

**HB 2474** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

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

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 84.52.069 and 2011 c 365 s 2 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 (1) As used in this section, "taxing district" means a county,  
6 emergency medical service district, city or town, public hospital  
7 district, urban emergency medical service district, regional fire  
8 protection service authority, or fire protection district.

9 (2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a taxing  
10 district may impose additional regular property tax levies in an amount  
11 equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of the assessed value  
12 of property in the taxing district. The tax (~~(shall be)~~) is imposed  
13 (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten  
14 consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A permanent tax levy under this  
15 section, or the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year levy under  
16 this section, must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least  
17 three-fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition  
18 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at  
19 which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition  
20 shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the  
21 total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last  
22 preceding general election when the number of registered voters voting  
23 on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of  
24 voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general  
25 election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered  
26 voters thereof voting on the proposition when the number of registered  
27 voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total  
28 number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding  
29 general election. The uninterrupted continuation of a six-year or ten-  
30 year tax levy under this section must be specifically authorized by a

1 majority of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition  
2 authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election,  
3 provided that the tax levy is continued at the levy limits provided for  
4 in RCW 84.55.010. If a six-year or ten-year tax levy is continued at  
5 levels above which is provided for in RCW 84.55.010, the levy must be  
6 treated as an initial levy. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW  
7 29A.36.210. A taxing district may not submit to the voters at the same  
8 election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this section.

9 (3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section  
10 shall provide for separate accounting of expenditures of the revenues  
11 generated by the levy. The taxing district must maintain a statement  
12 of the accounting which must be updated at least every two years and  
13 must be available to the public upon request at no charge.

14 (4)(a) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this  
15 section must provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the  
16 ordinance or resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure  
17 must specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with  
18 a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution. Within  
19 ten days, the filing officer must confer with the petitioner concerning  
20 form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification  
21 number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from  
22 the designated local official. The petitioner has thirty days in which  
23 to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the  
24 registered voters of the taxing district, as of the last general  
25 election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the  
26 full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer must  
27 verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if  
28 sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, must certify the  
29 referendum measure to the next election within the taxing district if  
30 one is to be held within one hundred eighty days from the date of  
31 filing of the referendum petition, or at a special election to be  
32 called for that purpose in accordance with RCW 29A.04.330.

33 (b) The referendum procedure provided in this subsection (4) is  
34 exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax  
35 under this section and supersedes the procedures provided under all  
36 other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum  
37 which might otherwise apply.

1 (5) Any tax imposed under this section may be used only for the  
2 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services,  
3 including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and  
4 related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the  
5 provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

6 (6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing district  
7 within the county may levy a tax under this section. If a regional  
8 fire protection service authority imposes a tax under this section, no  
9 other taxing district that is a participating fire protection  
10 jurisdiction in the regional fire protection service authority may levy  
11 a tax under this section. No other taxing district may levy a tax  
12 under this section if another taxing district has levied a tax under  
13 this section within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That if a county levies  
14 less than fifty cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of  
15 property, then any other taxing district may levy a tax under this  
16 section equal to the difference between the rate of the levy by the  
17 county and fifty cents: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a taxing district  
18 within a county levies this tax, and the voters of the county  
19 subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the amount of the  
20 taxing district levy within the county must be reduced, when the  
21 combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax is levied  
22 countywide, the service must, insofar as is feasible, be provided  
23 throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no countywide levy  
24 proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the  
25 legislative authority of each city exceeding fifty thousand population  
26 within the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW  
27 36.32.480 shall not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual  
28 excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER,  
29 That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this section, no  
30 other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under this section by  
31 another taxing district in the county may be placed before the voters  
32 at the same election at which the county ballot proposition is placed:  
33 AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district emergency medical  
34 service levy that is limited in duration and that is authorized  
35 subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy that is limited  
36 in duration, expires concurrently with the county emergency medical  
37 service levy. A fire protection district that has annexed an area

1 described in subsection (10) of this section may levy the maximum  
2 amount of tax that would otherwise be allowed, notwithstanding any  
3 limitations in this subsection (6).

4 (7) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax levy  
5 authorized in this section.

6 (8) If a ballot proposition approved under subsection (2) of this  
7 section did not impose the maximum allowable levy amount authorized for  
8 the taxing district under this section, any future increase up to the  
9 maximum allowable levy amount must be specifically authorized by the  
10 voters in accordance with subsection (2) of this section at a general  
11 or special election.

12 (9) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first  
13 levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of such  
14 levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

15 (10) For purposes of imposing the tax authorized under this  
16 section, the boundary of a county with a population greater than one  
17 million five hundred thousand does not include all of the area of the  
18 county that is located within a city that has a boundary in two  
19 counties, if the locally assessed value of all the property in the area  
20 of the city within the county having a population greater than one  
21 million five hundred thousand is less than two hundred fifty million  
22 dollars.

23 (11) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

24 (a) "Fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection  
25 district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district; and

26 (b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire  
27 protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that is  
28 represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection  
29 service authority."

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30 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "levies;" strike the

1 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 84.52.069."

EFFECT: In order for a six or ten-year levy to be continued by a fifty percent vote, the levy must be continued at its same level subject to normal levy limits.

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