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SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2339

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored by Representatives Kirby, Roach and Chase; by request of Department of Financial Institutions)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/06.

- ACT Relating to business development companies and the 1 2 participation of financial institutions and nondepository lenders in 3 economic development within the state; amending RCW 31.24.010, 31.24.080, 31.24.020, 31.24.030, 31.24.070, 31.24.090, 4 31.24.100, 31.24.110, 31.24.120, 31.24.130, 31.24.140, 5 31.24.150, 31.24.170, 31.24.190, and 31.40.090; adding new sections to chapter 31.24 RCW; 6 7 adding a new section to chapter 31.35 RCW; adding a new section to 8 chapter 31.40 RCW; and repealing RCW 31.24.040, 31.24.050, 31.24.060, 9 and 31.24.180.
- 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- 13 The legislature finds, declares, and intends that:
- 14 (1) There exists substantial and growing need in Washington state 15 to enhance the availability of financial assistance for small business 16 and to improve the economy of the localities within this state;
- 17 (2) The department, which is charged with (a) the regulation of 18 business development corporations, under this chapter, (b) the 19 regulation of financial institutions and other financial entities as

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defined in this chapter, and (c) nondepository lenders engaged in guaranteed small business and agricultural lending, under chapters 3 31.40 and 31.35 RCW, is among those state agencies critical to meeting the needs addressed in subsection (1) of this section; and

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- (3) It is necessary to assist the department in meeting the needs addressed in subsection (1) of this section and to improve its administration and regulation of this chapter and chapters 31.35 and 31.40 RCW.
- 9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 31.24.010 and 1963 c 162 s 1 are each amended to read 10 as follows:
- 11 ((As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases, unless
 12 differently defined or described, shall have the meanings and
 13 references as follows:
- 14 (1) Corporation means a Washington industrial development 15 corporation created under this chapter.
 - (2) Financial institution means any banking corporation or trust company, national banking association, savings and loan association, insurance company or related corporation, partnership, foundation, or other institution engaged primarily in lending or investing funds.
 - (3) Member means any financial institution authorized to do business within this state which shall undertake to lend money to a corporation created under this chapter, upon its call, and in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
 - (4) Board of directors means the board of directors of the corporation created under this chapter.
 - (5) Loan limit means for any member, the maximum amount permitted to be outstanding at one time on loans made by such member to the corporation, as determined under the provisions of this chapter.))
- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
 - (1) "Applicant" means a person who files with the director an application for organization as, or conversion to doing business as, a business development company under this chapter, or who is making application for a material change that requires approval of the director under this chapter.
 - (2) "Assessable stock" means any stock or class of stock, or equity

- interest or class of equity interest, in a business development company 1 2 that:
- (a) Has been authorized pursuant to the articles of incorporation 3 of the business development company as approved by the department;

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- (b) Has been created pursuant to an authorized plan of assessment;
- (c) Has been agreed to by a stockholder pursuant to the 6 7 stockholder's subscription or similar agreement; and
 - (d) Has been disclosed as being subject to assessment on the face of the stock certificates or certificates of equity interest.
- (3) "Board of directors" means the board of directors of a business 10 development company created under this chapter. 11
- 12 (4) "Borrower" means a person, including a controlling person of 13 such person, who obtains a qualified loan from a business development 14 company.
- (5) "Business" means a person, including a controlling person of 15 such person, who obtains a qualified loan or qualified investment, or 16 17 both, from a business development company.
 - (6) "Business development company" means a company created for the purpose of engaging in any activity authorized by this chapter. A "business development company" created under this chapter is either:
 - (a) A "general business development company," which is a business development company that may engage in any activity authorized by this chapter; or
 - (b) A "historic business development company," which is a business development company organized to encourage and stimulate the preservation of historic buildings or historic commercial areas or neighborhoods, and may only engage in activities consistent with the purposes of the limited charter as set forth in RCW 31.24.190.
 - (7) "Business development project" means a project controlled by a business, in which a business development company may make a qualified investment, qualified loan, or both.
 - (8) "Control," "controlled," or "controls," in relation to a borrower or business, has the same meaning as "control of a bank" has under Federal Reserve Regulation O. 12 C.F.R. Sec. 215.2, as it existed on the effective date of this section, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

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- (9) "Controlling person" means a person, including an executive officer or director as defined in Federal Reserve Regulation O, 12

 C.F.R. Sec. 215.2, as it existed on the effective date of this section, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this chapter, who controls a borrower or business.
 - (10) "Department" means the Washington state department of financial institutions, or its successor.

- (11) "Director" means the director of the department of financial institutions, unless used in the context of a member of the board of directors of a business development company created under this chapter.
- 12 <u>(12) "Financial institution" means any federally chartered or</u> 13 <u>state-chartered bank or trust company, savings bank or savings and loan</u> 14 association, or credit union.
 - (13) "Insider transaction" means a transaction between a business development company and a person who is (a) an affiliate of a business development company or (b) an executive officer, director, or principal shareholder, or a related interest of, such a person. As used in this subsection, "affiliate," "executive officer," "director," "principal shareholder," and "related interest" have the same meaning, in relation to a business development company, as such terms have in relation to a member bank pursuant to Federal Reserve Regulation O, 12 C.F.R. Sec. 215.2, as it existed on the effective date of this section, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this chapter.
 - (14) "Other financial entity" means an insurance company authorized to do business in Washington state, or any other company, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, or foundation, other than a financial institution, engaged as a primary activity in the business of lending or investing funds, and which holds a charter or license from an applicable federal or state regulatory authority to engage in such activity.
- 33 (15) "Person" means a natural person, partnership, limited
 34 partnership, limited liability company, corporation, association,
 35 foundation, or other legal or commercial entity.
- 36 (16) "Plan of assessment" means a plan for assessment of 37 stockholders, or a class of stockholders, which is part of the business 38 plan of a business development company that has been approved by the

- department, and which provides for the periodic, equal assessment of all stockholders, or an affected class of stockholders, according to their interest in the business development company, as provided for in section 7 of this act.
- 5 (17) "Qualified investment" means any equity investment, or debt 6 investment other than a qualified loan, authorized by this chapter to 7 be made by a business development company to a business:
 - (a) The principal intent of which:

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- (i) In the case of a general business development company, is to promote or enhance small business or improvement of the economy of one or more localities within this state, consistent with the general intent and purpose of a business development company, as set forth in section 1 of this act, and with its approved business plan; or
- (ii) In the case of a historic business development company, is to promote and/or enhance the special purpose and intent of a historic business development company as set forth in RCW 31.24.190, consistent with its approved business plan; and
 - (b) Which investment, at the time of its origination, has a reasonable likelihood of being used for such purpose.
 - (18) "Qualified loan" means any loan authorized by this chapter to be made by a business development company to a borrower:
 - (a) The principal intent of which:
 - (i) In the case of a general business development company, is to promote or enhance small business or improvement of the economy of one or more localities within this state, consistent with the general intent and purpose of this chapter, and with its approved business plan; or
 - (ii) In the case of a historic business development company, is to promote or enhance the special purpose and intent of a historic business development company as set forth in RCW 31.24.190, consistent with its approved business plan; and
 - (b) Which loan, at the time of its origination, has a reasonable likelihood of being used for such purpose.
- 34 (19) "Qualified loan participant" means a financial institution or 35 other financial entity, as defined in this section, or any other person 36 engaged in the business of lending, who participates as a funder of a 37 qualified participation loan.

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- 1 (20) "Qualified participation loan" means a loan to a borrower or 2 business, in relation to a business development project, made, in whole 3 or in part by qualified loan participants, which has been facilitated, 4 arranged, or partially funded by a business development company.
 - (21) "Stock" means, in relation to a business development company, any stock or equity interest, of whatever class, in a business development company.

- (22) "Stockholder" means, in relation to a stockholder of a business development company, any person authorized either by Title 23B RCW to be a shareholder of a corporation or by chapter 25.15 RCW and this chapter to hold an equity interest in a limited liability company, and may include, without limitation, a financial institution or other financial entity.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 31.24.020 and 1974 ex.s. c 16 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:
 - ((Fifteen or more persons, a majority of whom shall be residents of this state, who may desire to create an industrial development corporation under the provisions of this chapter, for the purpose of promoting, developing and advancing the prosperity and economic welfare of the state and, to that end, to exercise the powers and privileges hereinafter provided, may be incorporated by filing in the office of the secretary of state, as hereinafter provided, articles of incorporation. The articles of incorporation shall contain:
 - (1) The name of the corporation, which shall include the words "Development Corporation of Washington."
 - (2) The location of the principal office of the corporation, but such corporation may have offices in such other places within the state as may be fixed by the board of directors.
 - (3) The purposes for which the corporation is founded, which shall be to promote, stimulate, develop and advance the business prosperity and economic welfare of Washington and its citizens; to encourage and assist through loans, investments or other business transactions in the location of new business and industry in this state and to rehabilitate and assist existing business and industry; to stimulate and assist in the expansion of all kinds of business activity which will tend to promote the business development and maintain the economic stability of this state, provide maximum opportunities for employment, encourage

thrift, and improve the standard of living of citizens of this state; similarly, to cooperate and act in conjunction with other organizations, public or private, in the promotion and advancement of industrial, commercial, agricultural and recreational developments in this state; and to provide financing for the promotion, development, and conduct of all kinds of business activity in this state.

- (4) The names and post office addresses of the members of the first board of directors, who, unless otherwise provided by the articles of incorporation or the bylaws, shall hold office for the first year of existence of the corporation or until their successors are elected and have qualified.
- (5) Any provision which the incorporators may choose to insert for the regulation of the business and for the conduct of the affairs of the corporation and any provision creating, dividing, limiting and regulating the powers of the corporation, the directors, stockholders or any class of the stockholders, including, but not limited to a list of the officers, and provisions governing the issuance of stock certificates to replace lost or destroyed certificates.
- (6) The amount of authorized capital stock and the number of shares into which it is divided, the par value of each share and the amount of capital with which it will commence business and, if there is more than one class of stock, a description of the different classes; the names and post office addresses of the subscribers of stock and the number of shares subscribed by each. The aggregate of the subscription shall be the minimum amount of capital with which the corporation shall commence business which shall not be less than fifty thousand dollars. The articles of incorporation may also contain any provision consistent with the laws of this state for the regulation of the affairs of the corporation.
- (7) The articles of incorporation shall be in writing, subscribed by not less than five natural persons competent to contract and acknowledged by each of the subscribers before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments and filed in the office of the secretary of state for approval. A duplicate copy so subscribed and acknowledged may also be filed.
- (8) The articles of incorporation shall recite that the corporation is organized under the provisions of this chapter.

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The secretary of state shall not approve articles of incorporation 1 2 for a corporation organized under this chapter until a total of at least ten national banks, state banks, savings banks, industrial 3 savings banks, federal savings and loan associations, domestic building 4 and loan associations, or insurance companies authorized to do business 5 6 within this state, or any combination thereof, have agreed in writing 7 to become members of said corporation; and said written agreement shall 8 be filed with the secretary of state with the articles of incorporation and the filing of same shall be a condition precedent to the approval 9 10 of the articles of incorporation by the secretary of state. Whenever 11 the articles of incorporation shall have been filed in the office of 12 the secretary of state and approved by him and all taxes, fees and 13 charges, have been paid, as required by law, the subscribers, their successors and assigns shall constitute a corporation, and said 14 corporation shall then be authorized to commence business, and stock 15 thereof to the extent herein or hereafter duly authorized may from time 16 to time be issued.)) 17

- (1) Five or more persons, a majority of whom are residents of this state and three of which are federally insured depository institutions, who desire to charter a business development company under this chapter, may incorporate as a business development company by filing with the director an application for a business development company charter, which application contains the following:
- (a) A cover letter requesting a charter as a business development company under authority of this chapter, and specifying the purpose of the requested charter;
- (b) A business plan satisfactory to the director, including a plan of assessment in the event that applicant seeks to assess stockholders, or a class of stockholders, as provided for in section 7 of this act;
- 30 <u>(c) Proposed articles of incorporation, in form and substance</u> 31 consistent with the requirements of subsection (4) of this section;
 - (d) Proposed bylaws, in form and substance consistent with the requirements of this chapter;
 - (e) A filing fee and application review fee as established by the director consistent with section 5 of this act; and
- 36 <u>(f) All other relevant information as is necessary to satisfy the</u>
 37 <u>director that such proposed business development company has a</u>

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reasonable likelihood of (i) fulfilling the purposes of this chapter and (ii) operating in a safe and sound manner.

- (2) In addition to all other requirements of an application, the director shall not grant final approval of an application for organization as a business development company under this chapter, and a business development company shall not commence business, until the applicant certifies to the satisfaction of the director, that a minimum amount of initial capital has been subscribed for, which minimum amount of capital is subject to the determination of the director, who may consider (a) the intended purpose of initial capital and (b) the suitability and sufficiency of the amount of initial capital in relation to the applicant's proposed business plan.
- 13 (3) The articles of incorporation must be in writing, signed by all
 14 the incorporators and their representatives and acknowledged before an
 15 officer authorized to take acknowledgments.
 - (4) The articles of incorporation shall contain:
- 17 <u>(a) The name of the business development company, which must</u>
 18 <u>include the word "Development";</u>
- 19 <u>(b) A recital that the business development company is organized</u> 20 under this chapter;
 - (c) The location of the principal office of the business development company, but the company may have offices in other places within the state as may be fixed by the board of directors;
 - (d) The purposes for which the business development company is founded, which, except for a historic business development company as authorized by RCW 31.24.190, are:
 - (i) To promote, stimulate, develop, and advance the business prosperity and economic welfare of Washington and its citizens;
 - (ii) To encourage and assist through financing, investments, or other business transactions, in the location of new business and industry in this state and to rehabilitate and assist existing business and industry;
 - (iii) To stimulate and assist in the expansion of business activity which will tend to promote the business development and maintain the economic stability of this state, provide maximum opportunities for employment, encourage thrift, and improve the standard of living of citizens of this state;

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(iv) To cooperate and act in conjunction with other organizations,
public or private, in the promotion and advancement of industrial,
commercial, agricultural, and/or recreational developments in this
state; and

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- (v) To provide financing for the promotion, development, and conduct of business activity in this state;
- (e) The names and mailing addresses of the members of the first board of directors, who, unless otherwise provided by the articles of incorporation or the bylaws, shall hold office for the first year of existence of the business development company or until their successors are elected and have qualified;
- (f) Any provision which the incorporators may choose to insert for the regulation of the business and for the conduct of the affairs of the business development company;
 - (g) Any provision creating, dividing, limiting, and regulating the powers of the business development company, the directors, stockholders or any class of the stockholders, including a designation of the officers, and provisions governing the issuance of stock certificates to replace lost or destroyed certificates;
 - (h) The amount of authorized capital stock and the number of shares into which it is divided, the par value of each share, and the amount of capital with which it will commence business;
 - (i) A statement indicating whether capital stock or any class of capital stock shall be assessable stock as part of a plan of assessment;
 - (j) The names and mailing addresses of the subscribers of stock and the number of shares subscribed by each;
- 28 (k) Any other provision consistent with the laws of this state for 29 the regulation of the affairs of the business development company, and 30 Title 23B RCW; and
- 31 (1) The signatures of each of the incorporators, who must be the 32 same persons making application for a business development company 33 charter as identified in subsection (1) of this section.
- 34 (5) The director has ninety days from submission of a completed 35 application to approve it and issue a certificate of authority. If the 36 director finds that the application is insufficient, the director may 37 either disapprove the application or respond by specifying in writing

- 1 what changes and modifications, consistent with this chapter, will be
- 2 <u>necessary to approve such application.</u>

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- 3 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- 5 (1) The director shall present the articles of incorporation, after 6 approval by the director, to the secretary of state for filing.
- 7 (2) An applicant is not authorized to commence and maintain 8 business as a business development company under this chapter until 9 having received a certificate of authority from the department to 10 conduct business as a business development company.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- The director may, consistent with the requirements for banks under Title 30 RCW, collect from an applicant or business development company, as applicable, application fees, application review fees, periodic examination fees, and similar fees and charges, as may be reasonable for the safe and sound regulation and promotion of business development companies under this chapter.
- 19 **Sec. 6.** RCW 31.24.030 and 1991 c 72 s 49 are each amended to read 20 as follows:
 - In furtherance of its purposes and in addition to the powers now or hereafter conferred on business corporations by ((the provisions of))

 Title 23B RCW((, the corporation shall,)) and upon limited liability companies by chapter 25.15 RCW, as applicable, a business development company has, subject to the restrictions and limitations ((herein contained, have)) in this section, the following powers:
- 27 (1) To assess stockholders, or a class of stockholders, of the
 28 business development company, if authorized by the articles of
 29 incorporation and approved by the department pursuant to a plan of
 30 assessment as provided for in section 7 of this act;
- 31 (2) To make qualified loans to borrowers in relation to business 32 development projects;
- 33 (3) To make qualified investments in businesses in relation to 34 business development projects;

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(4) To facilitate and arrange qualified participation loans by qualified loan participants to borrowers in relation to business development projects;

- (5) To participate in the partial funding of qualified participation loans;
 - (6) To elect, appoint, and employ officers, agents, and employees;
- (7) To make contracts and incur liabilities for any of the purposes of the ((corporation: PROVIDED, That the corporation)) business development company. However, a business development company shall not incur any secondary liability by way of guaranty or endorsement of the obligations of any person, firm, ((corporation, joint stock)) company, association, or trust, or in any other manner((\cdot));
- $((\frac{(2)}{2}))$ (8) To the extent permitted by other applicable law, to borrow money from $((\frac{1}{2}))$ the federal small business administration and any other similar federal or state agency, for any of the purposes of $((\frac{1}{2}))$ a business development company;
- 17 (9) To borrow money from a financial institution or other financial entity;
 - (10) To issue ((therefor its)) bonds, debentures, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, whether secured or unsecured, and to secure the same by mortgage, pledge, deed of trust, or other lien on its property, franchises, rights, and privileges of every kind and nature or any part ((thereof)) or interest therein, without securing stockholder ((or member)) approval((: PROVIDED, That no loan to the corporation shall be secured in any manner unless all outstanding loans to the corporation shall be secured equally and ratably in proportion to the unpaid balance of such loans and in the same manner.
 - (3) To make loans to any person, firm, corporation, joint-stock company, association or trust, and to establish and regulate the terms and conditions with respect to any such loans and the charges for interest and service connected therewith: PROVIDED, That the corporation shall not approve any application for a loan unless and until the person applying for said loan shall show that he has applied for the loan through ordinary banking channels and that the loan has been refused by at least one bank or other financial institution.));
 - ((4))) <u>(11)</u> To purchase, receive, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire, and to sell, convey, transfer, lease, or otherwise dispose of real and personal property, together with such rights and privileges as

may be incidental and appurtenant thereto and the use thereof, including, but not restricted to, any real or personal property acquired by the ((corporation from time to time)) business development company in the satisfaction of debts or enforcement of obligations((\cdot, \cdot)):

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(((5))) (12) To acquire the good will, business, rights, real and personal property, and other assets, or any part thereof, or interest therein, of any persons, firms, corporations, ((joint stock companies)) limited liability companies, partnerships, limited partnerships, associations, or trusts, and to assume, undertake, or pay the obligations, debts, and liabilities of any such person, firm, corporation, ((joint stock company)) limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, association, or trust;

(13) To acquire improved or unimproved real estate for the purpose of constructing industrial plants or other business establishments thereon or for the purpose of disposing of such real estate to others for the construction of industrial plants or other business establishments; and to acquire, construct or reconstruct, alter, repair, maintain, operate, sell, convey, transfer, lease, or otherwise dispose of industrial plants or business establishments((\cdot, \cdot));

 $((\frac{(6)}{(14)}))$ (14) To acquire, subscribe for, own, hold, sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise dispose of the stock, shares, bonds, debentures, notes, or other securities and evidences of interest in, or indebtedness of, any person, firm, ((corporation, joint-stock company)) limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, association, or trust, and while the owner or holder thereof to exercise all the rights, powers, and privileges of ownership, including the right to vote thereon((\cdot, \cdot)):

 $((\frac{15}{1}))$ (15) To mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber any property, right or things of value, acquired pursuant to the powers contained in subsections $((\frac{4}{1}, \frac{5}{1}, \frac{6}{1}))$ (11), (12), and (14) of this section, as security for the payment of any part of the purchase price thereof $((\frac{15}{1}))$;

((\(\frac{(\)}{(\)})}})}))}}}}} \) of the United States department of the treasury, the United States department of the treasury, the United States department of housing and urban development, the department of community, trade, and economic development, and any other similar state

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- or federal governmental agencies; and to cooperate with and assist, and otherwise encourage organizations in the various communities of the state in the promotion, assistance, and development of the business prosperity and economic welfare of such communities or of this state or of any part thereof((\cdot, \cdot)); and
- $((\frac{9}{}))$ To do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted in this chapter.
- 8 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW 9 to read as follows:
 - (1) As part of a business plan approved by the department, an applicant or business development company may seek to maintain capital for purposes of making qualified investments and qualified loans by periodically assessing its stockholders, or a class of stockholders, according to a plan of assessment and as agreed upon by affected stockholders by subscription or similar agreement.
 - (2) A plan of assessment may provide for:

- (a) Stockholders, or a class of stockholders, making, when called upon, additional paid-in capital in exchange for additional equity; and/or
- (b) Stockholders, or a class of stockholders, making, when called upon, loans or other debt financing to the business development company in exchange for an agreement of repayment.
- (3) A plan of assessment shall provide for equal treatment by the board of directors of all stockholders, or members of a class of stockholders, subject to assessment.
- (4) In the case of the approval of a plan of assessment, or the examination of the administration of an ongoing plan of assessment, in which assessable stock is held by a financial institution that is also regulated by the department, the department may condition its approval of the implementation or continued administration of a plan of assessment as to the affected financial institution on whether the safety and soundness of such financial institution is or may become unimpaired, or on whether an assessment of such financial institution has not or will not result, in a material adverse affect on the classification of such financial institution, or its lending or investment portfolio. The authority of the department pursuant to this

- 1 subsection shall be in addition to all other authority of the
- 2 department under this chapter or any other applicable law, and
- 3 notwithstanding any other law to the contrary.
- **Sec. 8.** RCW 31.24.070 and 1963 c 162 s 7 are each amended to read 5 as follows:
- 6 <u>(1)</u> The stockholders ((and the members)) of the ((corporation shall)) business development company have the following powers ((of the corporation)):
- $((\frac{1}{1}))$ <u>(a)</u> To determine the number of and elect directors as provided in RCW 31.24.090;
- $((\frac{2}{2}))$ To make, amend, and repeal bylaws;

- 12 (((3))) <u>(c)</u> To amend ((this charter)) <u>the articles of incorporation</u> 13 as provided in RCW 31.24.080;
- $((\frac{4}{}))$ (d) To dissolve the $(\frac{corporation}{})$ company as provided in 15 RCW 31.24.150;
- (((5))) (e) To do all things necessary or desirable to secure aid,
 assistance, loans, and other financing from any financial institutions,
 and from any agency established under ((the small business investment
 act of 1958, public law 85-699, 85th congress, or other similar))
 federal laws ((now or hereafter enacted.));
 - $((\frac{6}{}))$ (f) To exercise such other $(\frac{6}{}$ the)) powers $(\frac{6}{}$ the corporation)) consistent with this chapter as may be conferred on the stockholders $(\frac{6}{}$ and the members)) by the bylaws.
 - (2) As to all matters requiring action by the stockholders ((and the members)) of the ((corporation, said)) business development company, the stockholders ((and said members)) shall vote ((separately thereon by classes)), and, except as otherwise ((herein)) provided, such matters shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes to which the stockholders present or represented at the meeting shall be entitled ((and the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes to which the members present or represented at the meeting shall be entitled)).
 - (3) Each stockholder shall have one vote, in person or by proxy, for each share of capital stock held ((by him, and each member shall have one vote, in person or by proxy, except that any member having a loan limit of more than one thousand dollars shall have one additional vote, in person or by proxy, for each additional one thousand dollars

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which such member is authorized to have outstanding on loans to the corporation at any one time as determined under subsection (3)(b) of RCW 31.24.050)).

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- (4) The capital stock of stockholders of a business development company is nonassessable, unless authorized by the department pursuant to a plan of assessment which has been approved by the director as provided for in section 7 of this act.
- (5) Except as permitted by a plan of assessment providing for a class of assessable stock pursuant to section 7 of this act or as may otherwise be established by rule, all stock is a single class of voting common stock.
- 12 (6) The director may, subject to examination authority, determine
 13 that a policy of declaring dividends for stockholders by a particular
 14 business development company constitutes an unsafe and unsound practice
 15 as to such business development company. If the practice is determined
 16 to be unsafe and unsound, the director may instruct such a business
 17 development company to cease and desist the declaration and grant of
 18 such dividends.
- (7) The department may, at the option of the director, adopt rules, consistent with principles of safety and soundness, that, while not prohibiting dividends to stockholders in general, may limit the amount of such dividends and the time and manner of declaring them.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- Unless part of an initial or amended business plan approved by the 25 26 director, or as may otherwise be provided by rule adopted pursuant to RCW 31.24.120(3), the aggregate limit of qualified loans, qualified 27 investment, and partial funding of qualified participation loans by a 28 business development company to a single borrower or business, in 29 30 to a business development project, shall not 31 twenty-five percent of the combined capital, surplus, and undivided 32 profits of the business development company.
- 33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- 35 (1) A business development company may not be a party to, nor

engage in, an insider transaction, unless such an insider transaction is approved or ratified by its board of directors, exclusive of the vote of any interested director.

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(2) Any insider transaction is subject to the examination and enforcement authority of the department under this chapter.

Sec. 11. RCW 31.24.080 and 1994 c 92 s 235 are each amended to read as follows:

((The articles of incorporation may be amended by the votes of the stockholders and the members of the corporation, voting separately by classes, and such amendments shall require approval by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the votes to which the stockholders shall be entitled and two-thirds of the votes to which the members shall be entitled: PROVIDED, That no amendment of the articles of incorporation which is inconsistent with the general purposes expressed herein or which authorizes any additional class of capital stock to be issued, or which eliminates or curtails the right of the director to examine the corporation or the obligation of the corporation to make reports as provided in RCW 31.24.120, shall be made: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That no amendment of the articles of incorporation which increases the obligation of a member to make loans to the corporation, or makes any charge in the principal amount, interest rate, maturity date, or in the security or credit position of an outstanding loan of a member to the corporation, or affects a member's right to withdraw from membership as provided herein, or affects a member's voting rights as provided herein, shall be made without the consent of each membership affected by such amendment.

Within thirty days after any meeting at which an amendment of the articles of incorporation has been adopted, articles of amendment signed and sworn to by the president, treasurer, and a majority of the directors, setting forth such amendment and due adoption thereof, shall be submitted to the secretary of state, who shall examine them and if he finds that they conform to the requirements of this chapter, shall so certify and endorse his or her approval thereon. Thereupon, the articles of amendment shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state and no such amendment shall take effect until such articles of amendment shall have been filed as aforesaid.))

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- (1) The articles of incorporation of a business development company
 may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes to
 which the stockholders are entitled, subject to the written approval of
 the director.
- 5 (2) Within thirty days after an amendment of the articles of incorporation has been adopted and approved by the director, the articles of amendment shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state by the director. An amendment shall not take effect until it has been so filed.
- **Sec. 12.** RCW 31.24.090 and 1974 ex.s. c 16 s 3 are each amended to 11 read as follows:
 - (1) The business and affairs of ((the corporation)) a business development company shall be managed and conducted by a board of directors, a president, ((a vice president,)) a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers and such agents as the ((corporation)) company by its bylaws shall authorize. A single authorized individual may jointly hold the offices of secretary and treasurer. The president and the treasurer may not be the same person.
 - (2) The board of directors shall consist of such number, not less than ((eleven)) five nor more than ((twenty one)) nine, as shall be determined in the first instance by the incorporators and thereafter annually by ((the members and)) the stockholders of the ((corporation)) business development company. The board of directors:
 - (a) May exercise all the powers of the ((corporation)) business development company, except ((such as are)) those conferred upon the stockholders by law or by the bylaws of the ((corporation upon the stockholders or members and)) business development company; and
 - (b) Shall choose and appoint all the agents and officers of the ((corporation)) business development company and fill all vacancies except vacancies in the office of director which shall be filled as ((hereinafter)) provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.
 - (3) The board of directors shall be elected in the first instance by the incorporators and thereafter at the annual meeting, the day and month of which shall be established by the bylaws ((of the corporations)), or, if no annual meeting shall be held in the year of incorporation, then within ninety days after the approval of the

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articles of incorporation at a special meeting as ((hereinafter)) provided in subsection (4) of this section.

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- (4) At each annual meeting, or at each special meeting held as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the ((members)) stockholders of ((the corporation)) a business development company shall elect ((two-thirds)) all of the board of directors ((and the stockholders shall elect the remaining directors)). The directors shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the ((corporation)) business development company, or special meeting ((held in lieu of the annual meeting)). The authority of the directors commences immediately after the election and continues until their successors are elected and qualified, unless sooner removed in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws. Any vacancy in the office of a director ((elected by the members)) shall be filled by the remaining directors ((elected by the members, and any vacancy in the office of a director elected by the stockholders shall be filled by the directors elected by the stockholders)) at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. The director appointed to fill such vacancy shall serve until the next annual meeting, resignation, or removal according to law.
 - (5) Directors and officers shall not be responsible for losses unless the same shall have been occasioned by the ((wilful)) gross negligence or willful misconduct of such directors and officers.
 - (6) The board of directors shall conduct regular meetings at least every quarter and may hold special meetings as called for pursuant to the bylaws.
- (7) Unless otherwise restricted by the articles of incorporation or bylaws, members of the board of directors of a business development company or any committee designated by the board of directors may participate in a meeting of such board or committee by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment, in which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence, in person, at a meeting.
- 34 **Sec. 13.** RCW 31.24.100 and 1963 c 162 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:
 - ((Each year the corporation shall set apart as earned surplus not less than ten percent of its net earnings for the preceding fiscal year

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until such surplus shall be equal in value to one half of the amount paid in on the capital stock then outstanding. Whenever the amount of surplus established herein shall become impaired, it shall be built up again to the required amount in the manner provided for its original accumulation. Net earnings and surplus shall be determined by the board of directors, after providing for such reserves as said directors deem desirable, and the determination of the directors made in good faith shall be conclusive on all persons.))

- (1) A business development company shall maintain an amount of minimum capital, surplus, and undivided profits that, based upon the determination of the director, shall be deemed safe and sound for each business development company. However, the minimum ratio of paid-in capital to total assets, inclusive of all qualified loans and qualified investments, shall be and remain no less than eight percent.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1) of this section, minimum capital, surplus, undivided profits, and net earnings shall be determined by the board of directors, subject to the exercise of prudent business judgment.
- **Sec. 14.** RCW 31.24.110 and 1963 c 162 s 11 are each amended to 20 read as follows:
 - ((The corporation shall not deposit any of its funds in any banking institution unless such institution has been designated as a depository by a vote of a majority of the directors present at an authorized meeting of the board of directors, exclusive of any director who is an officer or director of the depository so designated. The corporation)) A business development company shall not receive money on deposit.
- **Sec. 15.** RCW 31.24.120 and 1994 c 92 s 236 are each amended to 28 read as follows:
 - ((The corporation shall be examined at least once annually by the director and shall make reports of its condition not less than annually to the director and more frequently upon call of the director, who in turn shall make copies of such reports available to the state insurance commissioner and the governor; and the corporation shall also furnish such other information as may from time to time be required by the director and secretary of state. The corporation shall pay the actual cost of the examinations. The director shall exercise the same power

and authority over corporations organized under this chapter as is now exercised over banks and trust companies by the provisions of the Title 30 RCW, where the provisions of Title 30 RCW are not in conflict with this chapter.)

- (1) The director shall exercise the same power and authority over business development companies organized under this chapter as exercised over banks and trust companies under Title 30 RCW, to the extent Title 30 RCW does not conflict with this chapter.
- (2) A business development company shall be examined at least once every twenty-four months by the director and shall make reports of its condition not less than annually to the director, and more frequently in the discretion of the director. The business development company shall pay the actual cost of the examinations.
- (3) To assure the safety and soundness of business development companies and to fulfill the purposes of this chapter, the director may, by examination, rule, and interpretation, establish and enforce safety and soundness and examination standards, for all operations and activities of and related to business development companies.
- **Sec. 16.** RCW 31.24.130 and 1963 c 162 s 13 are each amended to 20 read as follows:
 - (1) The first meeting of ((the corporation)) a business development company shall be called by a notice signed by three or more of the incorporators, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, a copy of which notice shall be mailed, or delivered, to each incorporator at least five days before the day appointed for the meeting. ((Said)) The first meeting may be held without such notice upon agreement in writing to that effect signed by all the incorporators. (($There\ shall\ be\ recorded\ in\ the\ minutes\ of\ the\ meeting$)) A copy of (($There\ shall\ be\ recorded\ in\ the\ minutes\ of\ the\ first\ meeting$.
 - ((organize by the choice, by ballot, of a temporary clerk; by the adoption of bylaws, by the election by ballot of directors; and by action upon such other matters within the powers of the corporation as the incorporators may see fit.)), consistent with Title 23B RCW:
 - (a) Choose a temporary recording secretary;

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- 1 (b) Adopt bylaws;
- 2 (c) Elect directors; and
- 3 (d) Engage in other business within the powers of the business
 4 development company as the incorporators present may see fit.
- 5 (3) Upon being sworn in at the first meeting, the temporary ((clerk shall be sworn and)) recording secretary shall make and attest a record of the proceedings. ((Ten))
- 8 <u>(4) At least five</u> of the incorporators shall ((be)) <u>constitute</u> a 9 quorum for the transaction of business <u>at a first meeting</u>.
- 10 **Sec. 17.** RCW 31.24.140 and 1963 c 162 s 14 are each amended to 11 read as follows:
- Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, the period of duration of ((the corporation)) a business development company shall be perpetual, subject, however, to the right of the stockholders ((and the members)) to dissolve the ((corporation prior to the expiration of said period)) business development company as provided in RCW 31.24.150.
- 18 **Sec. 18.** RCW 31.24.150 and 1991 c 72 s 50 are each amended to read 19 as follows:
- 20 ((The corporation may)) A business development company, upon the 21 affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes ((to which)) of the 22 stockholders entitled to vote their shares, shall ((be entitled and 23 two thirds of the votes to which the member shall be entitled)) dissolve ((said corporation)) the business development company as 24 25 provided by Title 23B RCW, ((insofar as)) to the extent that Title 23B RCW is not in conflict with ((the provisions of)) this chapter. Upon 26 27 ((any)) dissolution of the ((corporation)) business development company, none of the ((corporation's)) business development company's 28 29 assets shall be distributed to the stockholders until all sums due the 30 ((members of the corporation as)) creditors thereof have been paid in 31 full.
- 32 **Sec. 19.** RCW 31.24.170 and 1963 c 162 s 17 are each amended to 33 read as follows:
- Any ((corporation)) business development company organized under ((the provisions of)) this chapter shall be a state development

- 1 company, as ((defined in)) authorized under Title V of the small
- 2 business investment act of 1958, Public Law 85-699, ((85th congress))
- 3 <u>15 U.S.C. Sec. 695, as amended</u>, or any other similar federal
- 4 legislation((, and shall be authorized to operate on a statewide
- 5 basis)).
- 6 Sec. 20. RCW 31.24.190 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 90 s 2 are each 7 amended to read as follows:
- 8 (1) In addition to the purposes specified in RCW 31.24.020((2)
 9 [(3)] an industrial development corporation)) <u>a historic business</u>
 10 <u>development company</u> may be formed <u>for one or more of the following</u>
- 11 purposes:

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- 12 <u>(a) To encourage and stimulate the preservation of historic</u>
 13 buildings or <u>historic commercial</u> areas <u>or neighborhoods</u> by returning
 14 them to economically productive uses which are compatible with or
 15 enhance the historic character of such buildings ((or)), commercial
 16 areas, or neighborhoods;
- 17 <u>(b) To stimulate and assist in the development of business or other</u>
 18 activities which have an impact upon the preservation of historic
 19 buildings ((or)), commercial areas, or neighborhoods;
- (c) To cooperate and act in conjunction with other organizations,
 public or private, in the promotion and advancement of historical
 preservation activities; and
 - (d) To provide financing through loans, investments of other business transactions for the promotion, development, and conduct of all kinds of business activity ((which)) that encourages or relates to historic preservation. ((An industrial development corporation created to carry out the purposes of this section))
 - (2) A historic business development company shall not engage in the broad economic and business promotion activities permitted by ((RCW 31.24.020(3) which are not related to the purposes of this section. Any such industrial development corporation shall in all other respects be subject to the provisions of this chapter)) a general business development company.
- 34 (3) A general business development company may, in addition to all 35 other activities permitted by this chapter, engage in those activities 36 specifically permitted of a historic business development company 37 organized under subsection (1) of this section.

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1 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 21.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW

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3 Chapter 30.44 RCW applies to the insolvency and liquidation of a 4 business development company organized under this chapter.

5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 22.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:

The director has the same power and authority to exercise supervisory direction and conservatorship of, and to issue cease and desist orders upon, a business development company organized under this chapter, as the director has in regard to a bank under Title 30 RCW.

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 23. A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- 13 (1) Subject to written approval of the director, one or more 14 general business development companies may merge into or consolidate 15 with each other consistent with chapter 30.49 RCW.
 - (2) Upon ninety days advance application to and written approval of the director, a historic business development company may convert its charter to that of a general business development company. An application for conversion shall contain a cover letter requesting conversion, the proposed articles of amendments and bylaws amendments, a modified business plan, and other relevant information in form and substance similar to the requirements of a de novo application for a general business development company as provided in RCW 31.24.020. In making a determination of whether to approve or deny such a conversion, the director shall consider:
 - (a) The historic performance and safety and soundness of the historic business development company;
 - (b) Whether the conversion to a general business development company will have a likelihood of continuing to fulfill the purposes of this chapter;
 - (c) Whether the applicant will have a likelihood of remaining safe and sound as a general business development company and pursuant to its proposed modified business plan; and
- 34 (d) Whether the proposed conversion would serve, or otherwise not 35 detract from, the needs and convenience of the community served by the 36 business development company.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 24. A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:

- (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a development credit corporation created under chapter 31.20 RCW, or any other company incorporated under Title 23B RCW, may convert to a business development company by filing an application with the department and receiving written approval of the director within ninety days of the date the application is received.
- (2) In addition to all other requirements of a business development company pursuant to this chapter, the director shall not approve an application for conversion of a development credit corporation unless:
- (a) A minimum of three stockholders of such corporation are financial institutions;
- (b) The majority of outstanding shares of common stock of such corporation are held by financial institutions;
 - (c) The articles of incorporation of such a corporation are amended to conform to the requirements of RCW 31.24.020;
 - (d) The bylaws of such a corporation are amended to conform to the requirements of this chapter;
 - (e) The business plan of the corporation is consistent with the requirements of this chapter and has been approved by the director; and
 - (f) The corporation otherwise satisfies the director that all other requirements of a business development company under this chapter have been met. However, such a corporation is not required to have had a minimum of five incorporators at the time it originally was incorporated with the secretary of state, as provided for in RCW 31.24.020(1).
- (3) Upon approval by the director of the corporation's application for conversion, the amended articles of incorporation, as approved by the director, shall be filed by the director with the secretary of state in the same manner provided for the filing of initial articles of incorporation under section 4 of this act. Such corporation shall not commence operation as a business development company until the director has issued such corporation a certificate of authority to conduct business as a business development company.
- 36 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 25.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW 37 to read as follows:

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The existing privileges, immunities, and requirements of confidentiality and disclosure with respect to examination records and information obtained by the director in conducting examinations, which are applicable to banks, as set forth in RCW 30.04.075, apply to examination records and information obtained by the director in conducting examinations of business development companies organized under this chapter.

8 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 26.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW 9 to read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a business development company organized under this chapter may be chartered as a limited liability company, or may convert to doing business as a limited liability company, to the same extent and subject to the same terms and conditions as permitted for a bank organized under Title 30 RCW, including, without limitation, requirements related to director approval, operational matters, corporate governance, and restrictions on complete dissociation. However:

- 18 (1) The rights of stockholders, as defined in this chapter, 19 supersede the provisions of Title 30 RCW to the contrary; and
 - (2) The limited liability company agreement, or other governing charter document of the limited liability company, must contain the same or substantially similar recitals as required in RCW 31.24.020 with respect to business purpose, organizational authority, board of directors, management, and limitations on liability of directors and officers.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 27. A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- (1) An applicant may apply simultaneously for both a business development company charter, under this chapter, and for a license as a nondepository lender of federally guaranteed small business loans, under chapter 31.40 RCW.
- 32 (2) An applicant may apply simultaneously for both a business 33 development company charter, under this chapter, and for a license as 34 a nondepository lender of guaranteed agricultural loans, under chapter 35 31.35 RCW.

(3) Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter or chapter 31.35 or 31.40 RCW, applications presented to the director as set forth in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be considered and evaluated by the director as one application, and an applicant:

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- 5 (a) If granted a business development company charter based on a 6 joint application as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this 7 section, shall pay fees and charges only as required by this chapter 8 and be subject to joint and simultaneous application review and 9 periodic examination; and
- 10 (b) If denied a business development company charter when having 11 made a joint application as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this 12 section, shall pay fees and charges only as required by this chapter.
- (4) An existing business development company organized under this chapter may apply for either a license, under chapter 31.35 RCW, or a license, under chapter 31.40 RCW, or both; and, if granted, the business development company, as a dual licensee, shall then pay fees and charges only as required by this chapter and be subject to joint and simultaneous application review and periodic examination.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 28. A new section is added to chapter 31.35 RCW to read as follows:
- 21 Section 27 (2) through (4) of this act supersede any contrary 22 provision of this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 29. A new section is added to chapter 31.40 RCW to read as follows:
- 25 Section 27 (1), (3), and (4) of this act supersede any contrary 26 provision of this chapter.
- 27 **Sec. 30.** RCW 31.40.090 and 1994 c 92 s 268 are each amended to 28 read as follows:
- 29 (1) The director shall examine each licensee not less than once 30 ((each year)) every twenty-four months.
- 31 (2) The director may with or without notice and at any time during 32 regular business hours examine a licensee or a subsidiary of a 33 licensee.
- 34 (3) A director, officer, or employee of a licensee or of a 35 subsidiary of a licensee being examined by the director or a person

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- having custody of any of the books, accounts, or records of the licensee or of the subsidiary shall otherwise facilitate the examination so far as it is in his or her power to do so.
- 4 (4) If in the director's opinion it is necessary in the examination 5 of a licensee, or of a subsidiary of a licensee, the director may 6 retain any certified public accountant, attorney, appraiser, or other 7 person to assist the director. The licensee being examined shall pay 8 the fees of a person retained by the director under this subsection.
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 31.** A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- 11 The director has broad administrative authority and discretion to 12 adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 32. A new section is added to chapter 31.24 RCW to read as follows:
- This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "business development company act."
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 33. The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:
- 19 (1) RCW 31.24.040 (Organizations authorized to acquire, hold and dispose of corporate bonds, securities, stock, etc.--Membership--Rights and powers--Limitation on stock ownership) and 1963 c 162 s 4;
- (2) RCW 31.24.050 (Membership by financial institutions--Loans to corporation by members--Limitations--Interest) and 1974 ex.s. c 16 s 2, 1973 1st ex.s. c 90 s 1, & 1963 c 162 s 5;
- 25 (3) RCW 31.24.060 (Membership--Duration--Withdrawal) and 1963 c 162 26 s 6; and
- 27 (4) RCW 31.24.180 (Calendar year adopted as fiscal year) and 1963 28 c 162 s 18.

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