property, county may purchase: RCW 39.32.010 through
39.32.060.

Tax liens, foreclosure by county when city or town L.I.D. assessments
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Taxes

*B & O, counties defined as person for purposes of: RCW 82.04.030.
excise, state preempts field, which: RCW 82.02.020.
federal payments in lieu of ad valorem property taxes to counties, distribution: Chapter 84.72 RCW.
for city and town purposes: State Constitution Art. 11 s 12.
local, legislature not to impose: State Constitution Art. 11 s 12.*

property

*acquisitions of county subject to lien of: RCW 84.60.050.
county by, generally: Title 84 RCW.
county held tax-title property, treatment of: RCW 36.35.100.
county-interstate bridge as exempt from: RCW 84.36.230.
county lands sold on contract as taxable: RCW 84.40.230.
county property as exempt from: RCW 84.36.010.
county revaluation program: Chapter 84.41 RCW.
county right-of-way easements as exempt from: RCW 84.36.210.
excess levies authorized, county application: RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056.
limitation on levies, county application: State Constitution Art. 7 s 2 (Amendments 55, 59); RCW 84.52.050.
state, county liability for share of: State Constitution Art. 11 s 9.*

Taxing district

*county as: RCW 84.04.120.
relief act, county application: Chapter 39.64 RCW.*

Teletypewriter communications network, county participation: Chapter 43.89 RCW.

Toll roads, bridges and ferries (state), county participation and liability: Chapter 47.56 RCW.

Township organization in: State Constitution Art. 11 s 4 (Amendment 21).

Traffic

*enforcement agencies, duty: Chapter 46.64 RCW.
schools, county participation: Chapter 46.83 RCW.*

Unfit dwellings, buildings and structures: Chapter 35.80 RCW.

Uniform system of accounting: Chapter 43.09 RCW.

Validation of bonds and financing proceedings: Chapter 39.90 RCW.

Vehicle wreckers' licensing, county to comply with: RCW 46.80.160.

Veterans

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public officials duty as considered leave of absence: RCW 73.16.041.
scoring criteria status in county employment reemployment: RCW 41.04.010, Chapter 73.16 RCW.*

Veterans'

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meeting place, rent from county funds: RCW 73.04.080.
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Vital statistics: Chapter 70.58A RCW.

Wages

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rebates of on public works, penalty: RCW 49.52.090.

Warrants, interest rate on: RCW 39.56.020, 39.56.030.

Water pollution control, county application: Chapter 90.48 RCW.

Water rights

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United States, county application: Chapter 90.40 RCW.

Wharves, counties may authorize and prescribe rates: RCW 88.24.020.

Workers' compensation, county coverage: RCW 51.12.050.

World fair or exposition, county participation: Chapter 35.60 RCW.

RCW 36.01.010 Corporate powers. The several counties in this state shall have capacity as bodies corporate, to sue and be sued in the manner prescribed by law; to purchase and hold lands; to make such contracts, and to purchase and hold such personal property, as may be necessary to their corporate or administrative powers, and to do all other necessary acts in relation to all the property of the county. [1986 c 278 s 1; 1963 c 4 s 36.01.010. Prior: Code 1881 s 2653; 1863 p 538 s 1; 1854 p 329 s 1; RRS s 3982.]

Severability—1986 c 278: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 278 s 65.]

RCW 36.01.020 Corporate name. The name of a county, designated by law, is its corporate name, and it must be known and designated thereby in all actions and proceedings touching its corporate rights, property, and duties. [1963 c 4 s 36.01.020. Prior: Code 1881 s 2654; RRS s 3983.]

RCW 36.01.030 Powers—How exercised. Its powers can only be exercised by the county commissioners, or by agents or officers acting under their authority or authority of law. [1963 c 4 s 36.01.030. Prior: Code 1881 s 2655; RRS s 3984.]

RCW 36.01.040 Conveyances for use of county. Every conveyance of lands, or transfer of other property, made in any manner for the use of any county, shall have the same force and effect as if made to the county in its proper and corporate name. [1963 c 4 s 36.01.040. Prior: Code 1881 s 2656; 1863 p 538 s 2; 1854 p 329 s 2; RRS s 3985.]

RCW 36.01.050 Venue of actions by or against counties. (1) All actions against any county may be commenced in the superior court of such county, or in the superior court of either of the two nearest judicial districts. All actions by any county shall be commenced in the superior court of the county in which the defendant resides, or in either of the two judicial districts nearest to the county bringing the action.

(2) The determination of the nearest judicial districts is measured by the travel time between county seats using major surface routes, as determined by the administrative office of the courts.

(3) Any provision in a public works contract with any county that requires actions arising under the contract to be commenced in the superior court of the county is against public policy and the provision is void and unenforceable. This subsection shall not be construed to void any contract provision requiring a dispute arising under the contract to be submitted to arbitration. [2015 c 138 s 1; 2005 c 282 s 42; 2000 c 244 s 1; 1997 c 401 s 1; 1963 c 4 s 36.01.050. Prior: 1854 p 329 s 6; No RRS.]

RCW 36.01.060 County liable for certain court costs. Each county shall be liable to pay the per diem and mileage, or other compensation in lieu thereof, to jurors of the county attending the superior court; the fees of the sheriff for maintaining prisoners charged with crimes, and the sheriff's costs in conveying them to and from the court, as well as their board while there; the per diem and mileage, or such other compensation as is allowed in lieu thereof, of the sheriff of the county, when in criminal cases the sheriff is required to attend or travel to the superior court out of the limits of the sheriff's county; the costs in criminal cases taken from the courts of limited jurisdiction to the superior court; but no such claims shall be paid by the treasurer unless the particular items are approved by the judge and certified by the clerk under the seal of the court. For the time or travel which may be paid by the parties or United States, no payment from the county shall be allowed, and no officer, juror, or witness shall receive from the county double pay as a per diem for the same time, or as traveling expenses or mileage for the same travel, in however many different capacities or in however many different causes they may be summoned, notified, or called upon to testify or attend in. [1987 c 202 s 200; 1963 c 4 s 36.01.060. Prior: Code 1881 s 2110; 1869 p 420 s 9; 1863 p 425 s 10; 1857 p 22 s 10; RRS s 508.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

RCW 36.01.070 Probation and parole services. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 72.01 RCW or any other provision of law, counties may engage in probation and parole services and employ

personnel therefor under such terms and conditions as any such county shall so determine. If a county elects to assume responsibility for the supervision of superior court misdemeanor offenders placed on probation under RCW 9.92.060 or 9.95.210, the county may contract with other counties to receive or provide such probation services. A county may also enter into partnership agreements with the department of corrections under RCW 72.09.300. [1996 c 298 s 7; 1967 c 200 s 9.]

Severability—1967 c 200: See note following RCW 9.45.122.

Indeterminate sentences: Chapter 9.95 RCW.

RCW 36.01.080 Parking facilities—Construction, operation and rental charges. Counties may construct, maintain, operate and collect rentals for parking facilities as a part of a courthouse or combined county-city building facility. [1969 ex.s. c 8 s 1.]

Revenue bonds for parking facilities: RCW 36.67.520.

RCW 36.01.085 Economic development programs. It shall be in the public purpose for all counties to engage in economic development programs. In addition, counties may contract with nonprofit corporations in furtherance of this and other acts relating to economic development. [1985 c 92 s 2.]

RCW 36.01.090 Tourist promotion. See RCW 36.32.450.

RCW 36.01.095 Emergency medical services—Authorized—Fees. Any county may establish a system of emergency medical service as defined by RCW 18.73.030(11). The county legislative authority may adopt by resolution procedures to collect reasonable fees in order to reimburse the county in whole or in part for its costs of providing such service: PROVIDED, That any county which provides emergency medical services supported by an excess levy may waive such charges for service: PROVIDED FURTHER, That whenever the county legislative authority determines that the county or a substantial portion of the county is not adequately served by existing private ambulance service, and existing private ambulance service cannot be encouraged to expand service on a contract basis, the emergency medical service that is established by the county shall not be deemed to compete with any existing private ambulance service as provided for in RCW 36.01.100. [1975 1st ex.s. c 147 s 1.]

RCW 36.01.100 Ambulance service authorized—Restriction. The legislative authority of any county may by appropriate legislation provide for the establishment of a system of ambulance service for the entire county or for portions thereof, and award contracts for ambulance service: PROVIDED, That such legislation may not provide for the establishment of any system which would compete with any existing private system. [1972 ex.s. c 89 s 1.]

RCW 36.01.104 Levy for emergency medical care and services. See RCW 84.52.069.

RCW 36.01.105 Fire protection, ambulance or other emergency services provided by municipal corporation within county—Financial and other assistance authorized. See RCW 36.32.470.

RCW 36.01.110 Federal grants and programs—Powers and authority of counties to participate in—Public corporations, commissions or authorities. See RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755.

RCW 36.01.115 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility. See chapter 80.58 RCW.

RCW 36.01.120 Foreign trade zones—Finding—Intent. It is the finding of the legislature that foreign trade zones serve an important public purpose by the creation of employment opportunities within the state and that the establishment of zones designed to accomplish this purpose is to be encouraged. It is the further intent of the legislature that the department of commerce provide assistance to entities planning to apply to the United States for permission to establish such zones. [2023 c 470 s 2017; 1995 c 399 s 40; 1985 c 466 s 44; 1977 ex.s. c 196 s 5.]

Explanatory statement—2023 c 470: See note following RCW 10.99.030.

Effective date—Severability—1985 c 466: See notes following RCW 43.31.125.

Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 196: See note following RCW 24.46.010.

RCW 36.01.125 Foreign trade zones—Authority to apply for permission to establish, operate and maintain. A county, as zone sponsor, may apply to the United States for permission to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent these zones from being operated and financed by a private corporation(s) on behalf of such county acting as zone sponsor. [1977 ex.s. c 196 s 6.]

Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 196: See note following RCW 24.46.010.

RCW 36.01.130 Controls on rent for residential structures—Prohibited—Exceptions. The imposition of controls on rent is of statewide significance and is preempted by the state. No county may enact, maintain or enforce ordinances or other provisions which regulate the amount of rent to be charged for single-family or

multiple-unit residential rental structures or sites other than properties in public ownership, under public management, or properties providing low-income rental housing under joint public-private agreements for the financing or provision of such low-income rental housing. This section shall not be construed as prohibiting any county from entering into agreements with private persons which regulate or control the amount of rent to be charged for rental properties. [1991 c 363 s 43; 1981 c 75 s 2.]

Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363: See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

Applicability to floating home moorage sites—Severability—1981 c 75: See notes following RCW 35.21.830.

RCW 36.01.150 Facilitating recovery from Mt. St. Helens eruption—Scope of local government action. All entities of local government and agencies thereof are authorized to take action as follows to facilitate recovery from the devastation of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens:

(1) Cooperate with the state, state agencies, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies of the federal government in planning dredge site selection and dredge spoils removal;

(2) Counties and cities may re-zone areas and sites as necessary to facilitate recovery operations;

(3) Counties may manage and maintain lands involved and the deposited dredge spoils; and

(4) Local governments may assist the Army Corps of Engineers in the dredging and dredge spoils deposit operations. [1982 c 7 s 3.]

Severability—1982 c 7: "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1982 c 7 s 11.]

Facilitating recovery from Mt. St. Helens eruption—Legislative findings—Purpose: RCW 43.01.200.

Scope of state agency action: RCW 43.01.210.

RCW 36.01.160 Penalty for act constituting a crime under state law—Limitation. Except as limited by the maximum penalty authorized by law, no county may establish a penalty for an act that constitutes a crime under state law that is different from the penalty prescribed for that crime by state statute. [1993 c 83 s 2.]

Effective date—1993 c 83: See note following RCW 35.21.163.

RCW 36.01.170 Administration of trusts benefiting school districts. Any county authorized by territorial law to administer moneys held in trust for the benefit of school districts within the county, which moneys were bequeathed for such purposes by testamentary

provision, may dissolve any trust, the corpus of which does not exceed fifty thousand dollars, and distribute any moneys remaining in the trust to school districts within the county. Before dissolving the trust, the county must adopt a resolution finding that conditions have changed and it is no longer feasible for the county to administer the trust. [1998 c 65 s 1.]

RCW 36.01.180 Zoo and aquarium advisory authority—Constitution—Terms. (1) For any county in which a proposition authorized by RCW 82.14.400 has been passed, there shall be created a zoo and aquarium advisory authority.

(2) The initial board of the authority shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Three members appointed by the county legislative authority to represent unincorporated areas;

(b) Two members appointed by the legislative authority of the city with the largest population within the county; and

(c) Two members jointly appointed by the legislative authorities of the remaining cities within the county representing at least sixty percent of the combined populations of those cities.

(3) Board members shall hold office for whatever terms are determined by their appointing authorities, except that no term may be less than one year nor more than three years, in duration. However, a vacancy may be filled by an appointment for a term less than twelve months in duration. [1999 c 104 s 4.]

RCW 36.01.190 Initial meeting of zoo and aquarium advisory authority—Expenditure of funds—Powers. (1) Upon certification by the county auditor or, in the case of a home rule county, upon certification by the chief elections officer, that a proposition authorized under the terms of RCW 82.14.400 has received a majority of votes cast on the proposition, the county legislative authority shall convene an initial meeting of the zoo and aquarium advisory authority.

(2) Consistent with any agreement between the local governments specified in RCW 82.14.400(1) in requesting an election, the zoo and aquarium advisory authority has authority to expend such funds as it may receive on those purposes set out in RCW 82.14.400(4). In addition, and consistent with any limitation placed on the powers of the authority in such an agreement, the zoo and aquarium advisory authority may exercise the following powers:

(a) Acquire by purchase, gift, or grant and lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate, and regulate the use of any zoo, aquarium, and wildlife preservation and display facilities and properties, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment, and accessories necessary for those facilities;

(b) Contract with the United States or any agency thereof, any state or agency thereof, any metropolitan municipal corporation, any other county, city, special district, or governmental agency, and any private person, firm, or corporation for the purpose of receiving gifts or grants or securing loans or advances for preliminary planning and feasibility studies, or for the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of zoo, aquarium, and wildlife preservation and display facilities;

(c) Contract with any governmental agency or with a private person, firm, or corporation for the use by either contracting party of all or any part of the facilities, structures, lands, interests in lands, air rights over lands, and rights-of-way of all kinds which are owned, leased, or held by the other party, and for the purpose of planning, constructing, or operating any facility or performing any service related to zoos, aquariums, and wildlife preservation and display facilities;

(d) Fix rates and charges for the use of those facilities;

(e) Sue and be sued in its corporate capacity in all courts and in all proceedings. [1999 c 104 s 3.]

RCW 36.01.200 Federal funds designated for state schools—Use limited to reduction of outstanding debt obligations of school districts. The county legislative authority of any county that receives payment in lieu of taxes and payment equal to tax funds from the United States department of energy under section 168 of the federal atomic energy act of 1954 and nuclear waste policy act of 1982 and that has an agreed settlement or a joint stipulation dated before January 1, 1998, which agreed settlement or joint stipulation includes funds designated for state schools, may direct the county treasurer to distribute those designated funds to reduce the outstanding debt of the school districts within the county. Any such funds shall be divided among the school districts based upon the same percentages that each district's current assessed valuation is of the total assessed value for all eligible school districts if the district has outstanding debt that equals or exceeds the amount of its distribution. If the district does not have outstanding debt that equals or exceeds the amount of its distribution, any amount above the outstanding debt shall be reallocated to the remaining eligible districts. Any funds received before January 1, 1999, shall be distributed using the percentages calculated for 1998. The county treasurer shall apply the funds to any outstanding debt obligation selected by the respective school districts. [1999 c 19 s 1.]

RCW 36.01.210 Rail fixed guideway public transportation system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan. (1) Each county functioning under chapter 36.56 RCW that owns or operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system as defined in RCW 81.104.015 shall submit a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan for that guideway to the state department of transportation by September 1, 1999, or at least one hundred eighty calendar days before beginning operations or instituting significant revisions to its plans. These plans must describe the county's procedures for (a) reporting and investigating any reportable incident, accident, or security breach and identifying and resolving hazards or security vulnerabilities discovered during planning, design, construction, testing, or operations, (b) developing and submitting corrective action plans and annual safety and security audit reports, (c) facilitating on-site safety and security reviews by the state department of transportation and the federal transit administration, and (d) addressing passenger and employee safety and security. The plans must, at a minimum, conform to the standards adopted by the state department of transportation as set forth in the

most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. If required by the department, the county shall revise its plans to incorporate the department's review comments within sixty days after their receipt, and resubmit its revised plans for review.

(2) Each county functioning under chapter 36.56 RCW shall implement and comply with its system safety program plan and system security and emergency preparedness plan. The county shall perform internal safety and security audits to evaluate its compliance with the plans, and submit its audit schedule to the department of transportation pursuant to the requirements in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. The county shall prepare an annual report for its internal safety and security audits undertaken in the prior year and submit it to the department no later than February 15th. The department shall establish the requirements for the annual report. The contents of the annual report must include, at a minimum, the dates the audits were conducted, the scope of the audit activity, the audit findings and recommendations, the status of any corrective actions taken as a result of the audit activity, and the results of each audit in terms of the adequacy and effectiveness of the plans.

(3) Each county shall notify the department of transportation, pursuant to the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section, any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The department may adopt rules further defining any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability. The county shall investigate any reportable incident, accident, security breach, hazard, or security vulnerability and provide a written investigation report to the department as described in the most current version of the Washington state rail safety oversight program standard manual as it exists on March 25, 2016, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(4) The system security and emergency preparedness plan required in subsection (1) of this section is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. However, the system safety program plan as described in this section is not subject to this exemption. [2016 c 33 s 4; 2007 c 422 s 3; 2005 c 274 s 268; 1999 c 202 s 3.]

Effective date—2016 c 33: See note following RCW 81.104.115.

Effective date—1999 c 202: See note following RCW 35.21.228.

RCW 36.01.220 Mobile home, manufactured home, or park model moving or installing—Copies of permits—Definitions. (1) A county shall transmit a copy of any permit issued to a tenant or the tenant's agent for a mobile home, manufactured home, or park model installation in a mobile home park to the landlord.

(2) A county shall transmit a copy of any permit issued to a person engaged in the business of moving or installing a mobile home, manufactured home, or park model in a mobile home park to the tenant and the landlord.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Landlord" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030;

(b) "Mobile home park" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030;

(c) "Mobile or manufactured home installation" has the same meaning as in *RCW 43.63B.010; and

(d) "Tenant" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030. [1999 c 359 s 20.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 43.63B.010 was recodified as RCW 43.22A.010 pursuant to 2007 c 432 s 13.

Effective date—1999 c 359: See RCW 59.20.901.

RCW 36.01.225 Authority to regulate placement or use of homes—Regulation of manufactured homes—Restrictions on location of manufactured/mobile homes and entry or removal of recreational vehicles used as primary residences.

(1) A county may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of discriminating against consumers' choices in the placement or use of a home in such a manner that is not equally applicable to all homes. Homes built to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 5401-5403 standards (as amended in 2000) must be regulated for the purposes of siting in the same manner as site built homes, factory built homes, or homes built to any other state construction or local design standard. However, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any county may require that:

(a) A manufactured home be a new manufactured home;

(b) The manufactured home be set upon a permanent foundation, as specified by the manufacturer, and that the space from the bottom of the home to the ground be enclosed by concrete or an approved concrete product which can be either load bearing or decorative;

(c) The manufactured home comply with all local design standards applicable to all other homes within the neighborhood in which the manufactured home is to be located;

(d) The home is thermally equivalent to the state energy code; and

(e) The manufactured home otherwise meets all other requirements for a designated manufactured home as defined in RCW 35.63.160.

(2) (a) A county may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of restricting the location of manufactured/mobile homes in manufactured/mobile home communities, as defined in RCW 59.20.030, which were legally in existence before June 12, 2008, based exclusively on the age or dimensions of the manufactured/mobile home.

(b) A county may not prohibit the siting of a manufactured/mobile home on an existing lot based solely on lack of compliance with existing separation and setback requirements that regulate the distance between homes.

(c) A county is not precluded by (a) or (b) of this subsection from restricting the location of a manufactured/mobile home in manufactured/mobile home communities for any other reason including,

but not limited to, failure to comply with fire, safety, or other local ordinances or state laws related to manufactured/mobile homes.

(3) A county may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of preventing the entry or requiring the removal of a recreational vehicle used as a primary residence in manufactured/mobile home communities, as defined in RCW 59.20.030, unless the recreational vehicle fails to comply with the fire, safety, or other local ordinances or state laws related to recreational vehicles.

(4) This section does not override any legally recorded covenants or deed restrictions of record.

(5) This section does not affect the authority granted under chapter 43.22 RCW. [2019 c 390 s 16; 2009 c 79 s 3; 2008 c 117 s 3; 2004 c 256 s 4.]

Finding—Intent—2019 c 390: See note following RCW 59.21.005.

Tax preference performance statement and expiration—2019 c 390: See note following RCW 84.36.560.

Findings—Intent—Effective date—2004 c 256: See notes following RCW 35.21.684.

RCW 36.01.227 County may not limit number of unrelated persons occupying a household or dwelling unit—Exceptions. Except for occupant limits on group living arrangements regulated under state law or on short-term rentals as defined in RCW 64.37.010 and any lawful limits on occupant load per square foot or generally applicable health and safety provisions as established by applicable building code or county ordinance, a county may not regulate or limit the number of unrelated persons that may occupy a household or dwelling unit. [2021 c 306 s 7.]

RCW 36.01.230 Cooperative watershed management. A county may, acting through the county legislative authority, participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 s 8.]

Finding—Intent—2003 c 327: See note following RCW 39.34.190.

RCW 36.01.240 Regulation of financial transactions—Limitations. A county or governmental entity subject to this title may not regulate the terms, conditions, or disclosures of any lawful financial transaction between a consumer and (1) a business or professional under the jurisdiction of the department of financial institutions, or (2) any financial institution as defined under *RCW 30.22.041. [2005 c 338 s 4.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 30.22.041 was recodified as RCW 30A.22.041 pursuant to 2014 c 37 s 4, effective January 5, 2015.

Finding—Intent—2005 c 338: See note following RCW 35.21.698.

RCW 36.01.250 Environmental mitigation activities. (1) Any county authorized to acquire and operate utilities or conduct other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activities may develop and make publicly available a plan for the county to reduce its greenhouse gases emissions or achieve no-net emissions from all sources of greenhouse gases that such county utility or proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activity owns, operates, leases, uses, contracts for, or otherwise controls.

(2) Any county authorized to acquire and operate utilities or conduct other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activities may, as part of such utility or activity, reduce or mitigate the environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gases emissions, of such utility and other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activity. The mitigation may include, but is not limited to, all greenhouse gases mitigation mechanisms recognized by independent, qualified organizations with proven experience in emissions mitigation activities. Mitigation mechanisms may include the purchase, trade, and banking of carbon offsets or credits. Ratepayer funds, fees, or other revenue dedicated to a county utility or other proprietary or user or ratepayer funded activity may be spent to reduce or mitigate the environmental impacts of greenhouse gases emitted as a result of that function. If a state greenhouse gases registry is established, the county that has purchased, traded, or banked greenhouse gases mitigation mechanisms under this section shall receive credit in the registry. [2007 c 349 s 6.]

Findings—Intent—2007 c 349 s 6: "The legislature finds and declares that greenhouse gases offset contracts, credits, and other greenhouse gases mitigation efforts are a recognized utility purpose that confers a direct benefit on the utility's ratepayers. The legislature also finds and declares that greenhouse gases offset contracts, credits, and other greenhouse gases mitigation efforts are a recognized purpose of other county proprietary activities that are funded by users and ratepayers, and that such mitigation efforts confer a direct benefit on such payers. The legislature declares that section 6 of this act is intended to reverse the result of *Okeson v. City of Seattle* (January 18, 2007), by expressly granting counties the statutory authority to engage in mitigation activities to offset the impact on the environment of their utilities and certain other proprietary and user and ratepayer funded activities." [2007 c 349 s 5.]

RCW 36.01.260 Urban forestry ordinances. (1) Any county may adopt urban forestry ordinances, as that term is defined in RCW 76.15.010, which the county must apply to new building or land development in the unincorporated portions of the county's urban growth areas, as that term is defined in RCW 36.70A.030, and may apply to other areas of the county as deemed appropriate by the county.

(2) As an alternative to subsection (1) of this section, a city or town may request that the county in which it is located apply to any new building or land development permit in the unincorporated portions of the urban growth areas, as defined in RCW 36.70A.030, the

urban forestry ordinances standards adopted under RCW 76.15.090 by the city or town in the county located closest to the proposed building or development. [2021 c 209 s 20; 2008 c 299 s 15.]

Findings—Intent—2021 c 209: See note following RCW 76.15.005.

Short title—2008 c 299: See note following RCW 76.15.020.

RCW 36.01.270 Contractors—Authority of county to verify registration and report violations. A county that issues a business license to a person required to be registered under chapter 18.27 RCW may verify that the person is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW and report violations to the department of labor and industries. [2009 c 432 s 4.]

Report—2009 c 432: See RCW 18.27.800.

RCW 36.01.280 Community athletics programs—Sex discrimination prohibited. The antidiscrimination provisions of RCW 49.60.500 apply to community athletics programs and facilities operated, conducted, or administered by a county. [2009 c 467 s 7.]

Findings—Declarations—2009 c 467: See note following RCW 49.60.500.

RCW 36.01.290 Hosting the homeless by religious organizations—When authorized—Requirements—Prohibitions on local actions. (1) A religious organization may host the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization whether within buildings located on the property or elsewhere on the property outside of buildings.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, a county may not enact an ordinance or regulation or take any other action that:

(a) Imposes conditions other than those necessary to protect public health and safety and that do not substantially burden the decisions or actions of a religious organization regarding the location of housing or shelter, such as an outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking, for homeless persons on property owned or controlled by the religious organization;

(b) Requires a religious organization to obtain insurance pertaining to the liability of a municipality with respect to homeless persons housed on property owned by a religious organization or otherwise requires the religious organization to indemnify the municipality against such liability;

(c) Imposes permit fees in excess of the actual costs associated with the review and approval of permit applications. A county has discretion to reduce or waive permit fees for a religious organization that is hosting the homeless;

(d) Specifically limits a religious organization's availability to host an outdoor encampment on its property or property controlled by the religious organization to fewer than six months during any

calendar year. However, a county may enact an ordinance or regulation that requires a separation of time of no more than three months between subsequent or established outdoor encampments at a particular site;

(e) Specifically limits a religious organization's outdoor encampment hosting term to fewer than four consecutive months;

(f) Limits the number of simultaneous religious organization outdoor encampment hostings within the same municipality during any given period of time. Simultaneous and adjacent hostings of outdoor encampments by religious organizations may be limited if located within one thousand feet of another outdoor encampment concurrently hosted by a religious organization;

(g) Limits a religious organization's availability to host safe parking efforts at its on-site parking lot, including limitations on any other congregationally sponsored uses and the parking available to support such uses during the hosting, except for limitations that are in accord with the following criteria that would govern if enacted by local ordinance or memorandum of understanding between the host religious organization and the jurisdiction:

(i) No less than one space may be devoted to safe parking per ten on-site parking spaces;

(ii) Restroom access must be provided either within the buildings on the property or through use of portable facilities, with the provision for proper disposal of waste if recreational vehicles are hosted; and

(iii) Religious organizations providing spaces for safe parking must continue to abide by any existing on-site parking minimum requirement so that the provision of safe parking spaces does not reduce the total number of available parking spaces below the minimum number of spaces required by the county, but a county may enter into a memorandum of understanding with a religious organization that reduces the minimum number of on-site parking spaces required;

(h) Limits a religious organization's availability to host an indoor overnight shelter in spaces with at least two accessible exits due to lack of sprinklers or other fire-related concerns, except that:

(i) If a county fire official finds that fire-related concerns associated with an indoor overnight shelter pose an imminent danger to persons within the shelter, the county may take action to limit the religious organization's availability to host the indoor overnight shelter; and

(ii) A county may require a host religious organization to enter into a memorandum of understanding for fire safety that includes local fire district inspections, an outline for appropriate emergency procedures, a determination of the most viable means to evacuate occupants from inside the host site with appropriate illuminated exit signage, panic bar exit doors, and a completed fire watch agreement indicating:

(A) Posted safe means of egress;

(B) Operable smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors as necessary, and fire extinguishers;

(C) A plan for monitors who spend the night awake and are familiar with emergency protocols, who have suitable communication devices, and who know how to contact the local fire department; or

(i) Limits a religious organization's ability to host temporary small houses on land owned or controlled by the religious organization, except for recommendations that are in accord with the following criteria:

- (i) A renewable one-year duration agreed to by the host religious organization and local jurisdiction via a memorandum of understanding;
- (ii) Maintaining a maximum unit square footage of one hundred twenty square feet, with units set at least six feet apart;
- (iii) Electricity and heat, if provided, must be inspected by the local jurisdiction;
- (iv) Space heaters, if provided, must be approved by the local fire authority;
- (v) Doors and windows must be included and be lockable, with a recommendation that the managing agency and host religious organization also possess keys;
- (vi) Each unit must have a fire extinguisher;
- (vii) Adequate restrooms must be provided, including restrooms solely for families if present, along with handwashing and potable running water to be available if not provided within the individual units, including accommodating black water;
- (viii) A recommendation for the host religious organization to partner with regional homeless service providers to develop pathways to permanent housing.

(3) (a) A county may enact an ordinance or regulation or take any other action that requires a host religious organization and a distinct managing agency using the religious organization's property, owned or controlled by the religious organization, for hostings to include outdoor encampments, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelters, or vehicle resident safe parking to enter into a memorandum of understanding to protect the public health and safety of both the residents of the particular hosting and the residents of the county.

(b) At a minimum, the agreement must include information regarding: The right of a resident in an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, temporary small house on-site, or indoor overnight shelter to seek public health and safety assistance, the resident's ability to access social services on-site, and the resident's ability to directly interact with the host religious organization, including the ability to express any concerns regarding the managing agency to the religious organization; a written code of conduct agreed to by the managing agency, if any, host religious organization, and all volunteers working with residents of the outdoor encampment, temporary small house on-site, indoor overnight shelter, or vehicle resident safe parking; and when a publicly funded managing agency exists, the ability for the host religious organization to interact with residents of the outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking using a release of information.

(4) If required to do so by the county, any host religious organization performing any hosting of an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, or indoor overnight shelter, or the host religious organization's managing agency, must ensure that the county or local law enforcement agency has completed sex offender checks of all adult residents and guests. The host religious organization retains the authority to allow such offenders to remain on the property. A host religious organization or host religious organization's managing agency performing any hosting of vehicle resident safe parking must inform vehicle residents how to comply with laws regarding the legal status of vehicles and drivers, and provide a written code of conduct consistent with area standards.

(5) Any host religious organization performing any hosting of an outdoor encampment, vehicle resident safe parking, temporary small house on-site, or indoor overnight shelter, with a publicly funded managing agency, must work with the county to utilize Washington's homeless client management information system, as provided for in RCW 43.185C.180. When the religious organization does not partner with a managing agency, the religious organization is encouraged to partner with a local homeless services provider using the Washington homeless client managing information system. Any managing agency receiving any funding from local continuum of care programs must utilize the homeless client management information system. Temporary, overnight, extreme weather shelter provided in religious organization buildings does not need to meet this requirement.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Managing agency" means an organization such as a religious organization or other organized entity that has the capacity to organize and manage a homeless outdoor encampment, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelter, and a vehicle resident safe parking program.

(b) "Outdoor encampment" means any temporary tent or structure encampment, or both.

(c) "Religious organization" means the federally protected practice of a recognized religious assembly, school, or institution that owns or controls real property.

(d) "Temporary" means not affixed to land permanently and not using underground utilities.

(7) (a) Subsection (2) of this section does not affect a county policy, ordinance, memorandum of understanding, or applicable consent decree that regulates religious organizations' hosting of the homeless if such policies, ordinances, memoranda of understanding, or consent decrees:

(i) Exist prior to June 11, 2020;

(ii) Do not categorically prohibit the hosting of the homeless by religious organizations; and

(iii) Have not been previously ruled by a court to violate the religious land use and institutionalized persons act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000cc.

(b) If such policies, ordinances, memoranda of understanding, and consent decrees are amended after June 11, 2020, those amendments are not affected by subsection (2) of this section if those amendments satisfy (a) (ii) and (iii) of this subsection.

(8) An appointed or elected public official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470 is immune from civil liability for (a) damages arising from the permitting decisions for a temporary encampment for the homeless as provided in this section and (b) any conduct or unlawful activity that may occur as a result of the temporary encampment for the homeless as provided in this section.

(9) A religious organization hosting outdoor encampments, vehicle resident safe parking, or indoor overnight shelters for the homeless that receives funds from any government agency may not refuse to host any resident or prospective resident because of age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, as these terms are defined in RCW 49.60.040.

(10)(a) Prior to the opening of an outdoor encampment, indoor overnight shelter, temporary small house on-site, or vehicle resident safe parking, a religious organization hosting the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization must host a meeting open to the public for the purpose of providing a forum for discussion of related neighborhood concerns, unless the use is in response to a declared emergency. The religious organization must provide written notice of the meeting to the county legislative authority at least one week if possible but no later than ninety-six hours prior to the meeting. The notice must specify the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

(b) A county must provide community notice of the meeting described in (a) of this subsection by taking at least two of the following actions at any time prior to the time of the meeting:

(i) Delivering to each local newspaper of general circulation and local radio or television station that has on file with the governing body a written request to be notified of special meetings;

(ii) Posting on the county's website. A county is not required to post a special meeting notice on its website if it: (A) Does not have a website; (B) employs fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees; or (C) does not employ personnel whose duty, as defined by a job description or existing contract, is to maintain or update the website;

(iii) Prominently displaying, on signage at least two feet in height and two feet in width, one or more meeting notices that can be placed on or adjacent to the main arterials in proximity to the location of the meeting; or

(iv) Prominently displaying the notice at the meeting site.

[2020 c 223 s 2; 2010 c 175 s 2.]

Findings—Intent—2020 c 223: "(1) The legislature makes the following findings:

(a) Residents in temporary settings hosted by religious organizations are a particularly vulnerable population that do not have access to the same services as citizens with more stable housing.

(b) Residents in these settings, including outdoor uses such as outdoor encampments, indoor overnight shelters, temporary small houses on-site, and homeless-occupied vehicle resident safe parking, can be at increased risk of exploitation, theft, unsanitary living conditions, and physical harm.

(c) Furthermore, the legislature finds and declares that hosted outdoor encampments, indoor overnight shelters, temporary small houses on-site, and homeless-occupied vehicle resident safe parking serve as pathways for individuals experiencing homelessness to receive services and achieve financial stability, health, and permanent housing.

(2) The legislature intends that local municipalities have the discretion to protect the health and safety of both residents in temporary settings that are hosted by religious organizations and the surrounding community. The legislature encourages local jurisdictions and religious organizations to work together collaboratively to protect the health and safety of residents and the surrounding community while allowing religious organizations to fulfill their mission to serve the homeless. The legislature further intends to monitor the implementation of this act and continue to refine it to achieve these goals." [2020 c 223 s 1.]

Findings—2010 c 175: "The legislature finds that there are many homeless persons in our state that are in need of shelter and other services that are not being provided by the state and local governments. The legislature also finds that in many communities, religious organizations play an important role in providing needed services to the homeless, including the provision of shelter upon property owned by the religious organization. By providing such shelter, the religious institutions in our communities perform a valuable public service that, for many, offers a temporary, stopgap solution to the larger social problem of increasing numbers of homeless persons.

This act provides guidance to cities and counties in regulating homeless encampments within the community, but still leaves those entities with broad discretion to protect the health and safety of its citizens. It is the hope of this legislature that local governments and religious organizations can work together and utilize dispute resolution processes without the need for litigation." [2010 c 175 s 1.]

Intent—Construction—2010 c 175: "Nothing in this act is intended to change applicable law or be interpreted to prohibit a county, city, town, or code city from applying zoning and land use regulations allowable under established law to real property owned by a religious organization, regardless of whether the property owned by the religious organization is used to provide shelter or housing to homeless persons." [2010 c 175 s 5.]

Prior consent decrees and negotiated settlements for temporary encampments for the homeless not superseded—2010 c 175: "Nothing in this act supersedes a court ordered consent decree or other negotiated settlement between a public agency and religious organization entered into prior to July 1, 2010, for the purposes of establishing a temporary encampment for the homeless as provided in this act." [2010 c 175 s 6.]

RCW 36.01.300 State and federal background checks of license applicants and licensees of occupations under local licensing authority. (1) For the purpose of receiving criminal history record information by county officials, counties may:

(a) By ordinance, require a state and federal background investigation of license applicants or licensees in occupations specified by ordinance;

(b) By ordinance, require a federal background investigation of county employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the county, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults;

(c) Require a state background investigation of county employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course of their work or volunteer activity with the county, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults; and

(d) Require a criminal background investigation conducted through a private organization of county employees, applicants for employment, volunteers, vendors, and independent contractors, who, in the course

of their work or volunteer activity with the county, may have unsupervised access to children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults.

(2) The investigation conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section shall consist of a background check as allowed through the Washington state criminal records privacy act under RCW 10.97.050, the Washington state patrol criminal identification system under RCW 43.43.832 through 43.43.834, and the federal bureau of investigation.

(3) The background checks conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section must be done through the Washington state patrol identification and criminal history section and may include a national check from the federal bureau of investigation, which shall be through the submission of fingerprints. The Washington state patrol shall serve as the sole source for receipt of fingerprint submissions and the responses to the submissions from the federal bureau of investigation, which must be disseminated to the county.

(4) For a criminal background check conducted under subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section, the county shall transmit appropriate fees for a state and national criminal history check to the Washington state patrol, unless alternately arranged. The cost of investigations conducted under this section shall be borne by the county.

(5) The authority for background checks outlined in this section is in addition to any other authority for such checks provided by law. [2017 c 332 s 3; 2010 c 47 s 1.]

RCW 36.01.310 Accessible community advisory committees. (1) A county has the option to expand the scope of an advisory committee established and maintained under *RCW 29A.46.260 to that of an accessible community advisory committee, or to create an accessible community advisory committee.

(2) A county that has an active accessible community advisory committee may be reimbursed within available funds from the accessible communities account created in RCW 50.40.071 for travel, per diem, and reasonable accommodation expenses for the participation of that committee's members in committee meetings and sponsored activities.

(3) A county establishes that it has an active accessible community advisory committee by submitting biennial assurances to the governor's committee on disability issues and employment that:

(a) The decision to establish an accessible community advisory committee was made by the county legislative authority, or by agents or officers acting under that authority.

(b) If an accessible community advisory committee is established by expanding the advisory committee established and maintained under *RCW 29A.46.260, the county auditor supports that expansion.

(c) Committee members include persons with a diverse range of disabilities who are knowledgeable in identifying and eliminating attitudinal, programmatic, communication, and physical barriers encountered by persons with disabilities.

(d) The committee is actively involved in the following activities: Advising on addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency plans; advising the county and other local governments within the county on access to programs services and activities, new construction or renovation projects, sidewalks, other pedestrian routes of travel, and disability parking enforcement; and

developing local initiatives and activities to promote greater awareness of disability issues, and acceptance, involvement, and access for persons with disabilities within the community.

(4) Counties may form joint accessible community advisory committees, as long as no more than one of the participating counties has a population greater than seventy thousand. [2010 c 215 s 4.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 29A.46.260 was recodified as RCW 29A.04.223 pursuant to 2011 c 10 s 87.

Findings—2010 c 215: See note following RCW 50.40.071.

RCW 36.01.320 Application for a permit to site an energy plant or alternative energy resource—Written notice to United States department of defense. (1) Upon receipt of an application for a permit to site an energy plant or alternative energy resource that is connected to electrical transmission facilities of a nominal voltage of at least one hundred fifteen thousand volts, the county shall notify in writing the United States department of defense. The notification shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) A description of the proposed energy plant or alternative energy resource;

(b) The location of the site;

(c) The number and placement of the energy plant or alternative energy resource on the site;

(d) The date and time by which comments must be received by the county; and

(e) Contact information of the county permitting authority and the applicant.

(2) The purpose of the written notification is to provide an opportunity for the United States department of defense to comment upon the application, and to identify potential issues relating to the placement and operations of the energy plant or alternative energy resource, before a permit application is approved. The time period set forth by the county for receipt of such comments shall not extend the time period for the county's processing of the application.

(3) For the purpose of this section, "alternative energy resource," "energy plant," and "electrical transmission facility" shall each have the meaning set forth in RCW 80.50.020. [2011 c 261 s 2.]

RCW 36.01.330 Failing septic systems—Connection to public sewer systems—Appeals process. (1) A county with an ordinance or resolution requiring, upon the failure of an on-site septic system, connection to a public sewer system must, in accordance with this section, provide an administrative appeals process to consider denials of permit applications to repair or replace the septic system. The administrative appeals process required by this section applies only to requests to repair or replace existing, failing on-site septic systems that:

(a) Were made for a single-family residence by its owner or owners;

(b) Were denied solely because of a law, regulation, or ordinance requiring connection to a public sewer system; and

(c) Absent the applicable law, regulation, or ordinance requiring connection to a public sewer system upon which the denial was based, would be approved.

(2) If the county has an administrative appeals process, the county may, subject to the requirements of this section, use that process. The administrative appeals process required by this section, however, must be presided over by the legislative body of the county or by an administrative hearings officer.

(3) The administrative appeals process required by this section must, at a minimum, consider whether:

(a) It is cost-prohibitive to require the property owner to connect to the public sewer system. In complying with this subsection (3)(a), the county must consider the estimated cost to repair or replace the on-site septic system compared to the estimated cost to connect to the public sewer system;

(b) There are public health or environmental considerations related to allowing the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system. In complying with this subsection (3)(b), the county must consider whether the repaired or replaced on-site septic system contributes to the pollution of surface waters or groundwater;

(c) There are public sewer system performance or financing considerations related to allowing the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system; and

(d) There are financial assistance programs or latecomer agreements offered by the county or state that may impact a decision of the property owner to repair or replace the on-site septic system.

(4) If the county, following the appeals process required by this section, determines that the property owner must connect the residence to the public sewer system, the property owner may, in complying with the determination and subject to approval of appropriate permits, select and hire contractors at his or her own expense to perform the work necessary to connect the residence to the public sewer system.

(5) Unless otherwise required by law, a county determination requiring the owner of a single-family residence with a failing on-site septic system to connect a residence to a public sewer system is not subject to appeal. [2015 c 297 s 3.]

RCW 36.01.340 Final determination on state highway permit projects. A county must comply with the requirements of RCW 47.01.485 in making a final determination on a permit as part of a project on a state highway as defined in RCW 46.04.560. [2015 3rd sp.s. c 15 s 5.]

Effective date—Findings—Intent—2015 3rd sp.s. c 15: See notes following RCW 47.01.485.

RCW 36.01.350 Removal of restrictive covenants—Hearing, notice. Any county must hold a public hearing upon a proposal to remove, vacate, or extinguish a restrictive covenant from property owned by the county before the action is finalized. The public hearing must allow individuals to provide testimony regarding the proposed action. The county must provide notice of the public hearing at least ten days before the hearing at its usual place of business and issue a press release to local media providing the date, time, location, and reason for the public hearing. The notice must be posted on the county's

website if it is updated for any reason before the hearing. The notice must also identify the property and provide a brief explanation of the restrictive covenant to be removed, vacated, or extinguished. Any member of the public, in person or by counsel, may submit testimony regarding the proposed action at the public hearing. [2017 c 119 s 5.]

Short title—Finding—2017 c 119: See notes following RCW 35.21.960.

RCW 36.01.360 Telecommunications services and facilities authorized—Requirements. (1) A county may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities for the purpose of furnishing the county and its inhabitants with telecommunications services. The county has full authority to regulate and control the use, distribution, and price of the services.

(2) (a) Before providing telecommunications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, a county must examine and report to its governing body and to the state broadband office the following about the area to be served by the county:

(i) An assessment of the current availability of broadband infrastructure and its adequacy to provide high-speed internet access and other advanced telecommunications services to end users;

(ii) The location of where retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iii) Evidence relating to the unserved nature of the community in which retail telecommunications services will be provided;

(iv) Expected costs of providing retail telecommunications services to customers to be served by the county;

(v) Evidence that proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be capable of scaling to greater download and upload speeds to meet state broadband goals under RCW 43.330.536;

(vi) Sources of funding for the project that will supplement any grant or loan awards; and

(vii) A strategic plan to maintain long-term operation of the infrastructure, and the expected installation charges and monthly costs for end users.

(b) The state broadband office must post a review of the proposed project on its website.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) "Unserved" means an area of Washington in which households and businesses lack access to broadband service at a minimum 100 megabits per second download speed and at a minimum 20 megabits per second upload speed. [2021 c 294 s 7.]

Short title—2021 c 294: See note following RCW 54.16.330.

RCW 36.01.370 Comprehensive cancer care collaborative arrangements—Prohibition on regulation as state agency. No county may enact, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, regulation, or rule that

regulates or otherwise treats a comprehensive cancer center participating in a collaborative arrangement as defined in RCW 28B.10.930 that is operated in conformance with RCW 28B.10.930 as a state agency. Such a comprehensive cancer center is still subject to ordinances, regulations, and rules that are generally applicable in nature. [2022 c 71 s 3.]

Findings—Intent—2022 c 71: See note following RCW 28B.10.930.

RCW 36.01.380 Wind and solar resource evaluation equipment. A county may not prohibit the installation of wind and solar resource evaluation equipment necessary for the design and environmental planning of a renewable energy project. [2023 c 230 s 305.]

Findings—Intent—2023 c 230: See note following RCW 43.394.010.

RCW 36.01.390 Limitations on the use of gas—Prohibition. A county shall not in any way prohibit, penalize, or discourage the use of gas for any form of heating, or for uses related to any appliance or equipment, in any building. [2025 c 1 s 10 (Initiative Measure No. 2066, approved November 5, 2024).]

Findings—2025 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 2066): See note following RCW 80.28.110.