

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2140

**DATE:** March 1, 2004

**Version:** As Introduced

**Authors:** Seagren and others

**Subject:** Simplifying Referendum Ballot Language; Restoring Certain Levies

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### Overview

This bill simplifies the language that appears on the operating referendum ballot and removes an ambiguous requirement from the data that must be included on the notice of an operating referendum that must be sent to each taxpayer in the school district.

This bill also restores the lease levy, unemployment insurance levy, judgment levy, and safe schools (crime) levy to their amounts prior to the legislative reductions implemented by the 2003 Legislature.

### Section

- 1 Referendum revenue.** Eliminates from the referendum ballot question language that requires that the ballot state that the money is used to finance school operations. Removes the need to print an estimated referendum tax rate on the ballot. Allows the ballot to abbreviate the term "per resident marginal cost pupil unit" as "per pupil."

Removes a requirement from the notice that is sent to all taxpayers prior to the referendum that describes the anticipated tax rate increase as an annual percentage (under current law it isn't clear what base this tax rate increase should be calculated upon). The notice is still required to show the actual dollar amount of the increase on typical property types.

- 2 Lease levy.** Restores the lease levy authority to a maximum of \$100 per pupil unit or 100 percent of the actual costs of the lease (the 2003 Legislature lowered the levy amount to the lesser of 90 percent of the actual costs of the lease or \$90 per pupil unit). Restores the added

**Section**

lease levy amount for school districts that are members of intermediate school districts to \$25 per pupil unit. Makes this section effective for levies for taxes payable in 2005 and later.

**3      Unemployment insurance levy.** Restores the unemployment insurance levy to the full amount of a district's unemployment insurance costs (the 2003 Legislature limited the unemployment insurance levy to 90 percent of the amount over \$10 per pupil unit). Makes this section effective for levies for taxes payable in 2005 and later.

**4      Tax levy for judgments.** Restores the levy for unpaid judgments to the full amount of a district's judgments (the 2003 Legislature limited the judgment levy to 90 percent of the amount over \$10 per pupil unit). Makes this section effective for levies for taxes payable in 2005 and later.

**5      Safe schools levy.** Restores the safe schools levy (formerly called the crime levy) to \$30 per pupil unit (the 2003 Legislature lowered the safe schools levy by \$3 per pupil unit to \$27 per pupil unit). Makes this section effective for levies for taxes payable in 2005 and later.