



WASHINGTON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

WMA Summary: HB 1386 / RCW 36.22.170 Preservation Funds

Heritage Preservation Fund Revenues – County Revenues

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1386 providing a new source of revenue for historic preservation and heritage programs. Introduced by Clark County's Senator Craig Pridemore, this bill increased recording fees collected by county auditors who by law must record and file deeds and certain other documents. Available funds vary by county and depend on the number of documents recorded each year.

To date, only a few counties have created mechanisms by which these funds are being distributed. A few are in the process of enacting local legislation to disburse and manage the funds and several others are still in the talking stage. The Commissioners have been given broad latitude and are interpreting the legislation in a variety of ways so implementation varies widely.

HOUSE BILL 1386 / RCW 36.22.170

The House Bill is codified in the Revised Code of Washington as RCW 36.22.170. The section of interest to the heritage community is Section (1)(a): “Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a surcharge of five dollars per instrument shall be charged by the county auditor for each document recorded which will be in addition to any other charge authorized by law. One dollar of the surcharge shall be deposited in the county general fund to be used at the discretion of the county commissioners to promote historical preservation or historical programs, which may include preservation of historic documents” (*emphasis added*). The RCW is on the WMA website or visit the WA State website: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.22.170>.

WMA Legislative Information Toolkit Online

WMA, with assistance from the Heritage Resource Center, has developed an Information Toolkit that can be downloaded from the WMA website. Go to <http://www.washingtonstatemuseums.org/>

Click on **WMA HB 1386 TOOLKIT**

- HB 1386 and RCW 36.22.170
- White Paper: Talking points on obtaining data and disbursement plans
- Sample letters to your auditor or commissioners
- Lists of County Auditors, Commissioners and Councilmembers
- Sample Proposal for requesting funds (for counties with less density)
- Sample Application for a County Grant Program (for counties with less density)
- Progress Chart tracking contacts, programs and implementation around the state