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CHAPTER 315

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 10931]

STORM WATER CONTROL FACILITIES—RATES AND CHARGES FOR USE BY PUBLIC ENTITIES

AN ACT Relating to local government; amending section 19, chapter 2, Laws of 1983 and RCW 84.52.052; amending section 1, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.010; amending section 2, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.020; amending section 8, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.080; amending section 10, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.100; amending section 11, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.110; amending section 12, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.120; amending section 14, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.140; amending section 15, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.150; amending section 16, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 131, chapter 195, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW 86.15.160; amending section 3, chapter 195, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 86.15.165; amending section 17, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.170; amending section 7, chapter 136, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. and RCW 86.15.176; amending section 8, chapter 136, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. and RCW 86.15.178; amending section 19, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.190; amending section 21, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.210; adding a new section to chapter 35.67 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.92 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.89 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.94 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 56.08 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 86.15 RCW; and adding new sections to chapter 90.03 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. There is added to chapter 35.67 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by cities and towns pursuant to RCW 35.67.020.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 35.92 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by cities and towns pursuant to RCW 35.92.020.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 36.89 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by counties pursuant to RCW 36.89.080.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. There is added to chapter 36.94 RCW a new section to read as follows:

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Any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by counties pursuant to RCW 36.94.140.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. There is added to chapter 56.08 RCW a new section to read as follows:
Any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by sewer districts pursuant to RCW 56.08.010 or 56.16.090.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. There is added to chapter 86.15 RCW a new section to read as follows:
A flood control zone district is a quasi municipal corporation, an independent taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.
A flood control zone district constitutes a body corporate and possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute, including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, and to sue and be sued.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. There is added to chapter 86.15 RCW a new section to read as follows:
If the delinquent assessment remains unpaid on the date fixed for the sale under RCW 86.09.496 and 86.09.499, the parcel shall be sold in the same manner as provided under RCW 87.03.310 through 87.03.330. If the district reconveys the land under RCW 87.03.325 due to accident, inadvertence, or misfortune, however, interest shall accrue not at the rate provided in RCW 87.03.270, but at the rate provided in RCW 86.09.505.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. There is added to chapter 90.03 RCW a new section to read as follows:
The legislature finds that increasing the surface water or storm water accumulation on or flow over real property, beyond that which naturally occurs on the real property, may cause severe damage to the real property and limit the gainful use or enjoyment of the real property, resulting in a tort, nuisance, or taking. The damage can arise from activities increasing the point or nonpoint flow of surface water or storm water over the real property, or altering or interrupting the natural drainage from the real property. The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to permit the construction and operation of public improvements to lessen the damage. The legislature further finds that it is in the public interest to provide for
the equitable imposition of special assessments, rates, and charges to fund such improvements. This shall include the imposition of special assessments, rates, and charges on real property to fund that reasonable portion of the public improvements that alleviate the damage arising from activities that are the proximate cause of the damage on other real property. These special assessments, rates, and charges may be imposed on any publicly-owned, including state-owned, real property that causes such damage.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. There is added to chapter 90.03 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Whenever a county, city, town, sewer district, or flood control zone district imposes rates or charges to fund storm water control facilities or improvements and the operation and maintenance of such facilities or improvements under RCW 35.67.020, 35.92.020, 36.89.080, 36.94.140, 56.08.010, or 56.16.090, it shall provide a credit for the value of storm water control facilities or improvements that a person or entity has installed or located that mitigate or lessen the impact of storm water which otherwise would occur.

Sec. 10. Section 19, chapter 2, Laws of 1983 and RCW 84.52.052 are each amended to read as follows:

The limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056, and RCW 84.52.043 shall not prevent the levy of additional taxes by any taxing district except school districts in which a larger levy is necessary in order to prevent the impairment of the obligation of contracts. Any county, metropolitan park district, park and recreation service area, park and recreation district, sewer district, water district, solid waste disposal district, flood control zone district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, intercounty rural library district, fire protection district, cemetery district, city, (or) town, or cultural arts, stadium, and convention district may levy taxes at a rate in excess of the rate specified in RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056 and RCW 84.52.043, or RCW 84.55.010 through 84.55.050, when authorized so to do by the electors of such county, metropolitan park district, park and recreation service area, park and recreation district, sewer district, water district, solid waste disposal district, flood control zone district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, intercounty rural library district, fire protection district, cemetery district, city, town, or cultural arts, stadium, and convention district in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state, as amended by Amendment 64 and as thereafter amended, at a special or general election to be held in the year in which the levy is made.

A special election may be called and the time therefor fixed by the county legislative authority, or council, board of commissioners, or other governing body of any metropolitan park district, park and recreation service area, park and recreation district, sewer district, water district, solid
waste disposal district, flood control zone district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, intercounty rural library district, fire protection district, cemetery district, city, town, or cultural arts, stadium, and convention district, by giving notice thereof by publication in the manner provided by law for giving notices of general elections, at which special election the proposition authorizing such excess levy shall be submitted in such form as to enable the voters favoring the proposition to vote "yes" and those opposed thereto to vote "no.""

Sec. 11. Section 1, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.010 are each amended to read as follows:

((As used in this chapter the following words shall mean:)) The definitions set forth in this section apply through this chapter.

(1) "Board" means the county legislative authority. ((The board of county commissioners of any county, or the county commissioners, serving as ex officio board of supervisors of any zone or zones;))

(2) "Flood control improvement" means any works, projects, or other facilities necessary for the control of flood waters within the county or any zone or zones.

(3) "Flood waters" and "storm waters" means any storm waste or surplus waters, including surface water, wherever located within the county or a zone or zones where such waters endanger public highways, streams and water courses, harbors, life, or property.

(4) "Participating zones" means two or more zones found to benefit from a single flood control improvement or storm water control improvement.

(5) "Storm water control improvement" means any works, projects, or other facilities necessary to control and treat storm water within the county or any zone or zones.

(6) "Supervisors" means the board of supervisors, or governing body, of a zone.

(7) "Zones" means flood control zone districts which are quasi municipal corporations of the state of Washington created by this chapter.

Sec. 12. Section 2, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.020 are each amended to read as follows:

The board may initiate, by affirmative vote of a majority of the board, the creation of a zone or additional zones within the county, and without reference to an existing zone or zones, for the purpose of undertaking, operating, or maintaining flood control projects or storm water control projects or groups of projects that are of special benefit to specified areas of the county. Formation of a zone may also be initiated by a petition signed by twenty-five percent of the electors within a proposed zone based on the vote cast in the last county general election. If the formation of the zone is initiated by petition, the board shall incorporate the terms of
the petition in a resolution within forty days after receiving the petition from the county auditor. Thereafter, the procedures for establishing a zone shall be the same whether initiated by motion of the board or by a petition of electors.

Petitions shall be in a form prescribed and approved by the county auditor and shall include the necessary legal descriptions and other information necessary for establishment of a zone by resolution. When the sponsors of a petition have acquired the necessary signatures, they shall present the petition to the county auditor who shall thereafter certify the sufficiency of the petition within forty-five days. If the petition is found to meet the requirements specified in this chapter, the auditor shall transmit the petition to the board for their action; if the petition fails to meet the requirements of this chapter, it shall be returned to the sponsors.

Sec. 13. Section 8, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.080 are each amended to read as follows:

A zone or participating zone may:

1. Exercise all the powers vested in a county for flood water or storm water control purposes under the provisions of chapters 86.12, 86.13, 36.89, and 36.94 RCW: PROVIDED, That in exercising such powers, all actions shall be taken in the name of the zone and title to all property or property rights shall vest in the zone;

2. Plan, construct, acquire, repair, maintain, and operate all necessary equipment, facilities, improvements, and works to control, conserve, and remove flood waters and storm waters and to otherwise carry out the purposes of this chapter including, but not limited to, protection of the quality of water sources;

3. Take action necessary to protect life and property within the district from flood water damage;

4. Control, conserve, retain, reclaim, and remove flood waters and storm waters, including waters of lakes and ponds within the district, and dispose of the same for beneficial or useful purposes under such terms and conditions as the board may deem appropriate, subject to the acquisition by the board of appropriate water rights in accordance with the statutes;

5. Acquire necessary property, property rights, facilities, and equipment necessary to the purposes of the zone by purchase, gift, or condemnation: PROVIDED, That property of municipal corporations may not be acquired without the consent of such municipal corporation;

6. Sue and be sued in the name of the zone;

7. Acquire or reclaim lands when incidental to the purposes of the zone and dispose of such lands as are surplus to the needs of the zone in the manner provided for the disposal of county property in chapter 36.34 RCW;
(8) Cooperate with or join with the state of Washington, United States, another state, any agency, corporation or political subdivision of the United States or any state, Canada((;)), or any private corporation or individual for the purposes of this chapter;

(9) Accept funds or property by loan, grant, gift or otherwise from the United States, the state of Washington, or any other public or private source;

(10) Remove debris, logs, or other material which may impede the orderly flow of waters in streams or water courses: PROVIDED, That such material shall become property of the zone and may be sold for the purpose of recovering the cost of removal: PROVIDED FURTHER, That valuable material or minerals removed from public lands shall remain the property of the state.

Sec. 14. Section 10, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.100 are each amended to read as follows:

The ((board)) supervisors may authorize the construction, extension, enlargement, or acquisition of necessary flood control or storm water control improvements within the zone or any participating zones. ((Such)) The improvements may include, but shall not be limited to the extension, enlargement, construction, or acquisition of dikes and levees, drain and drainage systems, dams and reservoirs, or other flood control or storm water control improvements; widening, straightening, or relocating of stream or water courses; and the acquisition, extension, enlargement, or construction of any works necessary for the protection of stream and water courses, channels, harbors, life, and property.

Sec. 15. Section 11, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.110 are each amended to read as follows:

Flood control or storm water control improvements may be extended, enlarged, acquired, or constructed by a zone pursuant to a resolution adopted by the ((board)) supervisors. ((Such)) The resolution shall specify:

(1) Whether the improvement is to be extended, enlarged, acquired, or constructed;

(2) That either:

(a) A comprehensive plan of development for flood control has been prepared for the stream or water course upon which the improvement will be enlarged, extended, acquired, or constructed, and that the improvement generally contributes to the objectives of ((such)) the comprehensive plan of development: PROVIDED, That ((improvements initiated before July 1, 1965, may be undertaken without reference to a comprehensive plan: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That such)) the plan shall be first submitted to the state department of ((conservation)) ecology at least ninety days in advance of the beginning of any flood control project ((of)) or improvement; and shall be subject to all the regulatory control provisions by the ((state
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supervisor of flood control)) department of ecology as provided in chapter 86.16 RCW; or

(b) A comprehensive plan of development for storm water control has been prepared for the area that will be served by the proposed storm water control facilities;

(3) If the improvement is to be constructed, that preliminary engineering studies and plans have been made, and that ((such)) the plans and studies are on file with the county engineer;

(4) The estimated cost of the acquisition or construction of ((such)) the improvement, together with such supporting data as will reasonably show how ((such)) the estimates were arrived at; and

(5) That the improvement will benefit:

(a) Two or more zones, hereinafter referred to as participating zones; or

(b) A single zone; or

(c) The county as a whole, as well as a zone or participating zones.

Sec. 16. Section 12, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.120 are each amended to read as follows:

Before finally adopting a resolution to undertake any flood control improvement or storm water control improvement, the ((board)) supervisors shall hold a hearing thereon. Notice and publication of ((such)) the hearing shall be given ((pursuant to the provisions of)) under RCW 36.32.120(7). The ((board)) supervisors may conduct any such hearing concurrently with a hearing on the establishment of a flood control zone, and may in such case designate ((such)) the proposed zone a beneficiary of any improvement.

Sec. 17. Section 14, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.140 are each amended to read as follows:

The ((board)) supervisors shall annually at the same time county budgets are prepared adopt a budget for ((each)) the zone, which budget shall be divided into the following appropriation items: ((a--b)) (1) Overhead and administration((--c)); (2) maintenance and operation((--d)); (3) construction and improvements((--e)); and ((f)) (4) bond retirement and interest. In preparing ((such)) the budget, the ((board)) supervisors shall show the total amount to be expended in each appropriation item and the proportionate share of each appropriation item to be paid from each account of the zone.

In preparing the annual budget, the ((board)) supervisors shall under the appropriation item of construction and improvement list each flood control improvement or storm water control improvement and the estimated expenditure to be made for each during the ensuing year. The ((board)) supervisors may at any time during the year, if additional funds become available to the zone, adopt a supplemental budget covering additional authorized improvements.
The zone budget or any supplemental budget shall be approved only after a public hearing, notice of which shall be given as provided by RCW 36.32.120(7).

Sec. 18. Section 15, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.150 are each amended to read as follows:

Whenever the ((board finds)) supervisors have found under the provisions of RCW 86.15.110 that a flood control improvement or storm water control improvement initiated by any zone will be of benefit to the county as a whole, as well as to the zone or participating zones; or whenever the ((board finds)) supervisors have found that the maintenance and operation of any flood control improvement or storm water control improvement within any zone will be of benefit to the overall flood control program or storm water control program of the county, the board may authorize the transfer of any funds available to the county for flood control or storm water control purposes to any zone or participating zones for flood control or storm water control purposes.

Sec. 19. Section 16, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 131, chapter 195, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW 86.15.160 are each amended to read as follows:

For the purposes of this chapter the ((board)) supervisors may authorize:

1. (((A special)) An annual excess ad valorem tax levy within any zone or participating zones when authorized by the voters of ((such)) the zone or participating zones ((pursuant to the provisions of)) under RCW 84.52.052 and ((RCW)) 84.52.054; ((and))

2. An assessment upon property, including state property, specially benefited by ((an)) flood control improvements or storm water control improvements ((made pursuant to the provisions of)) imposed under chapter 86.09 RCW; ((and))

3. Within any zone or participating zones an annual ad valorem property tax levy of not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value when ((such)) the levy will not take dollar rates ((which)) that other taxing districts may lawfully claim and ((which)) that will not cause the combined levies to exceed the constitutional and/or statutory limitations, and ((such)) the additional levy, or any portion thereof, may also be made when dollar rates of other taxing units is released therefor by agreement with the other taxing units from their authorized levies;

4. A charge, under RCW 36.89.080, for the furnishing of service to those who are receiving or will receive benefits from storm water control facilities and who are contributing to an increase in surface water runoff. Any public entity and public property, including the state and state property, shall be liable for the charges to the same extent a private person and privately owned property is liable for the charges;
The creation of local improvement districts and utility local improvement districts, the issuance of improvement district bonds and warrants, and the imposition, collection, and enforcement of special assessments on all property, including any state-owned or other publicly-owned property, specially benefited from improvements in the same manner as provided for counties by chapter 36.94 RCW.

Sec. 20. Section 3, chapter 195, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 86-15.165 are each amended to read as follows:

The ((board)) supervisors may provide by resolution for levying voluntary assessments, under a mode of annual installments extending over a period not exceeding fifteen years, on property benefited from a flood control improvement or storm water control improvement. ((Such)) The voluntary assessment shall be imposed only after each owner of property benefited by the flood control improvement has agreed to the assessment by written agreement with the ((board)) supervisors. ((Such)) The agreement shall be recorded with the county auditor and the obligations under the agreement shall be binding upon all heirs(;) and all successors in interest of the property.

The voluntary assessments need not be uniform or directly related to benefits to the property from the flood control improvement or storm water control improvement.

The levying, collection, and enforcement ((hereby)) authorized in this section shall be in the manner now and hereafter provided by law for the levying, collection, and enforcement of local improvement assessments by cities ((of the first class)) and towns, insofar as ((the same shall not be)) those provisions are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

The disposition of all proceeds from voluntary assessments shall be in accordance with RCW 86.15.130.

The proceeds from voluntary assessments may be used for any flood control improvement or storm water control improvement not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, and in addition the proceeds may be used for operation and maintenance of flood control improvements or storm water control improvements constructed under the authority of this chapter.

Sec. 21. Section 17, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.170 are each amended to read as follows:

The ((board)) supervisors may authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance any flood control improvement or storm water control improvement and provide for the retirement of the bonds with ad valorem property tax levies. ((Such)) The general obligation bonds may be issued and the bond retirement levies imposed only when authorized by the voters pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 and Article VII, section 2(b) of the state Constitution and RCW 84.52.056. ((Such)) The bonds shall be issued on behalf of the zone or participating zones and be approved by the voters of the zone or participating zones when the improvement has by the resolution,
provided in RCW 86.15.110, been found to be of benefit to a zone or participating zones. The bonds may not exceed an amount, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, equal to three-fourths of one percent of the value of taxable property within the zone or participating zones, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds.

Sec. 22. Section 7, chapter 136, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. and RCW 86.15.176 are each amended to read as follows:

The ((board)) supervisors may provide by resolution for revenues by fixing rates and charges for the furnishing of service to those served, including public entities, or receiving benefits from a flood control improvement: PROVIDED, That the service charge shall be uniform for the same class of benefits or service. In classifying services furnished or benefits received the board may in its discretion consider the character and use of land and its water runoff characteristics and any other matters ((which)) that present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction. Service charges shall be applicable to a zone or participating zones. The disposition of all revenue from service charges shall be in accordance with RCW 86.15.130.

Sec. 23. Section 8, chapter 136, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. and RCW 86.15.178 are each amended to read as follows:

The ((board)) supervisors may authorize the issuance of revenue bonds to finance any flood control improvement or storm water control improvement. ((Such)) The bonds may be issued by the ((board)) supervisors in the same manner as prescribed in RCW 36.67.510 through 36.67.570 pertaining to counties. ((Such)) The bonds shall be issued on behalf of the zone or participating zones when the improvement has by the resolution, provided in RCW 86.15.110, been found to be of benefit to a zone or participating zones. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds.

Each revenue bond shall state on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming ((such)) the fund and the resolution creating the fund.

Revenue bond principal, interest, and all other related necessary expenses shall be payable only out of the appropriate special fund.

A zone or participating zones shall have a lien for delinquent service charges, including interest thereon, against the premises benefited by a flood control improvement or storm water control improvement, which lien shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances except general taxes and local and special assessments. ((Such)) The lien shall be effective and shall be enforced and foreclosed in the same manner as provided for sewerage liens of cities and towns by RCW 35.67.200 through 35.67.290.

Sec. 24. Section 19, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.190 are each amended to read as follows:

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The ((board)) supervisors may order, on behalf of the ((county)) zone or participating zones, that an action be brought in the superior court of the county to require the removal of publicly or privately owned structures, improvements, facilities, or accumulations of debris or materials ((which)) that materially contribute to the dangers of loss of life or property from flood waters. Where ((such)) the structures, improvements, facilities, or accumulations of debris or materials are found to endanger the public health or safety the court shall declare them a public nuisance, and forthwith order their abatement. If ((such)) the abatement is not completed within the time ordered by the court, the county may abate the nuisance and charge the cost of ((such)) the action against the land upon which ((such)) the nuisance is located, and the payment of ((such)) the charge may be enforced and collected in the same manner at the same time as county property taxes.

Sec. 25. Section 21, chapter 153, Laws of 1961 and RCW 86.15.210 are each amended to read as follows:

A diking, drainage, or sewerage improvement district, flood control district, diking district, drainage district, intercounty diking and drainage district, or zone may convey title to any property improvements or assets of ((such)) the districts or zone to the county or a zone for flood control purposes((PROVIDED, That if such)). If the property improvements or assets are surplus to the needs of ((such)) the district or zone ((such)) the transfer may be made by private negotiations, but in all other cases ((such)) the transfers ((shall be)) are subject to the approval of a majority of the registered voters within ((such)) the district or zone((AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That)). Nothing in this section ((shall)) permits any district or zone to impair the obligations of any debt or contract of ((such)) the district or zone.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 26. 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.

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