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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6446**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2014 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Schoesler, Hewitt, and Ranker)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to payments in lieu of taxes on county game lands;  
2 amending RCW 77.12.203; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.12.203 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 999 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section and  
7 notwithstanding RCW 84.36.010 or other statutes to the contrary, the  
8 director (~~shall~~) must pay by April 30th of each year on game lands,  
9 regardless of acreage, in each county, if requested by an election  
10 under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in lieu of real property taxes equal to  
11 that amount paid on similar parcels of open space land taxable under  
12 chapter 84.34 RCW or the greater of seventy cents per acre per year or  
13 the amount paid in 1984 plus an additional amount for control of  
14 noxious weeds equal to that which would be paid if such lands were  
15 privately owned. This amount (~~shall~~) may not be assessed or paid on  
16 department buildings, structures, facilities, game farms, fish  
17 hatcheries, water access sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas (~~of~~  
18 ~~less than one hundred acres~~)).

1 (2) "Game lands," as used in this section and RCW 77.12.201, means  
2 those tracts (~~one hundred acres or larger~~), regardless of acreage,  
3 owned in fee by the department and used for wildlife habitat and public  
4 recreational purposes. All lands purchased for wildlife habitat,  
5 public access or recreation purposes with federal funds in the Snake  
6 River drainage basin (~~shall be~~) are considered game lands regardless  
7 of acreage.

8 (3) This section (~~shall~~) does not apply to lands transferred  
9 after April 23, 1990, to the department from other state agencies.

10 (4) The county (~~shall~~) must distribute the amount received under  
11 this section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing  
12 districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way  
13 it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The  
14 county (~~shall~~) must distribute the amount received under this section  
15 for weed control to the appropriate weed district.

16 (5) For the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 fiscal biennia, the director  
17 (~~shall~~) must pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each  
18 county, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in  
19 lieu of real property taxes and (~~shall~~) must be distributed as  
20 follows:

| County            |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Adams.....        | 1,909   |
| Asotin.....       | 36,123  |
| Chelan.....       | 24,757  |
| Columbia.....     | 7,795   |
| Ferry.....        | 6,781   |
| Garfield.....     | 4,840   |
| Grant.....        | 37,443  |
| Kittitas.....     | 143,974 |
| Klickitat.....    | 21,906  |
| Lincoln.....      | 13,535  |
| Okanogan.....     | 151,402 |
| Pend Oreille..... | 3,309   |
| Yakima.....       | 126,225 |

1 These amounts (~~shall~~) may not be assessed or paid on department  
2 buildings, structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, water  
3 access sites, tidelands, or public fishing areas (~~of less than one~~  
4 ~~hundred acres~~)).

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 2015.

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