
HOUSE BILL 2079

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Parker and Harris

Read first time 02/11/15. Referred to Committee on Environment.

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
6 read 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
13 which it may credit all taxes levied pursuant to RCW 84.34.230.
14 Amounts placed in this fund may be used for the purpose of acquiring
15 rights and interests in real property pursuant to the terms of RCW
16 84.34.210 and 84.34.220, and for the maintenance and operation of any
17 property 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
20 percent of the total amount collected from the tax levied under RCW

1 84.34.230 in the preceding calendar year. Revenues from this tax may
2 not be used to supplant existing maintenance and operation funding.

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

7 (c) Beginning January 1, 2025, a county may use up to thirty
8 percent of the total amount for maintenance and operations of
9 recreational land if it has:

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

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

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

23 (~~(+2)~~) (4) In counties greater than one hundred thousand in
24 population, the board of county commissioners or county legislative
25 authority shall develop a process to help ensure distribution of the
26 tax levied under RCW 84.34.230, over time, throughout the county.

27 (~~(+3)~~) (5)(a) Between July 24, 2005, and July 1, 2008, the
28 county legislative authority of a county with a population density of
29 fewer than four persons per square mile may enact an ordinance
30 offering a ballot proposal to the people of the county to determine
31 whether or not the county legislative authority may make a one-time
32 emergency reallocation of unspent conservation futures funds to pay
33 for other county government purposes, where such conservation futures
34 funds were originally levied under RCW 84.34.230 but never spent to
35 acquire rights and interests in real property.

36 (b) Upon adoption by the county legislative authority of a ballot
37 proposal ordinance under (a) of this subsection the county auditor
38 shall: (i) Confer with the county legislative authority and review
39 any proposal to the people as to form and style; (ii) give the ballot
40 proposal a number, which thereafter shall be the identifying number

1 for the proposal; (iii) transmit a copy of the proposal to the
2 prosecuting attorney; and (iv) submit the proposal to the people at
3 the next general or special election that is not less than ninety
4 days after the adoption of the ordinance by the county legislative
5 authority.

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

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

14 ~~((4))~~ (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as
15 limiting in any manner methods and funds otherwise available to a
16 county for financing the acquisition of such rights and interests in
17 real property.

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