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**HOUSE BILL 2860**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Orcutt and Fey

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington plane coordinate system;  
2 amending RCW 58.20.140, 58.20.160, 58.20.180, 58.20.200, 58.20.210,  
3 and 58.20.220; adding new sections to chapter 58.20 RCW; and  
4 repealing RCW 58.20.110, 58.20.120, 58.20.130, 58.20.150, 58.20.170,  
5 and 58.20.190.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 58.20  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
10 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Metadata" means data that describes other data. For the  
12 purposes of this chapter, metadata means geodetic reference system  
13 utilized, applicable epoch, statement of relative accuracy, and date  
14 of observation at a minimum. Additional metadata is encouraged if it  
15 adds value.

16 (2) "NGS" means the national ocean service's national geodetic  
17 survey of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration, United  
18 States department of commerce, or its successor.

19 (3) "NSRS" means the national spatial reference system or its  
20 successor.

1 (4) "WPCS" means the Washington plane coordinate system, the  
2 system of plane coordinates under this chapter that is identical to  
3 the state plane coordinate system as defined for the state of  
4 Washington by NGS.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 58.20  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The most recent version of the state plane coordinate system for  
8 the state of Washington, which has been established by NGS, based on  
9 the NSRS, for defining and stating the positions or locations of  
10 points on the surface of the earth within the state of Washington  
11 must be known as the "Washington plane coordinate system."

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 58.20.140 and 1989 c 54 s 12 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (~~(As established for use in the north zone, the)~~) The Washington  
15 plane coordinate system (~~(of 1983)~~) shall be named, and in any land  
16 description in which it is used it shall be designated, the  
17 "Washington plane coordinate system (~~(of 1983)~~)," (~~(north zone)~~) and  
18 the zone used must be specified.

19 (~~(As established for use in the south zone, the Washington~~  
20 ~~coordinate system of 1983 shall be named, and in any land description~~  
21 ~~in which it is used it shall be designated, the "Washington~~  
22 ~~coordinate system of 1983, south zone.")~~)

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 58.20  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) The plane coordinates of a point on the earth's surface, to  
26 be used in expressing the position or location of the point in the  
27 appropriate zone of the WPCS, consist of two distances, expressed in  
28 feet and decimals of a foot or meters and decimals of a meter, along  
29 with the metadata of the observations used to determine the  
30 coordinates. One of these distances, to be known as the "east x-  
31 coordinate," must give the distance east of the Y axis; the other, to  
32 be known as the "north y-coordinate," must give the distance north of  
33 the X axis. The Y axis of any zone must be parallel with the central  
34 meridian of that zone. The X axis of any zone must be at right angles  
35 to the central meridian of that zone.

1 (2) Height is the coordinate value of the vertical elements of  
2 the NSRS expressed as feet or meters and identified as ellipsoid  
3 height or orthometric height.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 58.20.160 and 1989 c 54 s 14 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 When any tract of land to be defined by a single description  
7 extends from one (~~into the other of the~~) coordinate (~~zones under~~  
8 ~~RCW 58.20.130~~) zone into other zones, the positions of all points on  
9 its boundaries (~~may~~) must be referred to (~~either~~) only one of the  
10 zones, the zone which is used being specifically named in the  
11 description along with the metadata of the observations.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 58.20  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 The official geodetic datums to which geodetic coordinates  
15 including, but not limited to, latitude, longitude, ellipsoid height,  
16 orthometric height, or dynamic height are referenced within the state  
17 of Washington must be as defined for the NSRS.

18 **Sec. 7.** RCW 58.20.180 and 1989 c 54 s 16 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 Coordinates based on the Washington plane coordinate system (~~of~~  
21 ~~1983~~), purporting to define the position of a point on a land  
22 boundary, may be presented to be recorded in any public land records  
23 or deed records (~~if the survey method used for the determination of~~  
24 ~~these coordinates is established in conformity with standards and~~  
25 ~~specifications prescribed by the interagency federal geodetic control~~  
26 ~~committee, or its successor~~). (~~These surveys shall be connected to~~  
27 ~~monumented control stations that are adjusted to and published in the~~  
28 ~~national network of geodetic control by the national geodetic survey~~  
29 ~~and such connected horizontal control stations~~) The method and  
30 source for establishing coordinates shall be described in the land or  
31 deed record. (~~Standards and specifications of the committee in force~~  
32 ~~on the date of the survey shall apply~~.) In all instances where  
33 reference has been made to such coordinates in land surveys or deeds,  
34 the (~~scale and sea level~~) combined factors shall be stated for the  
35 survey lines used in computing ground distances and areas, along with  
36 the metadata of the observations.

1       (~~The position of the Washington coordinate system of 1983 shall~~  
2 ~~be marked on the ground by horizontal geodetic control stations which~~  
3 ~~have been established in conformity with the survey standards adopted~~  
4 ~~by the committee and whose geodetic positions have been rigorously~~  
5 ~~adjusted on the North American datum of 1983, and whose coordinates~~  
6 ~~have been computed and published on the system defined in RCW~~  
7 ~~58.20.110 through 58.20.220 and 58.20.901. Any such control station~~  
8 ~~may be used to establish a survey connection with the Washington~~  
9 ~~coordinate system of 1983.))~~)

10       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 8.**   A new section is added to chapter 58.20  
11 RCW to read as follows:

12       When the values are expressed in feet, one foot equals 0.3048  
13 meters, must be used as the standard foot for WPCS.

14       **Sec. 9.**   RCW 58.20.200 and 1989 c 54 s 18 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16       The use of the term "Washington plane coordinate system (~~of~~  
17 ~~1983~~)" on any map, report of survey, or other document, shall be  
18 limited to coordinates based on the Washington plane coordinate  
19 system (~~of 1983~~) as defined in this chapter.

20       **Sec. 10.**   RCW 58.20.210 and 1989 c 54 s 19 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22       Whenever coordinates based on the Washington plane coordinate  
23 system (~~of 1983~~) are used to describe any tract of land which in  
24 the same document is also described by reference to any subdivision,  
25 line or corner of the United States public land surveys, the  
26 description by coordinates shall be construed as supplemental to the  
27 basic description of such subdivision, line, or corner contained in  
28 the official plats and field notes filed of record, and in the event  
29 of any conflict the description by reference to the subdivision,  
30 line, or corner of the United States public land surveys shall  
31 prevail over the description by coordinates.

32       **Sec. 11.**   RCW 58.20.220 and 1989 c 54 s 20 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34       Nothing contained in this chapter shall require any purchaser or  
35 mortgagee to rely on a description, any part of which depends

1 exclusively upon the Washington plane coordinate system (~~of 1927 or~~  
2 ~~1983~~)).

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 58.20  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The provisions of this chapter may not be construed to prohibit  
6 the appropriate use of other datums, other geodetic reference  
7 networks or systems, or other plane coordinate systems. Any other  
8 such datums, networks, or systems used must comply fully with the  
9 information requirements for the Washington plane coordinate system.  
10 This includes, but is not limited to: The source of the datum,  
11 network, or system; metadata of the observations; factor used to  
12 convert from meters to feet; and combined factors applied to land  
13 boundary lines used in land surveys or deeds to compute ground  
14 distances or areas.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The following acts or parts of acts are  
16 each repealed:

- 17 (1) RCW 58.20.110 (Definitions) and 1989 c 54 s 9;
- 18 (2) RCW 58.20.120 (System designation—Permitted uses) and 1989 c  
19 54 s 10;
- 20 (3) RCW 58.20.130 (Plane coordinates adopted—Zones) and 1989 c 54  
21 s 11;
- 22 (4) RCW 58.20.150 (Designation of coordinates—"N" and "E.") and  
23 1989 c 54 s 13;
- 24 (5) RCW 58.20.170 (Zones—Technical definitions) and 1989 c 54 s  
25 15; and
- 26 (6) RCW 58.20.190 (Conversion of coordinates—Metric) and 1989 c  
27 54 s 17.

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