3

4 5

6

## SENATE BILL 5961

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By Senators Saldaña, Kuderer, Dhingra, Hunt, Lovelett, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 02/19/19. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

AN ACT Relating to improving the equity and sustainability of Washington's tax structure; amending RCW 82.08.0206; adding a new section to chapter 82.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.32 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 82 RCW; creating a new section; prescribing penalties; providing an effective date; and providing a contingent expiration date.

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

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

- 13 (1) "Adjusted capital gain" means federal net long-term capital 14 gain:
- 15 (a) Plus any loss from a sale or exchange that is exempt from the 16 tax imposed in this chapter, to the extent such loss was included in 17 calculating federal net long-term capital gain; and
- 18 (b) Less any gain from a sale or exchange that is exempt from the 19 tax imposed in this chapter, to the extent such gain was included in 20 calculating federal net long-term capital gain.

p. 1 SB 5961

- 1 (2) "Capital asset" has the same meaning as provided by Title 26
  2 U.S.C. Sec. 1221 of the internal revenue code and also includes any
  3 other property if the sale or exchange of the property results in a
  4 gain that is treated as a long-term capital gain under Title 26
  5 U.S.C. Sec. 1231 or any other provision of the internal revenue code.
- 6 (3) "Federal net long-term capital gain" means the net long-term capital gain reportable for federal income tax purposes.
  - (4) "Individual" means a natural person.

1516

17

18

19

2021

26

27

2829

30

3132

33

34

40

- 9 (5) "Internal revenue code" means the United States internal 10 revenue code of 1986, as amended, as of the effective date of this 11 section, or such subsequent date as the department may provide by 12 rule consistent with the purpose of this chapter.
- 13 (6) "Long-term capital asset" means a capital asset that is held 14 for more than one year.
  - (7) (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.
  - (b) For purposes of this subsection, "day" includes any portion of a day, except that a continuous period of twenty-four hours or less may not constitute more than one day.
  - (c) An individual who is a resident under (a) of this subsection is a resident for that portion of a taxable year in which the individual was domiciled in this state or maintained a place of abode in this state.
  - (8) "Taxable year" means the taxpayer's taxable year as determined under the internal revenue code.
- 35 (9) "Taxpayer" means an individual subject to tax under this 36 chapter.
- 37 (10) "Washington capital gains" means an individual's adjusted 38 capital gains allocated to this state as provided in section 107 of 39 this act, less:
  - (a) Twenty-five thousand dollars; or

p. 2 SB 5961

- 1 (b) Fifty thousand dollars for individuals filing joint returns 2 under this 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 seven and nine-tenths percent multiplied by the individual's Washington capital gains.
- 8 (2) If an individual's Washington capital gains are less than 9 zero for a taxable year, no tax is due under this section. No such 10 losses may be carried back or carried forward to another taxable 11 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.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 103. This chapter does not apply to the sale or exchange of:
  - (1) Any residential dwelling along with the land upon which the dwelling is located. For the purposes of this subsection (1), "residential dwelling" means property consisting solely of (a) a single-family residence, a residential condominium unit, or a 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, an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity

p. 3 SB 5961

- 1 described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 408 of the internal revenue code, a
- 2 Roth individual retirement account described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec.
- 3 408A of the internal revenue code, an employee defined contribution
- 4 program, an employee defined benefit plan, or a similar retirement
- 5 savings vehicle;

7

8

9

10 11

1213

14

1516

17

18

19

23

2425

26

27

2829

30

3536

37

38

- (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;
- 20 (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 22 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. "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 under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 631(a) or (b) of the internal revenue code;
- 31 (8)(a) Affordable rental housing to a nonprofit corporation or 32 housing authority.
- 33 (b) The definitions in this subsection (8)(b) apply to this 34 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.
- (ii) "Housing authority" means a public corporation created under chapter 35.82 RCW.

p. 4 SB 5961

- 1 (iii) "Nonprofit corporation" means a corporation created under 2 chapter 24.03 RCW;
- 3 (9) Residences by a nonprofit entity to a low-income household if 4 the residence at the time of transfer qualified for the exemption 5 under RCW 84.36.049. "Residence," "nonprofit entity," and "low-income 6 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.
- 23 (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions 24 apply:
- 25 (a) "Assets" means real property and personal property, including 26 tangible personal property and intangible property.
- 27 (b) "Family" means the same as "member of the family" in RCW 83.100.046.
- (c) (i) "Materially participated" means an individual was involved in the operation of a business on a basis that is regular, continuous, and substantial.
- (ii) The term "materially participated" must be interpreted consistently with the applicable treasury regulations for section 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:

p. 5 SB 5961

- (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 10 11 transfer described in subsection (1) of this section.
  - 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 six 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:

2

3

4

5 6

7

8

9

12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

24 25

26

- (i) An interest as a proprietor in a business carried on as a 22 23 sole proprietorship; or
  - (ii) An interest in a business if at least:
  - Fifty percent of the business is owned, directly indirectly, by the taxpayer and members of the taxpayer's family;
- 27 Thirty percent of the business is owned, directly or indirectly, by the taxpayer and members of the taxpayer's family, and 28 29 at least:
- (I) Seventy percent of the business is owned, directly or 30 31 indirectly, by members of two families; or
- (II) Ninety percent of the business is owned, directly 32 indirectly, by members of three families. 33
- (g) "Substantially all" means at least ninety percent. 34
- 35 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 107.** (1) For purposes of the tax imposed under this chapter, adjusted capital gains are allocated as follows: 36
- 37 (a) Adjusted capital gains from the sale or exchange of real property are allocated to this state if the real property is located 38

SB 5961 p. 6

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:
- 9 (i) The property was located in the state at any time during the 10 taxable year in which the sale or exchange occurred or the 11 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 chapter, and there is no carryback or carryforward of any unused 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.

p. 7 SB 5961

(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 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 tax due on the return.
- (b) The department must waive or cancel the penalty imposed under this subsection if:
- 37 (i) The department is persuaded that the taxpayer's failure to 38 file the return by the due date was due to circumstances beyond the 39 taxpayer's control; or

p. 8 SB 5961

- 1 (ii) The taxpayer has not been delinquent in filing any return 2 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.
- 7 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the 8 federal income tax liability of either spouse is determined on a 9 separate federal return for the taxable year, they must file separate 10 returns under this chapter. State registered domestic partners may 11 file a joint return under this chapter even if they filed separate 12 federal returns for the taxable year.
- 13 (3) In any case in which a joint return is filed under this 14 section, the liability of each spouse or state registered domestic 15 partner is joint and several, unless:
- 16 (a) The spouse is relieved of liability for federal tax purposes 17 as provided under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6015 of the internal revenue 18 code; or
- 19 (b) The department determines that the domestic partner qualifies 20 for relief as provided by rule of the department. Such rule, to the 21 extent possible without being inconsistent with this chapter, must 22 follow Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6015.
- 23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 110. To the extent not inconsistent with the 24 provisions of this chapter, the following statutes apply to the 25 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, 26 27 82.32.100, 82.32.105, 82.32.110, 82.32.117, 82.32.120, 82.32.130, 82.32.135, 82.32.150, 82.32.160, 82.32.170, 82.32.180, 82.32.190, 28 29 82.32.200, 82.32.210, 82.32.212, 82.32.220, 82.32.230, 82.32.235, 30 82.32.237, 82.32.240, 82.32.245, 82.32.265, 82.32.300, 82.32.310, 31 82.32.320, 82.32.330, 82.32.340, 82.32.350, 82.32.360, 82.32.410, 82.32.805, 82.32.808, and section 113 of this act. 32
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 111. (1) Any taxpayer who knowingly attempts to evade payment of the tax imposed under this chapter is guilty of a class C felony as provided in chapter 9A.20 RCW.

p. 9 SB 5961

- 1 (2) Any taxpayer who knowingly fails to pay tax, make returns, 2 keep records, or supply information, as required under this title, is 3 quilty of a gross misdemeanor as provided in chapter 9A.20 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 112. Notwithstanding any common law rule of strict construction of statutes imposing taxes, this chapter, being necessary for the welfare of the state and its inhabitants, must be liberally construed in support of application of the tax.
- 8 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 113.** A new section is added to chapter 82.04 9 RCW to read as follows:
- A deduction is allowed against a person's gross income of the business to the extent necessary to avoid taxing the same amounts under this chapter and section 102 of this act.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 114. A new section is added to chapter 82.32
  RCW to read as follows:

16

1718

19

20

2122

23

2425

26

2728

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

- (1) The department may enter into reciprocal tax collection agreements with the taxing officials of any other state imposing a specified tax. Agreements authorized under this section must require each state to offset delinquent specified taxes owed by a taxpayer to one party to the agreement, including any associated penalties, interest, or other additions, against refunds of overpaid specified taxes owed to the taxpayer by the other party to the agreement. Such agreements may also include provisions governing the sharing of information relevant to the administration of specified taxes. However, the department may not share return or tax information with other states except as allowed under RCW 82.32.330. Likewise, the department may not share federal tax information with other states without the express written consent of the internal revenue service.
- (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this 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 202 of this act), and similar taxes imposed by another state. For purposes of this subsection (2)(a), "gross

p. 10 SB 5961

- receipts tax," "income tax," "sales tax," and "use tax" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.56.010.
- 3 (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. A portion of the revenue from taxes collected under this chapter that are deposited in the general fund must be used to fully implement and fund the working families' tax exemption under RCW 82.08.0206.
- **Sec. 116.** RCW 82.08.0206 and 2008 c 325 s 2 are each amended to 11 read as follows:

- (1) A working families' tax exemption, in the form of a remittance 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)) 2020.
- (2) For purposes of the exemption in this section, an eligible low-income person is:
- (a) An individual, or an individual and that individual's spouse if they file a federal joint income tax return;
  - (b) ((<del>An individual who]</del>)) An individual who is eligible for, and is granted, the credit provided in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 32; and
  - (c) ((<del>[An individual who]</del>)) <u>An individual who</u> properly files a federal income tax return as a Washington resident, and has been a 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)) 2021 and thereafter, the working families' tax exemption for the prior year is equal to the greater of ten 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.

p. 11 SB 5961

(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)) 2021.
- (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.
- (g) The department may contact persons who appear to be eligible low-income persons as a result of information received from the internal revenue service under such conditions and requirements as the internal revenue service may by law require.
- ((+6+)) (5) The provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW apply to the exemption in this section.
- $((\frac{(7)}{)})$  (6) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.
- $((\frac{(8)}{(8)}))$  The department  $(\frac{(shall)}{(shall)})$  must limit its costs for the exemption program to the initial start-up costs to implement the program. The state omnibus appropriations act  $(\frac{(shall)}{(shall)})$  must specify

p. 12 SB 5961

- 1 funding to be used for the ongoing administrative costs of the program. These ongoing administrative costs include, but are not 2 limited to, costs for: The processing of internet and mail 3 applications, verification of application claims, compliance and 4 collections, additional full-time employees at the department's call 5 6 center, processing warrants, updating printed materials and web 7 information, media advertising, and support and maintenance of computer systems. 8
- 9 Part II
- 10 Miscellaneous Provisions
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 201. This act is not subject to the requirements provided in RCW 82.32.805 and 82.32.808.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 202. Sections 101 through 112 and 115 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 82 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 203. (1) If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, this act expires on the date that a court holds such provision or application to be invalid.
- 19 (2) The department of revenue must provide written notice of the 20 expiration date under this section to affected parties, the chief 21 clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, 22 the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by 23 the department.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 204. This act takes effect January 1, 2020.

--- END ---

p. 13 SB 5961