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## SENATE BILL 5630

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Ranker, Mullet, Rivers, Cleveland, Zeiger, and Liias; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 02/01/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

AN ACT Relating to reinstating tax preferences for certain high-1 2 technology research and development; amending RCW 82.63.010, 3 82.63.020, and 82.63.045; reenacting RCW 82.63.060 and 82.63.065; 4 adding a new section to chapter 82.04 RCW; adding a new section to 5 chapter 82.63 RCW; creating a new section; and providing expiration dates. 6

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

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) This section is the tax preference performance statement for the tax credit contained in section 2 of this act and the tax deferrals contained in sections 3 through 8 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 these tax preferences as intended to improve industry competitiveness and create or retain jobs, as indicated in RCW 82.32.808(2) (b) and (c).
  - (3) It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to improve industry competitiveness and create or retain more jobs. It is the legislature's intent to provide a business and occupation tax credit for advanced spacecraft manufacturing, life science, and

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- 1 environmental technology companies performing research and development, and a sales and use tax deferral 2 for certain construction for new and expanding companies conducting research and 3 development in the fields of advanced spacecraft manufacturing, life 4 science, and environmental technology in order to reduce the business 5 6 costs of performing research and development and to reduce the cost of certain construction and equipment purchases used for research and 7 development in specified areas, thereby encouraging investments in 8 research and development, thereby increasing the number of firms in 9 the industry performing research and development activities, thereby 10 11 increasing the number of jobs performing research and development in 12 spacecraft manufacturing, life the advanced science, and environmental technology industries. 13
  - (4) If a review finds that the number of businesses participating in the credit and deferral programs, and the overall number of jobs for businesses participating in the credit and deferral programs performing research and development, have increased compared to the number at the time of enactment, then the legislature intends to extend the expiration date of the tax preferences.

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- (5) In order to obtain the data necessary to perform the review in subsection (4) of this section, the joint legislative audit and review committee may refer to: (a) Employment data available from the employment security department; (b) return and tax information maintained by the department of revenue; and (c) any other data as the joint legislative audit and review committee deems useful.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 82.04 27 RCW to read as follows:
  - (1) Beginning January 1, 2018, a credit against the tax imposed under this chapter is allowed for each person whose research and development spending during the year in which the credit is claimed exceeds 0.92 percent of the person's taxable amount during the same calendar year.
  - (2) To be eligible for the credit under this section for research and development conducted in advanced spacecraft manufacturing, a person must, as of January 1, 2018:
    - (a) Have an active tax registration with the department; and
    - (b) Be actively engaged in advanced spacecraft manufacturing.
      - (3) A person's credit is calculated as follows:

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(a) Determine the greater of the amount of (i) the person's qualified research and development expenditures or (ii) eighty percent of amounts received by the person, other than a public educational or research institution, in compensation for the conduct of qualified research and development actually performed directly by the person;

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- (b) Subtract 0.92 percent of the person's taxable amount from the amount determined under (a) of this subsection;
- 9 (c) Multiply the amount determined under (b) of this subsection 10 by 1.50 percent.
  - (4) Any person entitled to the credit provided in this section as a result of qualified research and development conducted under contract may assign all or any portion of the credit to the person contracting for the performance of the qualified research and development.
  - (5) The credit, including any credit assigned to a person under subsection (4) of this section, must be claimed against taxes due for the same calendar year in which the qualified research and development expenditures are incurred. The credit, including any credit assigned to a person under subsection (4) of this section, for each calendar year may not exceed the lesser of five hundred thousand dollars or the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter for the calendar year.
  - (6) For any person claiming the credit, including any credit assigned to a person under subsection (4) of this section, whose research and development spending during the calendar year in which the credit is claimed fails to exceed 0.92 percent of the person's taxable amount during the same calendar year or who is otherwise ineligible, the department must declare the taxes against which the credit was claimed to be immediately due and payable. The department must assess interest on the taxes against which the credit was claimed. However, the department may not assess penalties on taxes due under this subsection, unless the person who claimed the credit did not engage in any qualified research and development during the calendar year for which the tax credit was claimed. Interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date the credit was claimed, and accrues until the taxes against which the credit was claimed are repaid. Any credit assigned to a person under subsection (4) of this section that is disallowed as a result of this subsection may be

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- claimed by the person who performed the qualified research and development, subject to the limitations set forth in subsection (5)
- 3 of this section.

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- 4 (7) A person claiming the credit provided in this section must 5 file a complete annual survey with the department under 6 RCW 82.32.585.
- 7 (8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this 8 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 9 (a) "Advanced spacecraft manufacturing" has the same meaning as 10 in RCW 82.63.010.
- 11 (b) "Qualified research and development" has the same meaning as 12 in RCW 82.63.010.
- (c) "Qualified research and development expenditures" means 13 14 operating expenses, including wages, compensation of a proprietor or a partner in a partnership as determined under rules adopted by the 15 16 department, benefits, supplies, and computer expenses, directly 17 incurred in qualified research and development by a person claiming the credit provided in this section. The term does not include 18 amounts paid to a person, other than a public educational or research 19 institution, to conduct qualified research and development. Nor does 20 the term include capital costs and overhead, such as expenses for 21 land, structures, or depreciable property. 22
- 23 (d) "Research and development spending" means qualified research 24 and development expenditures plus eighty percent of amounts paid to a 25 person, other than a public educational or research institution, to 26 conduct qualified research and development.
  - (e) "Taxable amount" means the taxable amount subject to the tax imposed in this chapter required to be reported on the person's combined excise tax returns for the calendar year for which the credit is claimed, less any taxable amount for which a credit is allowed under RCW 82.04.440.
- 32 (9) This section expires January 1, 2027.
- 33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.63.010 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 5 s 303 are each 34 amended to read as follows:
- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 37 (1) (("Advanced computing" means technologies used in the designing and developing of computing hardware and software,

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including innovations in designing the full spectrum of hardware from handheld calculators to super computers, and peripheral equipment.

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- (2) "Advanced materials" means materials with engineered 3 properties created through the development of specialized processing and synthesis technology, including ceramics, high value-added metals, electronic materials, composites, polymers, and biomaterials.
- 7 (a) "Advanced spacecraft manufacturing" means the <del>(3)</del>))) application of technologies, in the design and development of 8 unmanned commercial spacecraft, by a manufacturer of commercial 9 10 spacecraft.
- (b) For purposes of this subsection (1), the following 11 12 definitions apply:
- (i) "Commercial spacecraft" means a device, and its components, 13 designed for suborbital space flight or to operate in, or place a 14 payload in, outer space, including satellites, but only when such 15 device is intended for sale or commercial or industrial use in 16 17 providing:
- (A) Space transportation services regulated by the federal 18 aviation administration, office of commercial space transportation, 19 or successor agency, under 14 C.F.R., Chapter III; or 20
- (B) Satellite communication services regulated by the federal 21 communications commission, or successor agency, under 47 C.F.R. Part 22 23 25.
- (ii) "Commercial or industrial use" and "manufacturer" have the 24 25 same meaning as in chapter 82.04 RCW.
- 26 (2) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax deferral under this chapter. 27
  - $((\frac{4}{1}))$ "Biotechnology" the application means technologies, such as recombinant DNA techniques, biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, genetics and genetic engineering, cell fusion techniques, and new bioprocesses, using living organisms, or parts of organisms, to produce or modify products, to improve plants or animals, to develop microorganisms for specific uses, to identify targets for small molecule pharmaceutical development, or to transform biological systems into useful processes and products or to develop microorganisms for specific uses.
    - ((<del>5)</del> "Department" means the department of revenue.
- (6) "Electronic device technology" means technologies involving 38 microelectronics; semiconductors; electronic equipment and 39 40 instrumentation; radio frequency, microwave, and millimeter

p. 5 SB 5630 electronics; optical and optic-electrical devices; and data and digital communications and imaging devices.

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- (7))) (4) "Eligible investment project" means an investment project which either initiates a new operation, or expands diversifies a current operation by expanding, renovating, equipping an existing facility. The lessor or owner of the qualified building is not eligible for a deferral unless:
- (a) The underlying ownership of the buildings, machinery, and 8 9 equipment vests exclusively in the same person; or
- (b)(i) The lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic 10 11 benefit of the deferral to the lessee;
  - (ii) The lessee that receives the economic benefit of the deferral agrees in writing with the department to complete the annual survey required under RCW  $82.63.020((\frac{2}{2}))$  (5); and
- (iii) The economic benefit of the deferral passed to the lessee 15 is no less than the amount of tax deferred by the lessor and is evidenced by written documentation of any type of payment, credit, or 17 other financial arrangement between the lessor or owner of the 18 qualified building and the lessee. 19
- $((\frac{8}{1}))$  (5) "Environmental technology" means assessment and 20 21 prevention of threats or damage to human health or the environment, environmental cleanup, and the development of alternative energy 22 23 sources.
- $((\frac{9}{}))$  (6) (a) "Initiation of construction" means the date that a 24 building permit is issued under the building code adopted under RCW 25 26 19.27.031 for:
  - (i) Construction of the qualified building, if the underlying ownership of the building vests exclusively with the person receiving the economic benefit of the deferral;
- (ii) Construction of the qualified building, if the economic 30 31 benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection  $((\frac{7}{1}))$  of this section; or 32
  - (iii) Tenant improvements for a qualified building, if the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection  $((\frac{7}{1}))$  (4) of this section.
- (b) "Initiation of construction" does not include soil testing, site clearing and grading, site preparation, or any other related 37 activities that are initiated before the issuance of a building 38 permit for the construction of the foundation of the building.

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1 (c) If the investment project is a phased project, "initiation of construction" ((shall apply)) applies separately to each phase.

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- ((<del>(10)</del>)) <u>(7)</u> "Investment project" means an investment in qualified buildings or qualified machinery and equipment, including labor and services rendered in the planning, installation, and construction or improvement of the project.
- 7 (8) "Life science" means the application of technologies in the 8 fields of biotechnology and medical devices.
- (9) "Meaningful construction" means an active construction site, 9 where excavation of a building site, laying of a building foundation, 10 or other tangible signs of construction are taking place and that 11 clearly shows a progression in the construction process, at the 12 location designated by the taxpayer in the application for deferral. 13 Planning, permitting, or land clearing before excavation of the 14 building site, without more, does not constitute meaningful 15 16 construction.
- (10) "Medical device" means an instrument, apparatus, implement,
  machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, or other similar or
  related article, including any component, part, or accessory, that is
  designed or developed and:
- 21 <u>(a) Recognized in the national formulary, or the United States</u> 22 pharmacopeia, or any supplement to them;
- 23 (b) Intended for use in the diagnosis of disease, or in the cure, 24 mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or other conditions 25 in human beings or other animals; or
  - (c) Intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of human beings or other animals, and which does not achieve any of its primary intended purposes through chemical action within or on the body of human beings or other animals and which is not dependent upon being metabolized for the achievement of any of its principal intended purposes.
- 32 (11) "Multiple qualified buildings" means qualified buildings 33 leased to the same person when:
- 34 <u>(a) Such structures(( $\div$  (a))) are located within a five-mile 35 radius; and</u>
- 36 (b) The initiation of construction of each building begins within a sixty-month period.
- 38 (12)(a) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030 and includes state universities as defined in RCW 28B.10.016. Person also includes any affiliate of a person.

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(b) For purposes of this subsection (12):

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- 2 (i) "Affiliate" means a person who controls, is controlled by, or
  3 is under common control with another person; and
  - (ii) "Control" means the possession, directly or indirectly, of more than twenty percent of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract, or otherwise.
  - (13) "Pilot scale manufacturing" means design, construction, and testing of preproduction prototypes and models in the fields of ((biotechnology, advanced computing, electronic device technology, advanced materials)) advanced spacecraft manufacturing, life science, and environmental technology other than for commercial sale. As used in this subsection, "commercial sale" excludes sales of prototypes or sales for market testing if the total gross receipts from such sales of the product, service, or process do not exceed one million dollars.
  - (14) "Qualified buildings" means construction of new structures, and expansion or renovation of existing structures for the purpose of increasing floor space or production capacity used for pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development, including plant offices and other facilities that are an essential or an integral part of a structure used for pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development. Areas used for amusement and recreational activities, physical fitness activities, parking, the selling or furnishing of meals or other food and beverages, or similar commercial and noncommercial activities are not essential or integral to pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development. a building or buildings are used partly for pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development, and partly for other purposes, the applicable tax deferral ((shall)) must be determined by apportionment of the costs of construction under rules adopted by the department. Such rules may include provisions for determining the amount of the deferral based on apportionment of costs of construction of an investment project consisting of a building or multiple buildings, where qualified research and development or pilot scale manufacturing activities are shifted within a building or from one building to another building.
  - (15)(a) "Qualified machinery and equipment" means fixtures, equipment, and support facilities that are an integral and necessary part of a pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and

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development operation. "Qualified machinery and equipment" includes: Computers; software; data processing equipment; laboratory equipment, instrumentation, and other devices used in a experimentation to develop a new or improved pilot model, plant process, product, formula, invention, or similar property; manufacturing components such as belts, pulleys, shafts, and moving parts; molds, tools, and dies; vats, tanks, and fermenters; operating structures; and all other equipment used to control, monitor, or operate the machinery. For purposes of this chapter, machinery and equipment must be either new to the taxing jurisdiction of the state or new to the certificate holder, except that used machinery and equipment may be treated as qualified machinery and equipment if the certificate holder either brings the machinery and equipment into Washington or makes a retail purchase of the machinery and equipment in Washington or elsewhere. 

(b) "Qualified machinery and equipment" does not include any fixtures, equipment, or support facilities, if the sale to or use by the recipient is not eligible for an exemption under RCW 82.08.02565 or 82.12.02565 solely because the recipient is an ineligible person as defined in RCW 82.08.02565.

- (16) "Qualified research and development" means research and development performed within this state in the fields of ((advanced computing, advanced materials, biotechnology, electronic device technology)) advanced spacecraft manufacturing, life science, and environmental technology.
- 26 (17) "Recipient" means a person receiving a tax deferral under 27 this chapter.
  - (18) "Research and development" means activities performed to discover technological information, and technical and nonroutine activities concerned with translating technological information into new or improved products, processes, techniques, formulas, inventions, or software. The term includes exploration of a new use for an existing drug, device, or biological product if the new use requires separate licensing by the federal food and drug administration under chapter 21, C.F.R., as amended. The term does not include adaptation or duplication of existing products where the products are not substantially improved by application of the technology, nor does the term include surveys and studies, social science and humanities research, market research or testing, quality control, sale promotion and service, computer software developed for

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- 1 internal use, and research in areas such as improved style, taste,
- 2 and seasonal design.

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- 3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.63.020 and 2010 c 114 s 140 are each amended to 4 read as follows:
  - (1) A person is not eligible for a tax deferral under this chapter for an investment project to be used for research and development performed within this state in advanced spacecraft manufacturing unless, as of January 1, 2018, the person:
    - (a) Has an active tax registration with the department; and
    - (b) Is actively engaged in advanced spacecraft manufacturing.
- 11 (2)(a) Application for deferral of taxes under this chapter must be made to the department before initiation of construction of, or 12 acquisition of equipment or machinery for the investment project. In 13 the case of an investment project involving multiple qualified 14 buildings, applications must be made for, and before the initiation 15 16 of construction of, each qualified building, and must be received by the department before January 1, 2015. The application must be made 17 18 to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application must contain information regarding the location of 19 20 the investment project, the applicant's average employment in the 21 state for the prior year, estimated or actual new employment related 22 to the project, estimated or actual wages of employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and 23 24 operation, and other information required by the department. 25 department must rule on the application within sixty days. The department must deny any applications received between January 1, 26 2015, and December 31, 2017, inclusive, or after October 31, 2026. 27 For investment projects involving multiple qualified buildings, the 28 29 department must deny any applications received after December 31, 30 2015.
- 31 (b) Nothing in this subsection (2) may be construed to allow a
  32 tax deferral for an investment project for which an application for
  33 deferral under this chapter was denied by the department before
  34 January 1, 2015.
- 35 (3) The department will approve applications that indicate
  36 meaningful construction of an eligible investment project will occur
  37 within five years of the date of application. Applications indicating
  38 that meaningful construction of an eligible investment project will
  39 not occur within two years of the date of the application may be

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required to include additional documentation about the investment project, such as project milestones and other information the department may require. Applications that do not indicate meaningful construction will occur within five years of the date of application must be denied.

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- (4)(a) Recipients may amend an approved deferral application to update the completion date, estimated expenses, the square footage of the investment project, or other information about the investment project. Amendments must be made in a form and manner prescribed by the department.
- (b) Requests to amend a previously approved application for an 11 investment project for which meaningful construction has not commenced within five years of the date of the initial application must be denied. 14
  - $((\frac{2}{2}))$  (5) Each recipient of a deferral of taxes under this chapter must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW  $82.63.010((\frac{7}{1}))$  (4), the lessee must file a complete annual survey, and the applicant is not required to file the annual survey.
  - ((<del>3)</del> The department must use the information reported on the annual survey required by this section to study the tax deferral program authorized under this chapter. The department must report to the legislature by December 1, 2009, and December 1, 2013. The reports must measure the effect of the program on job creation, the number of jobs created for Washington residents, company growth, the introduction of new products, the diversification of the state's economy, growth in research and development investment, the movement of firms or the consolidation of firms' operations into the state, and such other factors as the department selects.
  - (4))) (6) A recipient who must repay deferred taxes under RCW 82.63.045 ((because the department has found that an investment project is used for purposes other than research and development performed within this state in the fields of advanced computing, advanced materials, biotechnology, electronic device technology, and environmental technology)) is no longer required to file annual surveys under RCW 82.32.585 ((beginning on the date an investment project is used for nonqualifying purposes)).

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NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 82.63 RCW to read as follows:

- (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department must issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, 82.14, and 81.104 RCW on each eligible investment project.
- (b) The amount of tax imposed under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW eligible for deferral under a certificate issued pursuant to this section is limited to one million dollars per eligible investment project per person. Once a person reaches the one million dollar limit in this subsection (1)(b), the person may no longer defer under this chapter any state or local sales or use taxes due on the eligible investment project.
- 14 (2) The department may not issue deferral certificates under this section before January 1, 2018.
- 16 (3) Only one eligible investment project per person qualifies for 17 a deferral certificate under this section during a calendar year.
  - (4) No certificate may be issued for an investment project that has already received a deferral under chapter 82.60 RCW, or this chapter, except that an investment project for qualified research and development that has already received a deferral may also receive an additional deferral certificate for adapting the investment project for use in pilot scale manufacturing.
    - (5) This section expires January 1, 2027.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.63.045 and 2010 c 114 s 141 are each amended to 26 read as follows:
- 27 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and RCW 82.32.585, taxes deferred under this chapter need not be repaid.
  - (2)(a) If, on the basis of the survey under RCW 82.32.585 or other information, the department finds that an investment project is used for purposes other than qualified research and development or pilot scale manufacturing at any time during the calendar year in which the investment project is certified by the department as having been operationally completed, or at any time during any of the seven succeeding calendar years, a portion of deferred taxes is immediately due according to the following schedule:

Year in which use occurs % of deferred taxes due

1 100%

2	Year in which use occurs	% of deferred taxes due
1	2	87.5%
3	3	75%
4	4	62.5%
5	5	50%
6	6	37.5%
7	7	25%
8	8	12.5%

- (b) If the department finds that meaningful construction of an investment project did not begin within five years of the date of the application or that an investment project is not operationally complete within ten years of the date of the initial application for deferral, the full amount of deferred taxes is immediately due.
- (c) If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW  $82.63.010((\frac{7}{10}))$  (4), the lessee is responsible for payment to the extent the lessee has received the economic benefit.
- (3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, in the case of an investment project consisting of multiple qualified buildings, the lessee is solely liable for payment of any deferred tax determined by the department to be due and payable under this section beginning on the date ((the department certifies)) that the project is operationally complete as certified by the department.
- (b) This subsection does not relieve the lessors of its obligation to the lessee under RCW  $82.63.010((\frac{7}{10}))$  (4) to pass the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee.
- (4) The department must assess interest at the rate provided for delinquent taxes, but not penalties, retroactively to the date of deferral. The debt for deferred taxes will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the recipient. Transfer of ownership does not terminate the deferral, unless the successor does not agree in writing with the department to be bound by the eligibility requirements of this chapter. The deferral is transferred, subject to the successor meeting the eligibility requirements of this chapter, for the remaining periods of the deferral.
- 36 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section or RCW 37 82.32.585, deferred taxes on the following need not be repaid:

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- 1 (a) Machinery and equipment, and sales of or charges made for 2 labor and services, which at the time of purchase would have 3 qualified for exemption under RCW 82.08.02565; and
- 4 (b) Machinery and equipment which at the time of first use would 5 have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.12.02565.
- 6 **Sec. 7.** RCW 82.63.060 and 1994 sp.s. c 5 s 8 are each reenacted 7 to read as follows:
- 8 Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter.
- 9 **Sec. 8.** RCW 82.63.065 and 2009 c 268 s 6 are each reenacted to 10 read as follows:
- 11 The department may adopt rules as may be necessary to administer 12 this chapter.

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