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SENATE BILL 6076

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Benton and Dansel

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the maintenance and operations of parks and  
2 recreational land acquired through the conservation futures program;  
3 and amending RCW 84.34.240.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 84.34.240 and 2005 c 449 s 2 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 Conservation futures are a useful tool for counties to preserve  
8 lands of public interest for future generations. Counties are  
9 encouraged to use some conservation futures as one tool for salmon  
10 preservation purposes.

11 (1) Any board of county commissioners may establish by resolution  
12 a special fund which may be termed a conservation futures fund to which  
13 it may credit all taxes levied pursuant to RCW 84.34.230. Amounts  
14 placed in this fund may be used for the purpose of acquiring rights and  
15 interests in real property pursuant to the terms of RCW 84.34.210 and  
16 84.34.220, and for the maintenance and operation of any property  
17 acquired with these funds.

18 (2)(a) Generally, the amount of revenue used for maintenance and  
19 operations of parks and recreational land may not exceed fifteen

1 percent of the total amount collected from the tax levied under RCW  
2 84.34.230 in the preceding calendar year. Revenues from this tax may  
3 not be used to supplant existing maintenance and operation funding.

4 (b) A county may use up to twenty-five percent of the total amount  
5 for maintenance and operations of parks and recreational land if it has  
6 acquired rights and interests in one hundred or more acres of real  
7 property under RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220.

8 (c) A county may use up to thirty-five percent of the total amount  
9 for maintenance and operations of parks and recreational land if it  
10 has:

11 (i) Acquired rights and interests in four hundred or more acres of  
12 real property under RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220; and

13 (ii) Collected a conservation futures levy for twenty or more  
14 years.

15 (3) Any rights or interests in real property acquired under this  
16 section must be located within the assessing county. (~~Further,~~) The  
17 county must determine if the rights or interests in real property  
18 acquired with these funds would reduce the capacity of land suitable  
19 for development necessary to accommodate the allocated housing and  
20 employment growth, as adopted in the countywide planning policies.  
21 When actions are taken that reduce capacity to accommodate planned  
22 growth, the jurisdiction shall adopt reasonable measures to increase  
23 the capacity lost by such actions.

24 ~~((+2))~~ (4) In counties greater than one hundred thousand in  
25 population, the board of county commissioners or county legislative  
26 authority shall develop a process to help ensure distribution of the  
27 tax levied under RCW 84.34.230, over time, throughout the county.

28 ~~((+3))~~ (5)(a) Between July 24, 2005, and July 1, 2008, the county  
29 legislative authority of a county with a population density of fewer  
30 than four persons per square mile may enact an ordinance offering a  
31 ballot proposal to the people of the county to determine whether or not  
32 the county legislative authority may make a one-time emergency  
33 reallocation of unspent conservation futures funds to pay for other  
34 county government purposes, where such conservation futures funds were  
35 originally levied under RCW 84.34.230 but never spent to acquire rights  
36 and interests in real property.

37 (b) Upon adoption by the county legislative authority of a ballot  
38 proposal ordinance under (a) of this subsection the county auditor

1 shall: (i) Confer with the county legislative authority and review any  
2 proposal to the people as to form and style; (ii) give the ballot  
3 proposal a number, which thereafter shall be the identifying number for  
4 the proposal; (iii) transmit a copy of the proposal to the prosecuting  
5 attorney; and (iv) submit the proposal to the people at the next  
6 general or special election that is not less than ninety days after the  
7 adoption of the ordinance by the county legislative authority.

8 (c) The county prosecuting attorney shall within fifteen working  
9 days of receipt of the proposal compose a concise statement, posed as  
10 a positive question, not to exceed twenty-five words, which shall  
11 express and give a true and impartial statement of the proposal. Such  
12 concise statement shall be the ballot title.

13 (d) If the measure is affirmed by a majority voting on the issue it  
14 shall become effective ten days after the results of the election are  
15 certified.

16 ((+4)) (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting  
17 in any manner methods and funds otherwise available to a county for  
18 financing the acquisition of such rights and interests in real  
19 property.

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