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HOUSE BILL 2903

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson and Sullivan

Read first time 01/18/10. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to benefit charges for regional fire protection  
2 service authorities; and amending RCW 52.26.230 and 84.55.092.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 52.26.230 and 2004 c 129 s 29 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) Not fewer than ten days nor more than six months before the  
7 election at which the proposition to impose the benefit charge is  
8 submitted as provided in this chapter, the governing board of the  
9 regional fire protection service authority, or the planning committee  
10 if the benefit charge is being proposed as part of the initial  
11 formation of the regional fire protection service authority, shall hold  
12 a public hearing specifically setting forth its proposal to impose  
13 benefit charges for the support of its legally authorized activities  
14 that will maintain or improve the services afforded in the authority.  
15 A report of the public hearing shall be filed with the county treasurer  
16 of each county in which the property is located and be available for  
17 public inspection.

18 (2) Prior to November 15th of each year the governing board of the

1 authority shall hold a public hearing to review and establish the  
2 regional fire protection service authority benefit charges for the  
3 subsequent year.

4 (3) All resolutions imposing or changing the benefit charges must  
5 be filed with the county treasurer or treasurers of each county in  
6 which the property is located, together with the record of each public  
7 hearing, before November 30th immediately preceding the year in which  
8 the benefit charges are to be collected on behalf of the authority.

9 (4) After the benefit charges have been established, the owners of  
10 the property subject to the charge must be notified of the amount of  
11 the charge.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.55.092 and 1998 c 16 s 3 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 The regular property tax levy for each taxing district other than  
15 the state may be set at the amount which would be allowed otherwise  
16 under this chapter if the regular property tax levy for the district  
17 for taxes due in prior years beginning with 1986 had been set at the  
18 full amount allowed under this chapter including any levy authorized  
19 under RCW 52.16.160 or 52.26.140(1)(c) that would have been imposed but  
20 for the limitation in RCW 52.18.065 or 52.26.240, applicable upon  
21 imposition of the benefit charge under chapter 52.18 or 52.26 RCW.

22 The purpose of this section is to remove the incentive for a taxing  
23 district to maintain its tax levy at the maximum level permitted under  
24 this chapter, and to protect the future levy capacity of a taxing  
25 district that reduces its tax levy below the level that it otherwise  
26 could impose under this chapter, by removing the adverse consequences  
27 to future levy capacities resulting from such levy reductions.

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