



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Report

File Number: AB2023-637

File ID: AB2023-637 **Version:** 1 **Status:** Adopted
File Created: 09/20/2023 **Entered by:** JGay@co.whatcom.wa.us
Department: Health Department **File Type:** Ordinance

Assigned to: Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee **Final Action:** 10/24/2023
Agenda Date: 10/24/2023 **Enactment #:** ORD 2023-059
Related Files:

Primary Contact Email: ELautenb@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance Establishing a New Whatcom County Healthy Children’s Fund

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Ordinance amending ordinance 2022-045 (Providing for the submission of a proposition to the qualified electors of Whatcom County authorizing the county to lift the limit on regular property taxes under Chapter 84.55 RSW for the purpose of funding childcare, early learning programs, and increased support for vulnerable children) to clarify that interest income earned on the Healthy Children’s Fund may be reinvested in the fund

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
10/10/2023	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	
		Nay: 0	
10/24/2023	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 2 Donovan, and Frazey	
		Nay: 1 Kershner	
10/24/2023	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	

Nay: 0

Attachments: Staff Memo, Proposed Ordinance, Ordinance 2022-045

ORDINANCE NO. 2023 - 059

Establishing a New Whatcom County Healthy Children’s Fund

WHEREAS, the Healthy Children’s Fund is a complex initiative requiring strategic planning and significant managerial and administrative oversight; and,

WHEREAS, a unique financial and operational relationship exists between Whatcom County and the Healthy Children’s Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council approved Ordinance 2022-045 to provide for the submission of a proposition to the qualified electors of Whatcom County authorizing the County to lift the limit of regular property taxes under Chapter 84.55 RCW for the purpose of funding for childcare, early learning programs, and increased support for vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, in November 2022, Proposition 5, the Healthy Children’s Fund, was approved by voters in Whatcom County consistent with Ordinance 2022-045 to establish a dedicated fund to improve the health and well-being of children and youth, as well as the families and communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the levy lid lift authorized the county to increase the General Fund levy in 2023 and in the following 9 years by \$ 0.19 per \$ 1,000 of assessed value of taxable property within the County, with proceeds deposited in a separate fund ("Healthy Children' s Fund) and spent according to Ordinance 2022- 045; and

WHEREAS, in November, 2022, Ordinance 2022-092 established the initial Healthy Children’s Fund as a unique County fund; and

WHEREAS, all levy proceeds generated by Proposition 5 shall be deposited into the Healthy Children's Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Children's Fund revenues and proceeds shall be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in Section 3, ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES, as defined in Ordinance 2022-045; and

WHEREAS, all Healthy Children’s Fund revenues and proceeds shall be maintained, budgeted and allocated for as defined under Ordinance 2022-045; and


WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council wishes to further affirm the establishment of the Healthy Children’s Fund through this ordinance and clarify that interest income earned on the fund may be reinvested in fund activities; and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled the "Whatcom County Healthy Children's Fund" which shall be dedicated to accounting for all financial aspects of the Healthy Children's levy funding.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any interest income generated by the Healthy Children's Fund shall benefit the same.

ADOPTED this 24th day of October, 2023.

ATTEST

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
APPROVED AS TO FORM:
/s/Royce Buckingham approved via email on 10/6/2023/MR
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

) Approved () Denied

Date Signed: October 24, 2023