PSSB 5961

Sponsor: Billig

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#### Effect:

- Imposes a capital gains tax at a rate of 8.9 percent beginning January 1, 2020.
- Increases and funds the working families tax exemption program.
- Increases the business and occupation tax credit for small businesses to an amount equivalent to a \$200,000 exclusion for all businesses with a taxable annual income below \$2.5 million.
- Provides sales and use tax exemptions for feminine hygiene products, diapers, durable medical and mobility enhancing equipment, and over-the-counter drugs.
- Expands the property tax relief program for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.
- Establishes a committee to research and evaluate options to modernize and rebalance Washington state's tax structure.

AN ACT Relating to improving the equity and sustainability of 1 Washington's tax structure; amending RCW 82.08.0206, 82.04.4451, 2 82.08.0283, 82.12.0277, 82.08.803, 82.12.803, 82.08.940, 82.12.940, 3 84.36.381, 84.36.383, 84.36.385, 84.38.020, 84.38.070, 84.38.130, and 4 84.38.150; reenacting and amending RCW 84.38.030; adding a new 5 section to chapter 82.04 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 82.32 6 7 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 82.08 RCW; adding new sections to 8 chapter 82.12 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 82 RCW; creating new sections; prescribing penalties; providing effective dates; providing 9 an expiration date; and providing a contingent expiration date. 10

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

12 Part I
13 Capital Gains Tax

NEW SECTION. Sec. 101. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (1) "Accessory dwelling unit" means a separate habitable living 18 area that is subordinate to the principal single-family dwelling 19 unit, which is either internal to, attached to, or located on the

- same property tax parcel as, the principal single-family dwelling unit.
- 3 (2) "Adjusted capital gain" means federal net long-term capital 4 gain:
  - (a) Plus any amount of loss from a sale or exchange that is exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter, to the extent such loss was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain; and
  - (b) Less any amount of gain from a sale or exchange that is exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter, to the extent such gain was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain.
  - (3) "Capital asset" has the same meaning as provided by Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1221 of the internal revenue code and also includes any other property if the sale or exchange of the property results in a gain that is treated as a long-term capital gain under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1231 or any other provision of the internal revenue code.
  - (4) "Federal net long-term capital gain" means the net long-term capital gain reportable for federal income tax purposes determined as if Title 26 U.S.C. Secs. 1400Z-1 and 1400Z-2 of the internal revenue code did not exist.
    - (5) "Individual" means a natural person.
  - (6) "Internal revenue code" means the United States internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, as of the effective date of this section, or such subsequent date as the department may provide by rule consistent with the purpose of this chapter.
  - (7) "Long-term capital asset" means a capital asset that is held for more than one year.
    - (8) (a) "Resident" means an individual:
  - (i) Who is domiciled in this state during the taxable year, unless the individual (A) maintained no permanent place of abode in this state during the entire taxable year, (B) maintained a permanent place of abode outside of this state during the entire taxable year, and (C) spent in the aggregate not more than thirty days of the taxable year in this state; or
  - (ii) Who is not domiciled in this state during the taxable year but maintained a place of abode and was physically present in this state for more than one hundred eighty-three days during the taxable year.
- 38 (b) For purposes of this subsection, "day" includes any portion 39 of a day, except that a continuous period of twenty-four hours or 40 less may not constitute more than one day.

- 1 (c) An individual who is a resident under (a) of this subsection 2 is a resident for that portion of a taxable year in which the 3 individual was domiciled in this state or maintained a place of abode 4 in this state.
- 5 (9) "Taxable year" means the taxpayer's taxable year as 6 determined under the internal revenue code.
- 7 (10) "Taxpayer" means an individual subject to tax under this 8 chapter.
- 9 (11) "Washington capital gains" means adjusted capital gains
  10 allocated to this state as provided in section 107 of this act, less
  11 two hundred fifty thousand dollars for each return filed under this
  12 chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 102. (1) Beginning January 1, 2020, a tax is imposed on all individuals for the privilege of selling or exchanging long-term capital assets, or receiving Washington capital gains. The tax equals eight and nine-tenths percent multiplied by the individual's Washington capital gains.

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- (2) If an individual's Washington capital gains are less than zero for a taxable year, no tax is due under this section. No such losses may be carried back or carried forward to another taxable year.
  - (3) (a) The tax imposed in this section applies to (i) the sale or exchange of long-term capital assets owned by the taxpayer, whether the taxpayer was the legal or a beneficial owner of such assets at the time of the sale or exchange, or (ii) Washington capital gains otherwise realized by the taxpayer.
  - (b) For purposes of this chapter, an individual is a beneficial owner of long-term capital assets held by an entity that is a pass-through or disregarded entity for federal tax purposes, such as a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, or trust, to the extent of the individual's ownership interest in the entity as reported for federal income tax purposes.
- 33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 103.** This chapter does not apply to the sale 34 or exchange of:
- 35 (1) Any residential dwelling along with the land upon which the dwelling is located. For the purposes of this subsection (1), 37 "residential dwelling" means property consisting solely of (a) a single-family residence, a residential condominium unit, or a Code Rev/JA:amh 3 S-3145.13/19 13th draft

- residential cooperative unit, including any accessory dwelling unit associated with such residence or residential unit, (b) a multifamily residential building consisting of one or more common walls and fewer than four units, or (c) a floating home as defined in RCW 82.45.032;
- (2) Assets held under a retirement savings account under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 401(k) of the internal revenue code, a tax-sheltered annuity or custodial account described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 403(b) of the internal revenue code, a deferred compensation plan under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 457(b) of the internal revenue code, individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 408 of the internal revenue code, a Roth individual retirement account described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 408A of the internal revenue code, an employee defined contribution program, an employee defined benefit plan, or a similar retirement savings vehicle;
  - (3) Assets pursuant to or under imminent threat of condemnation proceedings by the United States, the state or any of its political subdivisions, or a municipal corporation;
  - (4) Cattle, horses, or breeding livestock held for more than twelve months if for the taxable year of the sale or exchange, more than fifty percent of the taxpayer's gross income for the taxable year, including from the sale or exchange of capital assets, is from farming or ranching;
  - (5) Agricultural land by an individual who has regular, continuous, and substantial involvement in the operation of the agriculture that meets the criteria for material participation in an activity under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 469(h) of the internal revenue code for the ten years prior to the date of the sale or exchange of the agricultural land;
  - (6) Property used in a trade or business if the property qualifies for an income tax deduction under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 167 or 179 of the internal revenue code;
  - (7) Timber, timberland, or the receipt of Washington capital gains as dividends and distributions from real estate investment trusts derived from gains from the sale or exchange of timber or timberland. "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, on privately or publicly owned land, and includes Christmas trees and short-rotation hardwoods. The sale or exchange of timber includes the cutting or disposal of timber qualifying for capital gains treatment

- 1 under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 631(a) or (b) of the internal revenue 2 code;
- 3 (8)(a) Affordable rental housing to a nonprofit corporation or 4 housing authority.
- 5 (b) The definitions in this subsection (8)(b) apply to this 6 subsection (8).
  - (i) "Affordable rental housing" means multifamily rental housing where the property is acquired by the nonprofit organization or housing authority as part of a public investment or subsidy program with rent or income restrictions.
- 11 (ii) "Housing authority" means a public corporation created under 12 chapter 35.82 RCW.
- 13 (iii) "Nonprofit corporation" means a corporation created under 14 chapter 24.03 RCW;
- 15 (9) Residences by a nonprofit entity to a low-income household if 16 the residence at the time of transfer qualified for the exemption 17 under RCW 84.36.049. "Residence," "nonprofit entity," and "low-income 18 household" have the meanings provided in RCW 84.36.049.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 104. The tax imposed under this chapter is in addition to any other taxes imposed by the state or any of its political subdivisions, or a municipal corporation, with respect to the same sale or exchange, including the taxes imposed in or under the authority of chapter 82.04, 82.08, 82.12, 82.14, 82.45, or 82.46 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 105. In computing tax, there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts that the state is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution of this state or the Constitution or laws of the United States.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 106. (1) In computing tax under this chapter for a taxable year, a taxpayer may deduct from the measure of tax the amount of adjusted capital gain derived in the taxable year from the sale of substantially all of the fair market value of the assets of, or the transfer of substantially all of the taxpayer's interest in, a qualified family-owned small business.
- 35 (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions 36 apply:

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- 1 (a) "Assets" means real property and personal property, including 2 tangible personal property and intangible property.
- 3 (b) "Family" means the same as "member of the family" in RCW 83.100.046.
- 5 (c)(i) "Materially participated" means an individual was involved 6 in the operation of a business on a basis that is regular, 7 continuous, and substantial.
  - (ii) The term "materially participated" must be interpreted consistently with the applicable treasury regulations for Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 469 of the internal revenue code, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with any provision of this section.
    - (d) "Qualified family-owned small business" means a business:
  - (i) In which the taxpayer held a qualifying interest for at least eight years immediately preceding the sale or transfer described in subsection (1) of this section;
  - (ii) In which the taxpayer or his or her family member materially participated in operating the business for at least five of the eight years immediately preceding the sale or transfer described in subsection (1) of this section, unless such sale or transfer was to a qualified heir;
  - (iii) (A) That had no more than fifty full-time employees at any time during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the sale or transfer described in subsection (1) of this section.
  - (B) For purposes of this subsection (2)(d)(iii), "full-time employee" means an employee who is, or any combination of employees who are, paid by the business for at least one thousand eight hundred twenty hours of employment, including paid leave, for the twelvemonth period described in (d)(iii)(A) of this subsection (2); and
  - (iv) That had worldwide gross revenue of five million dollars or less in the twelve-month period immediately preceding the sale or transfer described in subsection (1) of this section.
    - (e) "Qualified heir" means a member of the taxpayer's family.
    - (f) "Qualifying interest" means:
- 34 (i) An interest as a proprietor in a business carried on as a 35 sole proprietorship; or
  - (ii) An interest in a business if at least:
- 37 (A) Fifty percent of the business is owned, directly or 38 indirectly, by the taxpayer and members of the taxpayer's family;

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- 1 (B) Thirty percent of the business is owned, directly or 2 indirectly, by the taxpayer and members of the taxpayer's family, and 3 at least:
- 4 (I) Seventy percent of the business is owned, directly or 5 indirectly, by members of two families; or
- 6 (II) Ninety percent of the business is owned, directly or indirectly, by members of three families.
  - (g) "Substantially all" means at least ninety percent.
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 107.** (1) For purposes of the tax imposed 10 under this chapter, adjusted capital gains are allocated as follows:
  - (a) Adjusted capital gains from the sale or exchange of real property are allocated to this state if the real property is located in this state or a majority of the fair market value of the real property is located in this state.
  - (b) Adjusted capital gains from the sale or exchange of tangible personal property are allocated to this state if the property was located in this state at the time of the sale or exchange. Adjusted capital gains from the sale or exchange of tangible personal property are also allocated to this state even though the property was not located in this state at the time of the sale or exchange if:
- 21 (i) The property was located in the state at any time during the 22 taxable year in which the sale or exchange occurred or the 23 immediately preceding taxable year;
  - (ii) The taxpayer was a resident at the time the sale or exchange occurred; and
  - (iii) The taxpayer is not subject to the payment of an income or excise tax legally imposed on the adjusted capital gain by another taxing jurisdiction.
  - (c) Adjusted capital gains derived from intangible personal property are allocated to this state if the taxpayer was domiciled in this state at the time the sale or exchange occurred.
  - (2) (a) A credit is allowed against the tax imposed in section 102 of this act equal to the amount of any legally imposed income or excise tax paid by the taxpayer to another taxing jurisdiction on capital gains derived from capital assets within the other taxing jurisdiction to the extent such capital gains are included in the taxpayer's Washington capital gains. The amount of credit under this subsection may not exceed the total amount of tax due under this

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1 chapter, and there is no carryback or carryforward of any unused 2 credits.

- (b) As used in this section, "taxing jurisdiction" means a state of the United States other than the state of Washington, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, or any foreign country or political subdivision of a foreign country.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 108. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or RCW 82.32.080, taxpayers owing tax under this chapter must file, on forms prescribed by the department, a return with the department on or before the date the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year is required to be filed.
  - (2) In addition to the Washington return required to be filed under subsection (1) of this section, taxpayers owing tax under this chapter must file with the department on or before the date the federal return is required to be filed a copy of the federal income tax return along with all schedules and supporting documentation.
- (3) Each taxpayer required to file a return under this section must, without assessment, notice, or demand, pay any tax due thereon to the department on or before the date fixed for the filing of the return, regardless of any filing extension. If any tax due under this chapter is not paid by the due date, interest and penalties as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW apply to the deficiency.
- (4) The department may by rule require that certain individuals and other persons file, at times and on forms prescribed by the department, informational returns for any period.
- (5) If a taxpayer has obtained an extension of time for filing the federal income tax return for the taxable year, the taxpayer is entitled to the same extension of time for filing the return required under this section if the taxpayer provides the department, before the due date provided in subsection (1) of this section, the extension confirmation number or other evidence satisfactory to the department confirming the federal extension. An extension under this subsection for the filing of a return under this chapter is not an extension of time to pay the tax due under this chapter.
- (6) (a) If any return due under subsection (1) of this section, along with a copy of the federal income tax return, is not filed with the department by the due date or any extension granted by the department, the department must assess a penalty in the amount of Code Rev/JA:amh

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- five percent of the tax due for the taxable year covered by the return for each month or portion of a month that the return remains unfiled. The total penalty assessed under this subsection may not exceed twenty-five percent of the tax due for the taxable year covered by the delinquent return. The penalty under this subsection is in addition to any penalties assessed for the late payment of any
- 8 (b) The department must waive or cancel the penalty imposed under 9 this subsection if:

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tax due on the return.

- 10 (i) The department is persuaded that the taxpayer's failure to 11 file the return by the due date was due to circumstances beyond the 12 taxpayer's control; or
- 13 (ii) The taxpayer has not been delinquent in filing any return 14 due under this section during the preceding five calendar years.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 109. (1) If the federal income tax liabilities of both spouses are determined on a joint federal return for the taxable year, they must file a joint return under this chapter.
  - (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the federal income tax liability of either spouse is determined on a separate federal return for the taxable year, they must file separate returns under this chapter. State registered domestic partners may file a joint return under this chapter even if they filed separate federal returns for the taxable year.
  - (3) In any case in which a joint return is filed under this section, the liability of each spouse or state registered domestic partner is joint and several, unless:
- 28 (a) The spouse is relieved of liability for federal tax purposes 29 as provided under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6015 of the internal revenue 30 code; or
- 31 (b) The department determines that the domestic partner qualifies 32 for relief as provided by rule of the department. Such rule, to the 33 extent possible without being inconsistent with this chapter, must 34 follow Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6015.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 110. To the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the following statutes apply to the administration of taxes imposed under this chapter: RCW 82.32.050, 82.32.055, 82.32.060, 82.32.070, 82.32.080, 82.32.085, 82.32.090, Code Rev/JA:amh

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- 1 82.32.100, 82.32.105, 82.32.110, 82.32.117, 82.32.120, 82.32.130,
- 2 82.32.135, 82.32.150, 82.32.160, 82.32.170, 82.32.180, 82.32.190,
- 3 82.32.200, 82.32.210, 82.32.212, 82.32.220, 82.32.230, 82.32.235,
- 4 82.32.237, 82.32.240, 82.32.245, 82.32.265, 82.32.300, 82.32.310,
- 5 82.32.320, 82.32.330, 82.32.340, 82.32.350, 82.32.360, 82.32.410,
- 6 82.32.805, 82.32.808, and section 114 of this act.
- 7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 111.** (1) Any taxpayer who knowingly attempts
- 8 to evade payment of the tax imposed under this chapter is guilty of a
- 9 class C felony as provided in chapter 9A.20 RCW.
- 10 (2) Any taxpayer who knowingly fails to pay tax, make returns,
- 11 keep records, or supply information, as required under this title, is
- 12 guilty of a gross misdemeanor as provided in chapter 9A.20 RCW.
- 13 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 112.** Notwithstanding any common law rule of
- 14 strict construction of statutes imposing taxes, this chapter, being
- 15 necessary for the welfare of the state and its inhabitants, must be
- 16 liberally construed in support of application of the tax.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 113. A new section is added to chapter 82.04
- 18 RCW to read as follows:
- 19 A deduction is allowed against a person's gross income of the
- 20 business to the extent necessary to avoid taxing the same amounts
- 21 under this chapter and section 102 of this act.
- 22 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 114.** A new section is added to chapter 82.32
- 23 RCW to read as follows:
- 24 (1) The department may enter into reciprocal tax collection
- 25 agreements with the taxing officials of any other state imposing a
- 26 specified tax. Agreements authorized under this section must require
- 27 each state to offset delinquent specified taxes owed by a taxpayer to
- 28 one party to the agreement, including any associated penalties,
- 29 interest, or other additions, against refunds of overpaid specified
- 30 taxes owed to the taxpayer by the other party to the agreement. Such
- 31 agreements may also include provisions governing the sharing of
- 32 information relevant to the administration of specified taxes.
- 33 However, the department may not share return or tax information with
- 34 other states except as allowed under RCW 82.32.330. Likewise, the
- 35 department may not share federal tax information with other states
- 36 without the express written consent of the internal revenue service.

- 1 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this 2 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
  - (a) "Specified taxes" means generally applicable state and local sales taxes and use taxes, broad-based state gross receipts taxes, state income taxes, and stand-alone state taxes on capital gains or interest and dividends. "Specified taxes" include, but are not limited to, the taxes imposed in or under the authority of chapters 82.04, 82.08, 82.12, 82.14, 82.16, and 82.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 802 of this act), and similar taxes imposed by another state. For purposes of this subsection (2)(a), "gross receipts tax," "income tax," "sales tax," and "use tax" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.56.010.
- 13 (b) "State" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.56.010.
  - NEW SECTION. Sec. 115. All revenue from taxes collected under this chapter, including penalties and interest on such taxes, must be deposited into the general fund of the state. Revenue from taxes collected under this chapter must be used to fund the working families' tax exemption as provided in part II of this act as well as the tax relief specified in parts III through V of this act for businesses, individuals, and property owners.

#### 21 Part II

#### Providing Sales Tax Relief for Working Families

- **Sec. 201.** RCW 82.08.0206 and 2008 c 325 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
  - (1) A working families' tax exemption, in the form of a remittance of tax due under this chapter and chapter 82.12 RCW, is provided to eligible low-income persons for sales taxes paid under this chapter after January 1, ((2008)) 2019.
- (2) For purposes of the exemption in this section, an eligible low-income person is:
- 31 (a) An individual, or an individual and that individual's spouse 32 if they file a federal joint income tax return;
- 33 (b) ((<del>[An individual who]</del>)) <u>An individual who</u> is eligible for, 34 and is granted, the credit provided in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 32; and
- 35 (c)  $((\frac{An \text{ individual who}}{An \text{ individual who}}))$  An individual who properly files a 36 federal income tax return as a Washington resident, and has been a

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resident of the state of Washington more than one hundred eighty days of the year for which the exemption is claimed.

- (3) ((For remittances made in 2009 and 2010, the working families' tax exemption for the prior year is a retail sales tax exemption equal to the greater of five percent of the credit granted as a result of Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 32 in the most recent year for which data is available or twenty-five dollars.)) For ((2011)) 2020 and thereafter, the working families' tax exemption for the prior year is equal to the greater of ((ten)) twenty percent of the credit granted as a result of Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 32 in the most recent year for which data is available or fifty dollars.
- (4) ((For any fiscal period, the working families' tax exemption authorized under this section shall be approved by the legislature in the state omnibus appropriations act before persons may claim the exemption during the fiscal period.
- (5))) The working families' tax exemption ((shall)) must be administered as provided in this subsection.
  - (a) An eligible low-income person claiming an exemption under this section must pay the tax imposed under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW in the year for which the exemption is claimed. The eligible low-income person may then apply to the department for the remittance as calculated under subsection (3) of this section.
  - (b) Application ((shall)) <u>must</u> be made to the department in a form and manner determined by the department, but the department must provide alternative filing methods for applicants who do not have access to electronic filing.
  - (c) Application for the exemption remittance under this section must be made in the year following the year for which the federal return was filed((, but in no case may any remittance be provided for any period before January 1, 2008)). The department may use the best available data to process the exemption remittance. The department ((shall)) must begin accepting applications October 1, ((2009)) 2020.
  - (d) The department ((shall)) <u>must</u> review the application and determine eligibility for the working families' tax exemption based on information provided by the applicant and through audit and other administrative records, including, when it deems it necessary, verification through internal revenue service data.
- (e) The department ((shall)) <u>must</u> remit the exempted amounts to eligible low-income persons who submitted applications. Remittances may be made by electronic funds transfer or other means.

- (f) The department may, in conjunction with other agencies or organizations, design and implement a public information campaign to inform potentially eligible persons of the existence of and requirements for this exemption.
- 5 (g) The department may contact persons who appear to be eligible 6 low-income persons as a result of information received from the 7 internal revenue service under such conditions and requirements as 8 the internal revenue service may by law require.
- 9  $((\frac{(6)}{(6)}))$  The provisions of chapter  $((\frac{82.32}{2}))$  50.12 RCW apply to the exemption in this section.
- 11  $((\frac{(7)}{)})$  (6) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.
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- 24 (8) For the purpose of this section and RCW 82.08.02061, 25 "department" means the employment security department.

#### 26 Part III

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#### Providing Business and Occupation Tax Relief for Small Businesses

- 28 **Sec. 301.** RCW 82.04.4451 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 s 1102 are each 29 amended to read as follows:
- 30 (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is 31 allowed against the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter 32 after application of all other available credits, if any, as provided 33 in this section.
- (2) Except for taxpayers that report at least fifty percent of their taxable amount under RCW 82.04.255, 82.04.290(2)(a), and 82.04.285, the maximum credit for a taxpayer for a reporting period is ((thirty-five dollars)) eighty-one dollars multiplied by the number of months in the reporting period, as determined under RCW Code Rev/JA:amh

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- 82.32.045. A taxpayer may not take a credit under this subsection (2) if the taxpayer's tax due, prior to the application of the credit under this subsection, is greater than one thousand eight dollars and sixty-seven cents multiplied by the number of months in the reporting period.
  - (3) For a taxpayer that reports at least fifty percent of its taxable amount under RCW 82.04.255, 82.04.290(2)(a), and 82.04.285, the maximum credit for a reporting period is ((seventy dollars)) two hundred fifty dollars multiplied by the number of months in the reporting period, as determined under RCW 82.32.045. A taxpayer may not take a credit under this subsection (3) if the taxpayer's tax due, prior to the application of the credit under this subsection, is greater than three thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars multiplied by the number of months in the reporting period.
  - (((2) When the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter is equal to or less than the maximum credit, a credit is allowed equal to the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter.
  - (3) When the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter exceeds the maximum credit, a reduced credit is allowed equal to twice the maximum credit, minus the tax otherwise due under this chapter, but not less than zero.))
  - (4) ((The department may prepare a tax credit table consisting of tax ranges using increments of no more than five dollars and a corresponding tax credit to be applied to those tax ranges. The table shall be prepared in such a manner that no taxpayer will owe a greater amount of tax by using the table than would be owed by performing the calculation under subsections (1) through (3) of this section. A table prepared by the department under this subsection must be used by all taxpayers in taking the credit provided in this section.)) The amount of credit under this section for a reporting period may not exceed the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter for that reporting period. Unused credit may not be carried forward or backward and used in another reporting period. No refunds may be granted for unused credit.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 302. This part applies to tax reporting periods beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

37 Part IV

#### 1 Subpart A

#### 2 Feminine Hygiene Product Sales and Use Tax Exemption

- 3 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 401.** The legislature intends to authorize a
- 4 permanent sales and use tax exemption for feminine hygiene products
- 5 in order to lessen the tax burden on women and families in
- 6 Washington.
- 7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 402.** A new section is added to chapter 82.08
- 8 RCW to read as follows:
- 9 (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sales 10 of feminine hygiene products.
- 11 (2) For the purposes of this section, the term "feminine hygiene
- 12 product" means tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary
- 13 napkins, and other similar tangible personal property designed for
- 14 feminine hygiene in connection with the human menstrual cycle.
- 15 "Feminine hygiene product" does not include "grooming and hygiene
- 16 products," which mean soaps and cleaning solutions, shampoo,
- 17 toothpaste, mouthwash, antiperspirants, and suntan lotions and
- 18 screens, regardless of whether the items meet the definition of over-
- 19 the-counter-drugs as defined in RCW 82.08.0281.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 403. A new section is added to chapter 82.12
- 21 RCW to read as follows:
- 22 (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the
- 23 use of feminine hygiene products.
- 24 (2) The definition in section 402 of this act applies to this
- 25 section.

#### 26 Subpart B

#### 27 Diaper Sales and Use Tax Exemption

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 404. The legislature intends to authorize
- 29 permanent sales and use tax exemptions for the purchase of diapers in
- 30 order to lessen the tax burden on Washington families.
- 31 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 405.** A new section is added to chapter 82.08
- 32 RCW to read as follows:

- 1 (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of diapers.
- 3 (2) For the purposes of this section, "diaper" means an absorbent 4 garment worn by humans who are incapable of or have difficulty 5 controlling their bladder or bowel movements.
- 6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 406.** A new section is added to chapter 82.12 7 RCW to read as follows:
- 8 (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to 9 the use of diapers.
- 10 (2) The definitions in section 405 of this act apply to this 11 section.

#### 12 Subpart C

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## Durable Medical Equipment Used in the Home and Prescribed Mobility Enhancing Equipment Sales and Use Tax Exemption

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 407. (1) This section is the tax preference performance statement for the tax preferences contained in sections 408 through 411, chapter . . ., Laws of 2019 (this subpart of this act). This performance statement is only intended to be used for subsequent evaluation of the tax preferences. It is not intended to create a private right of action by any party or be used to determine eligibility for preferential tax treatment.
- (2) The legislature categorizes the tax preferences in sections 408 through 411, chapter . . ., Laws of 2019 (this subpart of this act) as ones intended to provide tax relief for certain businesses or individuals, as indicated in RCW 82.32.808(2)(e).
  - (3) It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to provide financial relief to individuals needing certain medically necessary items. It is the legislature's intent to provide a sales and use tax exemption for durable medical equipment for home use and mobility enhancing equipment.
- 31 (4) To measure the effectiveness of this act in achieving the 32 specific public policy objective described in subsection (3) of this 33 section, the joint legislative audit and review committee may refer 34 to data provided by the department of revenue.
- 35 **Sec. 408.** RCW 82.08.0283 and 2007 c 6 s 1101 are each amended to read as follows:

- 1 (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 ((shall)) does not apply to 2 sales of:
  - (a) Prosthetic devices prescribed, fitted, or furnished for an individual by a person licensed under the laws of this state to prescribe, fit, or furnish prosthetic devices, and the components of such prosthetic devices;
  - (b) Medicines of mineral, animal, and botanical origin prescribed, administered, dispensed, or used in the treatment of an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW; ((and))
  - (c) Medically prescribed oxygen, including, but not limited to, oxygen concentrator systems, oxygen enricher systems, liquid oxygen systems, and gaseous, bottled oxygen systems prescribed for an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW for use in the medical treatment of that individual;
  - (d) Durable medical equipment, and the components of durable medical equipment, for home use and prescribed by a person licensed under the laws of this state to prescribe such equipment; and
  - (e) Mobility enhancing equipment, and the components of mobility enhancing equipment, prescribed by a person licensed under the laws of this state to prescribe such equipment.
  - (2) In addition, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 ((shall)) does not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of any of the items exempted under subsection (1) of this section.
  - (3) ((The exemption in subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to sales of durable medical equipment, other than as specified in subsection (1)(c) of this section, or mobility enhancing equipment.
  - (4))) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
  - (a) "Prosthetic device" means a replacement, corrective, or supportive device, including repair and replacement parts for a prosthetic device, worn on or in the body to:
    - (i) Artificially replace a missing portion of the body;
  - (ii) Prevent or correct a physical deformity or malfunction; or
  - (iii) Support a weak or deformed portion of the body.
- 37 (b) "Durable medical equipment" means equipment, including repair 38 and replacement parts for durable medical equipment that:
  - (i) Can withstand repeated use;

- 1 (ii) Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;
- 3 (iii) Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of 4 illness or injury; and
  - (iv) Is not worn in or on the body.

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- 6 (c) "Mobility enhancing equipment" means equipment, including 7 repair and replacement parts for mobility enhancing equipment that:
- 8 (i) Is primarily and customarily used to provide or increase the 9 ability to move from one place to another and that is appropriate for 10 use either in a home or a motor vehicle;
- 11 (ii) Is not generally used by persons with normal mobility; and
- 12 (iii) Does not include any motor vehicle or equipment on a motor 13 vehicle normally provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer.
- 14 (d) The terms "durable medical equipment" and "mobility enhancing equipment" are mutually exclusive.
- 16 **Sec. 409.** RCW 82.12.0277 and 2007 c 6 s 1102 are each amended to read as follows:
- 18 (1) The provisions of this chapter ((shall)) do not apply in 19 respect to the use of:
  - (a) Prosthetic devices prescribed, fitted, or furnished for an individual by a person licensed under the laws of this state to prescribe, fit, or furnish prosthetic devices, and the components of such prosthetic devices;
  - (b) Medicines of mineral, animal, and botanical origin prescribed, administered, dispensed, or used in the treatment of an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW; ((and))
  - (c) Medically prescribed oxygen, including, but not limited to, oxygen concentrator systems, oxygen enricher systems, liquid oxygen systems, and gaseous, bottled oxygen systems prescribed for an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW for use in the medical treatment of that individual;
- 32 <u>(d) Durable medical equipment, and the components of durable</u> 33 <u>medical equipment, for home use and prescribed by a person licensed</u> 34 <u>under the laws of this state to prescribe such equipment; and</u>
- (e) Mobility enhancing equipment, and the components of mobility
  enhancing equipment, prescribed by a person licensed under the laws
  of this state to prescribe such equipment.
- 38 (2) In addition, the provisions of this chapter ((shall)) do not apply in respect to the use of labor and services rendered in respect Code Rev/JA:amh

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- to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of any of the items exempted under subsection (1) of this section.
  - (3) ((The exemption provided by subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to the use of durable medical equipment, other than as specified in subsection (1)(c) of this section, or mobility enhancing equipment.
- 7 (4)) "Prosthetic device," "durable medical equipment," and 8 "mobility enhancing equipment" have the same meanings as in RCW 9 82.08.0283.
- 10 **Sec. 410.** RCW 82.08.803 and 2007 c 6 s 1103 are each amended to 11 read as follows:
  - (1) An exemption from the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 in the form of a refund is provided for sales of nebulizers for other than home use, including repair, replacement, and component parts for such nebulizers, for human use pursuant to a prescription. In addition, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 ((shall)) does not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of nebulizers that are exempt under this section. "Nebulizer" means a device, not a building fixture, that converts a liquid medication into a mist so that it can be inhaled.
- (2) Sellers ((shall)) <u>must</u> collect tax on sales subject to this exemption. The buyer ((shall)) <u>must</u> apply for a refund directly from the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department.
- 25 **Sec. 411.** RCW 82.12.803 and 2007 c 6 s 1104 are each amended to 26 read as follows:
  - (1) The provisions of this chapter ((shall)) do not apply in respect to the use of nebulizers for other than home use, including repair, replacement, and component parts for such nebulizers, for human use pursuant to a prescription. In addition, the provisions of this chapter ((shall)) do not apply in respect to labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of nebulizers that are exempt under this section.

    "Nebulizer" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.803.
- 35 (2) Sellers obligated to collect use tax ((shall)) must collect 36 tax on sales subject to this exemption. The buyer ((shall)) must 37 apply for a refund directly from the department in a form and manner 38 prescribed by the department.

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#### Subpart D

#### Over-The-Counter Drug Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Sec. 412. RCW 82.08.940 and 2003 c 168 s 405 are each amended to 3 read as follows: 4

The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 ((shall)) does not apply to sales over-the-counter drugs for human use ((dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription)). "Over-thecounter drug" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.0281.

9 Sec. 413. RCW 82.12.940 and 2003 c 168 s 408 are each amended to read as follows: 10

The provisions of this chapter ((shall)) do not apply to the use of over-the-counter drugs ((dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription)), if the over-the-counter drugs are for human use. "Over-the-counter drug" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.0281.

#### 16 Part V

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### Providing Property Tax Relief to Senior Citizens, Individuals with Disabilities, and Veterans

NEW SECTION. Sec. 501. (1) This section is the tax preference performance statement for the tax preference contained in section 502, chapter . . ., Laws of 2019 (section 502 of this act). This performance statement is only intended to be used for subsequent evaluation of the tax preference. It is not intended to create a private right of action by any party or be used to determine eligibility for preferential tax treatment.

- The legislature categorizes this tax preference as intended to provide tax relief for certain businesses or individuals, as indicated in RCW 82.32.808(2)(e).
- (3) It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to provide tax relief to senior citizens, disabled persons, and 31 veterans. The legislature recognizes that property taxes impose a substantial financial burden on those with fixed incomes and that property tax relief programs have considerable value in addressing this burden. It is the legislature's intent to establish a mechanism 34 for adjusting income thresholds into the future. Income thresholds were last adjusted in 2015.

**Sec. 502.** RCW 84.36.381 and 2018 c 46 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

A person is exempt from any legal obligation to pay all or a portion of the amount of excess and regular real property taxes due and payable in the year following the year in which a claim is filed, and thereafter, in accordance with the following:

- (1) (a) The property taxes must have been imposed upon a residence which was occupied by the person claiming the exemption as a principal place of residence as of the time of filing. However, any person who sells, transfers, or is displaced from his or her residence may transfer his or her exemption status to a replacement residence, but no claimant may receive an exemption on more than one residence in any year. Moreover, confinement of the person to a hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility,  $((\Theta + ))$  adult family home, or home of a relative for the purpose of long-term care does not disqualify the claim of exemption if:
  - ((<del>(a)</del>)) <u>(i)</u> The residence is temporarily unoccupied;
- 18 ((<del>(b)</del>)) <u>(ii)</u> The residence is occupied by a spouse or a domestic 19 partner and/or a person financially dependent on the claimant for 20 support; or
  - ((<del>(c)</del>)) <u>(iii)</u> The residence is rented for the purpose of paying
    nursing home, hospital, assisted living facility, or adult family
    home costs;
  - (b) For the purposes of this subsection (1), "relative" means any individual related to the claimant by blood, marriage, or adoption;
  - (2) The person claiming the exemption must have owned, at the time of filing, in fee, as a life estate, or by contract purchase, the residence on which the property taxes have been imposed or if the person claiming the exemption lives in a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership, such person must own a share therein representing the unit or portion of the structure in which he or she resides. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned by a marital community or state registered domestic partnership or owned by cotenants is deemed to be owned by each spouse or each domestic partner or each cotenant, and any lease for life is deemed a life estate;
    - (3) (a) The person claiming the exemption must be:
- 38 (i) Sixty-one years of age or older on December 31st of the year 39 in which the exemption claim is filed, or must have been, at the time

of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of disability; or

- (ii) A veteran of the armed forces of the United States entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States department of veterans affairs at a total disability rating for a service-connected disability.
- (b) However, any surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of a person who was receiving an exemption at the time of the person's death will qualify if the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is fifty-seven years of age or older and otherwise meets the requirements of this section;
- (4) The amount that the person is exempt from an obligation to pay is calculated on the basis of combined disposable income, as defined in RCW 84.36.383. If the person claiming the exemption was retired for two months or more of the assessment year, the combined disposable income of such person must be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such person during the months such person was retired by twelve. If the income of the person claiming exemption is reduced for two or more months of the assessment year by reason of the death of the person's spouse or the person's domestic partner, or when other substantial changes occur in disposable income that are likely to continue for an indefinite period of time, the combined disposable income of such person must be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such person after such occurrences by twelve. If it is necessary to estimate income to comply with this subsection, the assessor may require confirming documentation of such income prior to May 31 of the year following application;
- (5)(a) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income ((of forty thousand dollars or less)) equal to or less than income threshold 3 is exempt from all excess property taxes, the additional state property tax imposed under RCW 84.52.065(2), and the portion of the regular property taxes authorized pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 and approved by the voters, if the legislative authority of the county or city imposing the additional regular property taxes identified this exemption in the ordinance placing the RCW 84.55.050 measure on the ballot; and
- (b) (i) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income ((of thirty-five thousand dollars or less but greater than thirty thousand dollars)) equal to or less than Code Rev/JA:amh

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- income threshold 2 but greater than income threshold 1 is exempt from all regular property taxes on the greater of fifty thousand dollars or thirty-five percent of the valuation of his or her residence, but not to exceed seventy thousand dollars of the valuation of his or her residence; or
  - (ii) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income ((of thirty thousand dollars or less)) equal to or less than income threshold 1 is exempt from all regular property taxes on the greater of sixty thousand dollars or sixty percent of the valuation of his or her residence;
- 11 (6)(a) For a person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income ((of forty thousand dollars or 12 less)) equal to or less than income threshold 3, the valuation of the 13 residence is the assessed value of the residence on the later of 14 January 1, 1995, or January 1st of the assessment year the person 15 16 first qualifies under this section. If the person subsequently fails 17 to qualify under this section only for one year because of high income, this same valuation must be used upon requalification. If the 18 person fails to qualify for more than one year in succession because 19 of high income or fails to qualify for any other reason, the 20 21 valuation upon requalification is the assessed value on January 1st 22 of the assessment year in which the person requalifies. If the person transfers the exemption under this section to a different residence, 23 the valuation of the different residence is the assessed value of the 24 25 different residence on January 1st of the assessment year in which 26 the person transfers the exemption.
  - (b) In no event may the valuation under this subsection be greater than the true and fair value of the residence on January 1st of the assessment year.
  - (c) This subsection does not apply to subsequent improvements to the property in the year in which the improvements are made. Subsequent improvements to the property must be added to the value otherwise determined under this subsection at their true and fair value in the year in which they are made.
- 35 **Sec. 503.** RCW 84.36.383 and 2012 c 10 s 74 are each amended to 36 read as follows:
- As used in RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389, ((except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning)) unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

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- (1) The term "residence" means a single-family dwelling unit whether such unit be separate or part of a multiunit dwelling, including the land on which such dwelling stands not to exceed one acre, except that a residence includes any additional property up to a total of five acres that comprises the residential parcel if this larger parcel size is required under land use regulations. The term also includes a share ownership in a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership if the person claiming exemption can establish that his or her share represents the specific unit or portion of such structure in which he or she resides. The term also includes a single-family dwelling situated upon lands the fee of which is vested in the United States or any instrumentality thereof including an Indian tribe or in the state of Washington, and notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.04.080 and 84.04.090, such a residence is deemed real property.
  - (2) The term "real property" also includes a mobile home which has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its being fixed in location upon land owned or leased by the owner of the mobile home and placed on a foundation (posts or blocks) with fixed pipe, connections with sewer, water, or other utilities. A mobile home located on land leased by the owner of the mobile home is subject, for tax billing, payment, and collection purposes, only to the personal property provisions of chapter 84.56 RCW and RCW 84.60.040.
  - (3) (("Department" means the state department of revenue.))
    "Principal place of residence" means a residence occupied for more
    than nine months each calendar year by a person claiming an exemption
    under RCW 84.36.381.
  - (4) "Combined disposable income" means the disposable income of the person claiming the exemption, plus the disposable income of his or her spouse or domestic partner, and the disposable income of each cotenant occupying the residence for the assessment year, less amounts paid by the person claiming the exemption or his or her spouse or domestic partner during the assessment year for:
  - (a) Drugs supplied by prescription of a medical practitioner authorized by the laws of this state or another jurisdiction to issue prescriptions;
- 38 (b) The treatment or care of either person received in the home 39 or in a nursing home, assisted living facility, or adult family home; 40 and

- 1 (c) Health care insurance premiums for medicare under Title XVIII 2 of the social security act.
- 3 (5) "Disposable income" means adjusted gross income as defined in 4 the federal internal revenue code, as amended prior to January 1, 5 1989, or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule 6 consistent with the purpose of this section, plus all of the 7 following items to the extent they are not included in or have been 8 deducted from adjusted gross income:
- 9 (a) Capital gains, other than gain excluded from income under 10 section 121 of the federal internal revenue code to the extent it is 11 reinvested in a new principal residence;
  - (b) Amounts deducted for loss;
    - (c) Amounts deducted for depreciation;
- 14 (d) Pension and annuity receipts;
- 15 (e) Military pay and benefits other than attendant-care and 16 medical-aid payments;
  - (f) Veterans benefits, other than:
  - (i) Attendant-care payments;
- 19 (ii) Medical-aid payments;
- 20 (iii) Disability compensation, as defined in Title 38, part 3, 21 section 3.4 of the code of federal regulations, as of January 1, 22 2008; and
- (iv) Dependency and indemnity compensation, as defined in Title 38, part 3, section 3.5 of the code of federal regulations, as of January 1, 2008;
  - (g) Federal social security act and railroad retirement benefits;
- 27 (h) Dividend receipts; and
- 28 (i) Interest received on state and municipal bonds.
- 29 (6) "Cotenant" means a person who resides with the person 30 claiming the exemption and who has an ownership interest in the 31 residence.
- 32 (7) "Disability" has the same meaning as provided in 42 U.S.C. 33 Sec. 423(d)(1)(A) as amended prior to January 1, 2005, or such 34 subsequent date as the department may provide by rule consistent with 35 the purpose of this section.
  - (8) "Income threshold 1" means:
- 37 <u>(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to</u> 38 2021, a combined disposable income equal to thirty thousand dollars;
- 39 <u>and</u>

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- 1 (b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2021 and
  2 thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of
  3 "income threshold 1" for the previous year or forty-five percent of
  4 the county median household income, adjusted every five years
  5 beginning March 1, 2020, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).
  - (9) "Income threshold 2" means:

- 7 (a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to 2021, a combined disposable income equal to thirty-five thousand 9 dollars; and
- 10 (b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2021 and thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of 12 "income threshold 2" for the previous year or fifty-five percent of 13 the county median household income, adjusted every five years 14 beginning March 1, 2020, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).
  - (10) "Income threshold 3" means:
- (a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to
  2021, a combined disposable income equal to forty thousand dollars;
  and
- 19 <u>(b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2021 and</u>
  20 <u>thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of</u>
  21 <u>"income threshold 3" for the previous year or sixty-five percent of</u>
  22 <u>the county median household income, adjusted every five years</u>
  23 beginning March 1, 2020, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).
- 24 (11) "County median household income" means the median household 25 income estimates for the state of Washington by county of the legal 26 address of the principal place of residence, as published by the 27 office of financial management.
- 28 **Sec. 504.** RCW 84.36.385 and 2011 c 174 s 106 are each amended to 29 read as follows:
- 30 (1) A claim for exemption under RCW 84.36.381 as now or hereafter amended, may be made and filed at any time during the year for exemption from taxes payable the following year and thereafter and solely upon forms as prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue. However, an exemption from tax under RCW 84.36.381 continues for no more than six years unless a renewal application is filed as provided in subsection (3) of this section.
- 37 (2) A person granted an exemption under RCW 84.36.381 must inform 38 the county assessor of any change in status affecting the person's

- entitlement to the exemption on forms prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue.
- (3) Each person exempt from taxes under RCW 84.36.381 in 1993 and thereafter( $(\tau)$ ) must file with the county assessor a renewal application not later than December  $31\underline{st}$  of the year the assessor notifies such person of the requirement to file the renewal application. Renewal applications must be on forms prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue.
- (4) At least once every six years, the county assessor must notify those persons receiving an exemption from taxes under RCW 84.36.381 of the requirement to file a renewal application. The county assessor may also require a renewal application following an amendment of the income requirements set forth in RCW 84.36.381.
- (5) If the assessor finds that the applicant does not meet the qualifications as set forth in RCW 84.36.381, as now or hereafter amended, the claim or exemption must be denied but such denial is subject to appeal under the provisions of RCW 84.48.010 and in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. If the applicant had received exemption in prior years based on erroneous information, the taxes must be collected subject to penalties as provided in RCW 84.40.130 for a period of not to exceed five years.
- (6) The department and each local assessor is hereby directed to publicize the qualifications and manner of making claims under RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389, through communications media, including such paid advertisements or notices as it deems appropriate. Notice of the qualifications, method of making applications, the penalties for not reporting a change in status, and availability of further information must be included on or with property tax statements and revaluation notices for all residential property including mobile homes, except rental properties.
- (7) The department must authorize an option for electronic filing of applications and renewal applications for the exemption under RCW 84.36.381.
- (8) Beginning March 1, 2020, and by March 1st every fifth year thereafter, the department must publish updated income thresholds.

  The adjusted thresholds must be rounded to the nearest one dollar. If the income threshold adjustment is negative, the income threshold for the prior year continues to apply. The department must adjust income thresholds for each county to reflect the most recent year available of estimated county median household income, including preliminary

- estimates or projections, as published by the office of financial management. For the purposes of this subsection, "county median household income" has the same meaning as in RCW 84.36.383.
- (9) Beginning December 1, 2022, and every fifth year thereafter, 4 to assist the legislature in evaluating the extent to which the 5 6 changes under this act are uniformly and equitably benefiting residential property owners across the state, the department, using 7 data provided by county assessors, must submit a report to the 8 legislature that includes the most recently available income 9 thresholds for each county under RCW 84.36.381 resulting from the 10 changes under this act, the number of additional properties exempted 11 under RCW 84.36.381, and any other information the department deems 12 relevant to the legislature's evaluation of the efficacy of this act 13 in providing additional, uniform, and equitable statewide residential 14 15 property tax relief.
- 16 **Sec. 505.** RCW 84.38.020 and 2006 c 62 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
  - ((Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, the following words and phrases as hereinafter used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:)) The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
  - (1) (a) "Claimant" means a person who either elects or is required under RCW 84.64.050 to defer payment of the special assessments and/or real property taxes accrued on the claimant's residence by filing a declaration to defer as provided by this chapter.
  - (b) When two or more individuals of a household file or seek to file a declaration to defer, they may determine between them as to who is the claimant ((shall be)).
    - (2) (("Department" means the state department of revenue.
- 31 (3)) "Devisee" means any person designated in a will to receive 32 a disposition of real or personal property.
  - (3) "Equity value" means the amount by which the fair market value of a residence as determined from the records of the county assessor exceeds the total amount of any liens or other obligations against the property.
- 37 (4) "Heirs" means those persons, including the surviving spouse, 38 who are entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to the 39 property of a decedent.

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- 1 (5) "Income threshold" means:
- 2 <u>(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to</u>
  3 <u>2021, a combined disposable income equal to forty-five thousand</u>
  4 <u>dollars; and</u>
- 5 (b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2021 or thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of the "income threshold" for the previous year, or seventy-five percent of the county median household income, adjusted every five years beginning March 1, 2020, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).
- 10 <u>(6)</u> "Local government" means any city, town, county, water-sewer 11 district, public utility district, port district, irrigation 12 district, flood control district, or any other municipal corporation, 13 quasi-municipal corporation, or other political subdivision 14 authorized to levy special assessments.
- 15 (((+5))) (7) "Real property taxes" means ad valorem property taxes levied on a residence in this state in the preceding calendar year.
- 17  $((\frac{(6)}{(6)}))$  "Residence" has the meaning given in RCW 84.36.383.
- 18 (((+7+))) (9) "Special assessment" means the charge or obligation 19 imposed by a local government upon property specially benefited.
- 20 **Sec. 506.** RCW 84.38.030 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 30 s 3 and 2015 c 21 86 s 313 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- A claimant may defer payment of special assessments and/or real property taxes on up to eighty percent of the amount of the claimant's equity value in the claimant's residence if the following conditions are met:
  - (1) The claimant must meet all requirements for an exemption for the residence under RCW 84.36.381, other than the age and income limits under RCW 84.36.381.
  - (2) The claimant must be sixty years of age or older on December 31st of the year in which the deferral claim is filed, or must have been, at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of disability as defined in RCW 84.36.383. However, any surviving spouse  $((\Theta r))_{\cdot}$  surviving domestic partner, heir, or devisee of a person who was receiving a deferral at the time of the person's death qualifies if the surviving spouse  $((\Theta r))_{\cdot}$  surviving domestic partner, heir, or devisee is fifty-seven years of age or older and otherwise meets the requirements of this section.

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- 1 (3) The claimant must have a combined disposable income, as 2 defined in RCW 84.36.383, ((of forty-five thousand dollars or less)) 3 equal to or less than the income threshold.
  - (4) The claimant must have owned, at the time of filing, the residence on which the special assessment and/or real property taxes have been imposed. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned by a marital community, owned by domestic partners, or owned by cotenants is deemed to be owned by each spouse, each domestic partner, or each cotenant. A claimant who has only a share ownership in cooperative housing, a life estate, a lease for life, or a revocable trust does not satisfy the ownership requirement.
  - (5) The claimant must have and keep in force fire and casualty insurance in sufficient amount to protect the interest of the state in the claimant's equity value. However, if the claimant fails to keep fire and casualty insurance in force to the extent of the state's interest in the claimant's equity value, the amount deferred may not exceed one hundred percent of the claimant's equity value in the land or lot only.
- 19 (6) In the case of special assessment deferral, the claimant must 20 have opted for payment of such special assessments on the installment 21 method if such method was available.
- **Sec. 507.** RCW 84.38.070 and 2008 c 6 s 703 are each amended to 23 read as follows:
  - If the claimant declaring his or her intention to defer special assessments or real property tax obligations under this chapter ceases to reside permanently on the property for which the declaration to defer is made between the date of filing the declaration and December 15th of that year, the deferral otherwise allowable under this chapter ((shall)) is not ((be)) allowed on such tax roll. However, this section ((shall)) does not apply where the claimant dies, leaving a spouse ((or)), domestic partner, heir, or devisee surviving, who is also eligible for deferral of special assessment and/or property taxes.
- **Sec. 508.** RCW 84.38.130 and 2008 c 6 s 704 are each amended to 35 read as follows:
- Special assessments and/or real property tax obligations deferred under this chapter ((shall)) become payable together with interest as provided in RCW 84.38.100:

- 1 (1) Upon the sale of property which has a deferred special 2 assessment and/or real property tax lien upon it.
  - (2) Upon the death of the claimant with an outstanding deferred special assessment and/or real property tax lien except a surviving spouse ((er)), surviving domestic partner, heir, or devisee who is qualified under this chapter may elect to incur the special assessment and/or real property tax lien, which ((shall)) is then ((be)) payable by that spouse ((er that)), domestic partner, heir, or devisee as provided in this section.
  - (3) Upon the condemnation of property with a deferred special assessment and/or real property tax lien upon it by a public or private body exercising eminent domain power, except as otherwise provided in RCW 84.60.070.
- 14 (4) At such time as the claimant ceases to reside permanently in 15 the residence upon which the deferral has been granted.
  - (5) Upon the failure of any condition set forth in RCW 84.38.030.
- **Sec. 509.** RCW 84.38.150 and 2008 c 6 s 705 are each amended to 18 read as follows:
  - (1) A surviving spouse  $((\Theta r))_L$  surviving domestic partner, heir, or devisee of the claimant may elect to continue the property in its deferred tax status if the property is the residence of the spouse  $((\Theta r))_L$  domestic partner, heir, or devisee of the claimant and the spouse  $((\Theta r))_L$  domestic partner, heir, or devisee meets the requirements of this chapter.
  - (2) The election under this section to continue the property in its deferred status by the spouse ((er the)), domestic partner, heir, or devisee of the claimant ((shall)) must be filed in the same manner as an original claim for deferral is filed under this chapter((, not later than ninety days from the date of the claimant's death)). Thereupon, the property with respect to which the deferral of special assessments and/or real property taxes is claimed ((shall)) must continue to be treated as deferred property. When the property has been continued in its deferred status by the filing of the spouse ((er the)), domestic partner, heir, or devisee of the claimant of an election under this section, the spouse ((er the)), domestic partner, heir, or devisee of the claimant may continue the property in its deferred status in subsequent years by filing a claim under this chapter so long as the spouse ((er the)), domestic partner, heir, or devisee meets the qualifications set out in this section.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 510. This part applies to taxes levied for collection in 2021 and thereafter.

3 Part VI

# Providing a Pathway to Modernize and Rebalance the Washington State Tax Structure to Improve its Equity, Adequacy, Stability, and Transparency

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 601. (1) The legislature finds that the Washington tax structure, developed at the turn of the twentieth century, is no longer adequate, equitable, stable, or transparent.
  - (a) In the early 1930s, the Washington supreme court overturned an initiative of the people that approved a tax intended to reduce the over-reliance on the property tax, in the midst of the great depression. In response to the court decision, the 1933 legislature adopted a gross receipts tax on businesses as a temporary measure to balance the state budget. This temporary tax measure, now referred to as the business and occupation tax, remains in law to this day. Because this tax does not allow a deduction for the cost of doing business, the tax penalizes new businesses, small businesses, and low margin businesses with high capital costs.
  - (b) Two years after the enactment of the temporary business tax and amidst deepening financial crisis, the legislature enacted the most comprehensive tax bill in state history, the revenue act of 1935. The act shifted the state's primary revenue source from property tax to excise taxes, making permanent the business and occupation tax and enacting the retail sales and use tax. Excise taxes have resulted in our state tax code being overly regressive. In other words, with a heavy reliance on sales tax and other excise taxes, households at the lowest end of the income spectrum pay more of their income to taxes compared to the wealthiest households in the state.
  - (c) Since the creation of our regressive tax structure, individual taxpayers and businesses have sought relief from the business and occupation tax, retail sales and use tax, property tax, and other taxes. Over the years, the legislature has adopted approximately seven hundred tax preferences including exemptions, deductions, deferrals, credits, exclusions, and preferential tax rates. While some of those tax preferences have a broad and positive impact, such as the voter-approved decision not to charge sales tax

- 1 on food, many are targeted to benefit a very small number of taxpayers. The need for tax preferences to mitigate the consequences 2 3 of the state tax structure has created structural deficits along with "winners" and "losers" within the code. According to the 2016 tax 4 exemption study completed by the department or revenue, these tax 5 6 preferences forego 50.4 billion dollars in revenue per biennium. This 7 means the state foregoes more revenue in tax preferences than it collects from its remaining revenue sources, leaving those taxpayers 8 without preferential tax treatment to assume a disproportionate share 9 of the responsibility to fund critical local and state investments. 10
  - (2) The legislature further finds that in 2001, the Washington state tax structure study committee under section 138, chapter 7, Laws of 2001 2nd sp. sess., was established to study the elasticity, equity, and adequacy of the state's tax structure.
  - (a) The tax structure study committee produced a comprehensive report of their research, economic modeling, and resulting tax policy prescriptions. The legislature has adopted some of the recommended changes, including establishing the budget stabilization account, limiting new tax preferences with ten-year expiration dates, and streamlining online retail sales tax administration. While these incremental changes were made, none of the major alternatives have been adopted, including the recommendation to replace the business and occupation tax with a business value added tax.
  - (b) Since the tax structure study committee's final report was published in November 2002, Washington's population, economy, and communities have changed dramatically. Our state population has increased by more than twenty percent (an estimated 1.3 million additional people). In the decade since the great recession, some business sectors have rebounded, stronger than ever, while many other Washington industries have not recovered. Five Washington counties have captured seventy-four percent of all new jobs created since 2001. Economic analysis indicates state revenues are decoupling from the state's economic activity, creating structural revenue declines that undermine the state's ability to provide essential services to the people and communities of the state. Washington state and local revenue collections as a share of personal income has dropped approximately ten percent since the late 1990s. Legislative policy choices, voter initiatives, consumer behavior, federal changes, low interest rates, and our transition from a manufacturing economy to a

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- service based economy have all contributed to the erosion of the state general fund revenue.
- (3) The legislature further finds that in 2017, the Washington 3 state house tax structure work group under section 101, chapter 1, 4 Laws of 2017 3rd sp. sess., was established to facilitate public 5 6 discussions throughout the state about the advantages 7 disadvantages of the state's current tax structure and potential options to improve the current structure for the benefit of 8 9 individuals, families, and businesses in Washington state. Legislators traveled across the state to hear directly from taxpayers 10 11 about key challenges in the tax structure that should be studied and 12 addressed in the future.
  - (a) The taxpayers recommended finding solutions to address the:
  - (i) Regressive nature of the tax code;
- 15 (ii) Negative impact of the business and occupation tax on small, 16 start-up, and low-margin businesses;
- 17 (iii) Need to modernize the tax structure to reflect the changing 18 economy; and
  - (iv) Excessive number of tax preferences and exemptions;
- 20 (b) The taxpayers also recommended conducting economic modeling 21 and comparative research of major alternatives to current revenue 22 sources, including but not limited to replacing:
- 23 (i) The business and occupation tax with an alternative taxing 24 mechanism such as corporate income tax or margins tax;
  - (ii) The one percent revenue growth limit on regular property taxes with a limit based on population growth and inflation;
- 27 (iii) A portion of the state property tax with a capital gains 28 tax; and
- 29 (iv) Other existing revenue sources with alternative revenue 30 sources.
- 31 (4) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to modernize 32 and rebalance our state tax structure. To accomplish this, the 33 legislature will:
  - (a) Directly engage in robust conversations with taxpayers, stakeholders, and experts across the state about how to make our tax structure more equitable, adequate, stable, and transparent;
- 37 (b) Expand upon the successes of the 2017 tax structure work 38 group by increasing outreach and involving more taxpayers in the 39 conversation;

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- 1 (c) Reevaluate the state tax structure, taking into particular 2 consideration the modernizing economy and changing economic reality 3 we currently face as individuals, communities, businesses, and the 4 state;
- 5 (d) Develop alternatives to our current tax structure for 6 consideration by taxpayers and policymakers, considering the 7 principles of equity, adequacy, stability, and transparency, while 8 also taking into consideration the effect on economic vitality and 9 the harmony with neighboring state's tax system; and
- 10 (e) Recommend policies that consider the principles named in (d)
  11 of this subsection and reduce the tax burden on low-income and
  12 middle-class households and small, new, and low-margin businesses.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 602. A new section is added to chapter 82.32 RCW to read as follows:
- 15 (1) The tax structure work group created within the 2017-2019 16 operating budget (chapter 1, Laws of 2017 3rd sp. sess. (Substitute 17 Senate Bill No. 5883)) is reauthorized and expanded to include nine 18 voting members, appointed as follows:
- 19 (a) The president of the senate must appoint two members from 20 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate;
- 21 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives must appoint two 22 members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of 23 representatives; and
- 24 (c) The governor must appoint one member who represents the 25 office of the governor.
- 26 (2) The work group must also include the following nonvoting 27 members:
  - (a) One representative of the department of revenue;
- 29 (b) One representative of the association of Washington cities; 30 and
- 31 (c) One representative of the Washington state association of 32 counties.
- 33 (3) All work group members must indicate, in writing, their 34 interest in serving on the tax structure work group and provide a 35 statement of understanding that the commitment to serve on the tax 36 structure work group is through December 31, 2024. Elected officials 37 not reelected to their respective offices may be relieved of their 38 responsibilities on the tax structure work group.

- 1 (4) Vacancies on the tax structure work group must be filled 2 within sixty days of notice of the vacancy.
  - (5) The work group must choose a chair or cochairs from among its legislative membership. The chair is responsible for convening the meetings of the work group.
  - (6) Voting on recommendations and other decisions of the work group are to be agreed upon by a simple majority vote. All work group members may have a representative attend meetings of the tax structure work group in lieu of the member, but voting by proxy is not permitted.
    - (7) The duties of the work group are:
  - (a) Update the information contained in the final report of findings and alternatives submitted by the Washington state tax structure study committee to the legislature under section 138, chapter 7, Laws of 2001 2nd sp. sess., and investigate other matters that may be material to changing the state tax structure, such as those recommended in the final report of the 2018 tax structure work group; and
  - (b) Based on the update to the final report, provided in (a) of this subsection, and other information gathered by the work group, make recommendations to the legislature for changes to the state tax structure. Any recommendation provided by the work group may not result in a loss of revenue to the state as compared to the most recent biennial revenue forecast published by the economic and revenue forecast council.
  - (c) In making the recommendations under (b) of this subsection, the work group must be guided by the following principles for a well-designed tax system: Equity, adequacy, stability, and transparency.
  - (8) To assist the work group with its duties, the department of revenue may create one or more technical advisory group(s) that may include academic scholars from state research institutions or regional universities and other recognized experts in the fields of economics, taxation, business administration, public administration, public policy, or other relevant disciplines as determined by the department of revenue. It is the legislature's intent to include in a technical advisory group both experts in economic theory as well as tax law practitioners, such as certified public accountants, tax attorneys, and other tax preparation professionals.
- 39 (9) The work group must complete its duties on the following 40 schedule:

- (a) By December 1, 2020, the work group and technical advisory group must prepare a preliminary report summarizing their findings and alternatives, including:
  - (i) Updates to the findings and alternatives in the final report submitted by the Washington state tax structure study committee to the legislature under section 138, chapter 7, Laws of 2001 2nd sp. sess., to include current information and data, and to account for any of the original findings that have been addressed through legislation since the original submission of that report; and
  - (ii) Economic modeling or other comparable analysis addressing key challenges of the Washington state tax code (as reflected in the final report of the tax structure work group submitted on December 3, 2018, as required by chapter 1, Laws of 2017 3rd sp. sess. (Substitute Senate Bill No. 5883));
    - (b) By May 1, 2021, the work group must:

- (i) Hold no less than two meetings in Olympia to review the preliminary report described in (a) of this subsection. Some of these meetings must include stakeholder groups. These stakeholder groups must include, at a minimum, organizations and individuals representing the following:
- (A) Low-margin business owners and employees and/or associations expressly dedicated to representing these businesses; and
- (B) Individual taxpayers with income at or below one hundred percent of area median income in their county of residence and/or organizations expressly dedicated to representing low-income and middle-income taxpayers;
- (ii) Present the report described in (a) of this subsection with findings and alternatives related to changes to the state tax system, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate committees of the legislature; and
- 31 (iii) Begin to plan strategies to engage taxpayers and key 32 stakeholder groups to encourage participation in the public meetings 33 described in (d)(ii) of this subsection;
  - (c) During the 2021 legislative session, the work group must:
- 35 (i) Be available to deliver a presentation to the appropriate 36 committees of the legislature including:
  - (A) The findings and alternatives included in the report described in (a) of this subsection; and
- 39 (B) The preliminary plan to engage taxpayers directly in a robust 40 conversation about the state's tax structure, including presenting Code Rev/JA:amh 37 S-3145.13/19 13th draft

- the findings and alternatives in the report described in (d) of this subsection, and collecting feedback to inform development of recommendations; and
  - (ii) Finalize the logistics of the engagement strategies described in (d) of this subsection;
- 6 (d) Between the conclusion of the 2021 legislative session and 7 December 31, 2021, the work group must:
- 8 (i) Hold no less than five public meetings in geographically 9 dispersed areas of the state;
- 10 (ii) Present the report and findings described in (a) of this 11 subsection and alternatives to the state's current tax structure at 12 the public meetings;
  - (iii) Provide an opportunity at the public meetings for taxpayers to engage in a conversation about the state tax structure, including but not limited to, providing feedback on possible recommendations for changes to the state tax structure and asking questions about the report and findings and alternatives to the state's current tax structure presented by the work group;
  - (iv) Utilize methods to collect taxpayer feedback before, during, or after the public meetings that may include, but is not limited to: Small group discussions, in-person written surveys, in-person visual surveys, online surveys, written testimony, and public testimony;
- (v) Encourage legislators to inform their constituents about the public meetings that occur within and near their legislative districts;
  - (vi) Inform local elected officials about the public meetings that occur within and near their communities; and
  - (vii) Summarize the feedback that taxpayers and other stakeholders communicated during the public meetings and other public engagement methods, and submit a final summary report, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate committees of the legislature. This report may be submitted as an appendix or update to the report described in (a) of this subsection;
    - (e) During the 2022 legislative session, the work group must:
  - (i) Present the reports described in (a) and (d) of this subsection to the appropriate committees of the legislature; and
- 37 (ii) Be available to deliver a presentation to and/or participate 38 in a work session for the appropriate committees of the legislature; 39 and

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- (f) (i) Between the conclusion of the 2022 legislative session and December 31, 2022, the work group is directed to finalize policy recommendations and develop legislation to implement modifications to the tax structure, informed by the findings described in (a) of this subsection and the feedback received from taxpayers as reflected in the port described in (d) of this subsection;
- (ii) During the 2023 legislative session, it is the intent of the legislature to consider the proposal described in (f)(i) of this subsection;
- (iii) If the proposal is not adopted during the 2023 legislative session, the work group is directed to host no less than three public meetings to collect feedback on the legislation proposed in the 2023 session, and may also collect feedback on other proposals under consideration by the work group. The work group is directed to modify the proposal to address the feedback collected during the public meetings;
- (iv) During the 2024 legislative session, it is the intent of the legislature to consider the modified proposal described in (f)(iii) of this subsection; and
  - (g) By December 31, 2024, the work group is directed to submit a final report that is a compilation of all other reports previously submitted since December 1, 2020, and may include additional content to summarize final activities of the tax structure work group and related legislation, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate committees of the legislature.
  - (10) Staff support for the work group must be provided by the department of revenue, subject to the degree such support is funded through appropriation. The department of revenue may engage one or more outside consultant(s) to assist in providing support for the work group.
- 31 (11) Members of the work group must serve without compensation 32 but may be reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 44.04.120, 33 43.03.050, and 43.03.060.
  - (12) The expenses of the work group must be paid jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. Work group expenditures are subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their successor committees.
  - (13) This section expires December 31, 2024.

#### Part VII

#### 2 Miscellaneous Provisions

- 3 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 701.** The provisions of RCW 82.32.805 and
- 4 82.32.808 do not apply to this act.
- 5 NEW SECTION. Sec. 702. Sections 101 through 112 and 115 of this
- 6 act constitute a new chapter in Title 82 RCW.
- 7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 703. (1) If any provision of this act or its
- 8 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by a court
- 9 of competent jurisdiction, in a judgment no longer subject to appeal,
- 10 this act expires on the date that such judicial proceedings become
- 11 final.

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- 12 (2) The department of revenue must provide written notice of the
- 13 expiration date under this section to affected parties, the chief
- 14 clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate,
- 15 the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by
- 16 the department.
- 17 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 704.** Parts I and II of this act take effect
- 18 January 1, 2020.
- 19 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 705.** Parts III and IV of this act take effect
- 20 July 1, 2020.
- 21 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 706.** Part V of this act takes effect March 1,
- 22 2020.

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