

CHAPTER 193

[House Bill No. 1241]

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION—OPEN SPACE, PARK LANDS

AN ACT Relating to property taxation of park lands; and amending section 43, chapter 149, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. as last amended by section 3, chapter 22, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 84.36.260.

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

Section 1. Section 43, chapter 149, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. as last amended by section 3, chapter 22, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 84.36.260 are each amended to read as follows:

All real property interests, including fee simple or any lesser interest, development rights, easements, covenants and conservation futures, as that latter term is defined in RCW 84.34.220 as now or hereafter amended, used exclusively for the conservation of ecological systems ((or)), natural resources, or open space, including park lands, held by any nonprofit corporation or association the primary purpose of which is the conducting or facilitating of scientific research or the conserving of natural resources or open space for the general public, shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation if either of the following conditions are met:

(1) To the extent feasible considering the nature of the property interest involved, such property interests shall be used and effectively dedicated primarily for the purpose of providing scientific research or educational opportunities for the general public or the preservation of native plants or animals, or biotic communities, or works of ancient man or geological or geographical formations, of distinct scientific and educational interest, and not for the pecuniary benefit of any person or company, as defined in RCW 82.04.030, and shall be open to the general public for educational and scientific research purposes subject to reasonable restrictions designed for its protection; or

(2) Such property interests shall be subject to an option, accepted in writing by the state, a city or a county, or department of the United States government, for the purchase thereof by the state, a city or a county, or the United States, at a price not exceeding the lesser of the following amounts: (a) the sum of the original purchase cost to such nonprofit corporation or association plus interest from the date of acquisition by such corporation or association at the rate of six percent per annum compounded annually to the date of the exercise of the option; or (b) the appraised value of the

property at the time of the granting of the option, as determined by the department of revenue or when the option is held by the United States, or by an appropriate agency thereof.

Passed the House May 9, 1979.

Passed the Senate May 7, 1979.

Approved by the Governor May 17, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 17, 1979.

CHAPTER 194

[Substitute House Bill No. 76]

CITIES AND COUNTIES—HOME RULE—LEGISLATIVE STUDY

AN ACT Relating to local government; and adding a new chapter to Title 35 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The Legislature finds that confusion and ambiguity exists in relation to "home rule" powers of cities and counties. The legislature further recognizes that expansion of home rule powers creates questions of conflict and duplication of laws and ordinances, the effects of which are of concern to all the citizens of the state of Washington.

Therefore, the legislature hereby empowers and directs that a joint committee composed of six members of the Senate and six members of the House of Representatives be appointed to study the issue of "home rule." The committee shall be composed of three members of the majority and three members of the minority from each house of the legislature appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker(s) of the House of Representatives. The joint committee shall hold hearings and report to the legislature their findings and recommendations on or before February 1, 1981.

Passed the House May 11, 1979.

Passed the Senate April 12, 1979.

Approved by the Governor May 24, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 24, 1979.

CHAPTER 195

[House Bill No. 100]

STATE ROUTE NUMBER 27

AN ACT Relating to state highway routes; and amending section 24, chapter 51, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. as amended by section 2, chapter 63, Laws of 1975 and RCW 47.17.115.

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

Section. 1. Section 24, chapter 51, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. as amended by section 2, chapter 63, Laws of 1975 and RCW 47.17.115 are each amended to read as follows: