
HOUSE BILL 1699

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Sehlin and Chopp

Read first time 02/06/95. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to application of the real estate excise tax to
2 sales to public entities; and amending RCW 82.45.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.45.010 and 1993 sp.s. c 25 s 502 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) As used in this chapter, the term "sale" shall have its
7 ordinary meaning and shall include any conveyance, grant, assignment,
8 quitclaim, or transfer of the ownership of or title to real property,
9 including standing timber, or any estate or interest therein for a
10 valuable consideration, and any contract for such conveyance, grant,
11 assignment, quitclaim, or transfer, and any lease with an option to
12 purchase real property, including standing timber, or any estate or
13 interest therein or other contract under which possession of the
14 property is given to the purchaser, or any other person at the
15 purchaser's direction, and title to the property is retained by the
16 vendor as security for the payment of the purchase price. The term
17 also includes the grant, assignment, quitclaim, sale, or transfer of
18 improvements constructed upon leased land.

1 (2) The term "sale" also includes the transfer or acquisition
2 within any twelve-month period of a controlling interest in any entity
3 with an interest in real property located in this state for a valuable
4 consideration. For purposes of this subsection, all acquisitions of
5 persons acting in concert shall be aggregated for purposes of
6 determining whether a transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest
7 has taken place. The department of revenue shall adopt standards by
8 rule to determine when persons are acting in concert. In adopting a
9 rule for this purpose, the department shall consider the following:

10 (a) Persons shall be treated as acting in concert when they have a
11 relationship with each other such that one person influences or
12 controls the actions of another through common ownership; and

13 (b) When persons are not commonly owned or controlled, they shall
14 be treated as acting in concert only when the unity with which the
15 purchasers have negotiated and will consummate the transfer of
16 ownership interests supports a finding that they are acting as a single
17 entity. If the acquisitions are completely independent, with each
18 purchaser buying without regard to the identity of the other
19 purchasers, then the acquisitions shall be considered separate
20 acquisitions.

21 (3) The term "sale" shall not include:

22 (a) A transfer by gift, devise, or inheritance.

23 (b) A transfer of any leasehold interest other than of the type
24 mentioned above.

25 (c) A cancellation or forfeiture of a vendee's interest in a
26 contract for the sale of real property, whether or not such contract
27 contains a forfeiture clause, or deed in lieu of foreclosure of a
28 mortgage.

29 (d) The partition of property by tenants in common by agreement or
30 as the result of a court decree.

31 (e) The assignment of property or interest in property from one
32 spouse to the other in accordance with the terms of a decree of divorce
33 or in fulfillment of a property settlement agreement.

34 (f) The assignment or other transfer of a vendor's interest in a
35 contract for the sale of real property, even though accompanied by a
36 conveyance of the vendor's interest in the real property involved.

37 (g) Transfers by appropriation or decree in condemnation
38 proceedings brought by the United States, the state or any political
39 subdivision thereof, or a municipal corporation.

1 (h) A mortgage or other transfer of an interest in real property
2 merely to secure a debt, or the assignment thereof.

3 (i) Any transfer or conveyance made pursuant to a deed of trust or
4 an order of sale by the court in any mortgage, deed of trust, or lien
5 foreclosure proceeding or upon execution of a judgment, or deed in lieu
6 of foreclosure to satisfy a mortgage or deed of trust.

7 (j) A conveyance to the federal housing administration or veterans
8 administration by an authorized mortgagee made pursuant to a contract
9 of insurance or guaranty with the federal housing administration or
10 veterans administration.

11 (k) A transfer in compliance with the terms of any lease or
12 contract upon which the tax as imposed by this chapter has been paid or
13 where the lease or contract was entered into prior to the date this tax
14 was first imposed.

15 (l) The sale of any grave or lot in an established cemetery.

16 (m) A sale by or to the United States, this state or any political
17 subdivision thereof, or a municipal corporation of this state.

18 (n) A transfer of real property, however effected, if it consists
19 of a mere change in identity or form of ownership of an entity where
20 there is no change in the beneficial ownership. These include
21 transfers to a corporation or partnership which is wholly owned by the
22 transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or children: PROVIDED, That
23 if thereafter such transferee corporation or partnership voluntarily
24 transfers such real property, or such transferor, spouse, or children
25 voluntarily transfer stock in the transferee corporation or interest in
26 the transferee partnership capital, as the case may be, to other than
27 (1) the transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or children, (2) a
28 trust having the transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or children
29 as the only beneficiaries at the time of the transfer to the trust, or
30 (3) a corporation or partnership wholly owned by the original
31 transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or children, within three
32 years of the original transfer to which this exemption applies, and the
33 tax on the subsequent transfer has not been paid within sixty days of
34 becoming due, excise taxes shall become due and payable on the original
35 transfer as otherwise provided by law.

36 (o) A transfer that for federal income tax purposes does not
37 involve the recognition of gain or loss for entity formation,
38 liquidation or dissolution, and reorganization, including but not
39 limited to nonrecognition of gain or loss because of application of

1 section 332, 337, 351, 368(a)(1), 721, or 731 of the Internal Revenue
2 Code of 1986, as amended.

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