

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1566

Chapter 485, Laws of 2007

60th Legislature
2007 Regular Session

RURAL COUNTY TAX CREDIT

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/08

Passed by the House March 8, 2007
Yeas 94 Nays 2

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 20, 2007
Yeas 44 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved May 15, 2007, 2:12 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1566** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 16, 2007

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1566

Passed Legislature - 2007 Regular Session

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives VanDeWege, Ericks, McIntire, Ericksen, Ross, Warnick, Condotta, Kessler and McCune; by request of Department of Revenue)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the rural county tax credit provided
2 in chapter 82.62 RCW; amending RCW 82.62.010, 82.62.020, 82.62.030,
3 82.62.045, and 82.62.050; creating new sections; and providing an
4 effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.62.010 and 2001 c 320 s 12 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
9 this section apply throughout this chapter.

10 (1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax credit under this
11 chapter.

12 (2) "Department" means the department of revenue.

13 (3) "Eligible area" means an area as defined in RCW 82.60.020.

14 (4)(a) "Eligible business project" means manufacturing or research
15 and development activities which are conducted by an applicant in an
16 eligible area at a specific facility, provided the applicant's average
17 ((full-time)) qualified employment positions at the specific facility
18 will be at least fifteen percent greater in the ((year for which the
19 credit is being sought)) four consecutive full calendar quarters after

1 the calendar quarter during which the first qualified employment
2 position is filled than the applicant's average (~~(full-time)~~) qualified
3 employment positions at the same facility in the four consecutive full
4 calendar quarters immediately preceding (~~(year)~~) the calendar quarter
5 during which the first qualified employment position is filled.

6 (b) "Eligible business project" does not include any portion of a
7 business project undertaken by a light and power business as defined in
8 RCW 82.16.010(5) or that portion of a business project creating
9 qualified full-time employment positions outside an eligible area.

10 (5) "First qualified employment position" means the first qualified
11 employment position filled for which a credit under this chapter is
12 sought.

13 (6) "Manufacturing" means the same as defined in RCW 82.04.120.
14 "Manufacturing" also includes computer programming, the production of
15 computer software, and other computer-related services, and the
16 activities performed by research and development laboratories and
17 commercial testing laboratories.

18 (~~(+6)~~) (7) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

19 (~~(+7)~~) (8)(a)(i) "Qualified employment position" means a permanent
20 full-time employee employed in the eligible business project during
21 (~~(the entire tax year)~~) four consecutive full calendar quarters.

22 (ii) For seasonal employers, "qualified employment position" also
23 includes the equivalent of a full-time employee in work hours for four
24 consecutive full calendar quarters.

25 (b) For purposes of this subsection, "full time" means a normal
26 work week of at least thirty-five hours.

27 (c) Once a permanent, full-time employee has been employed, a
28 position does not cease to be a qualified employment position solely
29 due to periods in which the position goes vacant, as long as:

30 (i) The cumulative period of any vacancies in that position is not
31 more than one hundred twenty days in the four-quarter period; and

32 (ii) During a vacancy, the employer is training or actively
33 recruiting a replacement permanent, full-time employee for the
34 position.

35 (~~(+8) "Tax year" means the calendar year in which taxes are due.~~)

36 (9) "Recipient" means a person receiving tax credits under this
37 chapter.

1 (10) "Research and development" means the development, refinement,
2 testing, marketing, and commercialization of a product, service, or
3 process before commercial sales have begun. As used in this
4 subsection, "commercial sales" excludes sales of prototypes or sales
5 for market testing if the total gross receipts from such sales of the
6 product, service, or process do not exceed one million dollars.

7 (11) "Seasonal employee" means an employee of a seasonal employer
8 who works on a seasonal basis. For the purposes of this subsection and
9 subsection (12) of this section, "seasonal basis" means a continuous
10 employment period of less than twelve consecutive months.

11 (12) "Seasonal employer" means a person who regularly hires more
12 than fifty percent of its employees to work on a seasonal basis.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.62.020 and 1986 c 116 s 16 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 Application for tax credits under this chapter must be made
16 ~~((before))~~ within ninety consecutive days after the ~~((actual hiring~~
17 ~~of))~~ first qualified employment position~~((s))~~ is filled. The
18 application shall be made to the department in a form and manner
19 prescribed by the department. The application shall contain
20 information regarding the location of the business project, the
21 applicant's average employment, if any, at the facility for the ~~((prior~~
22 ~~year))~~ four consecutive full calendar quarters immediately preceding
23 the earlier of the calendar quarter during which the application
24 required by this section is submitted to the department or the first
25 qualified employment position is filled, estimated or actual new
26 employment related to the project, estimated or actual wages of
27 employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time
28 schedules for completion and operation, and other information required
29 by the department. The department shall prescribe a method for
30 calculating a seasonal employer's average employment levels. The
31 department shall rule on the application within sixty days.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.62.030 and 2001 c 320 s 13 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1)(a) A person shall be allowed a credit against the tax due under
35 chapter 82.04 RCW as provided in this section. The credit shall equal:
36 ~~((a))~~ (i) Four thousand dollars for each qualified employment

1 position with wages and benefits greater than forty thousand dollars
2 annually that is directly created in an eligible business project and
3 ~~((b))~~ (ii) two thousand dollars for each qualified employment
4 position with wages and benefits less than or equal to forty thousand
5 dollars annually that is directly created in an eligible business
6 project.

7 (b) For purposes of calculating the amount of credit under (a) of
8 this subsection with respect to qualified employment positions as
9 defined in RCW 82.62.010(8)(a)(ii):

10 (i) In determining the number of qualified employment positions, a
11 fractional amount is rounded down to the nearest whole number; and

12 (ii) Wages and benefits for each qualified employment position
13 shall be equal to the quotient derived by dividing: (A) The sum of the
14 wages and benefits earned for the four consecutive full calendar
15 quarter period for which a credit under this chapter is earned by all
16 of the person's new seasonal employees hired during that period; by (B)
17 the number of qualified employment positions plus any fractional amount
18 subject to rounding as provided under (b)(i) of this subsection. For
19 purposes of this chapter, a credit is earned for the four consecutive
20 full calendar quarters after the calendar quarter during which the
21 first qualified employment position is filled.

22 (2) The department shall keep a running total of all credits
23 allowed under this chapter during each fiscal year. The department
24 shall not allow any credits which would cause the total to exceed seven
25 million five hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year. If all or
26 part of an application for credit is disallowed under this subsection,
27 the disallowed portion shall be carried over to the next fiscal year.
28 However, the carryover into the next fiscal year is only permitted to
29 the extent that the cap for the next fiscal year is not exceeded.

30 (3) No recipient may use the tax credits to decertify a union or to
31 displace existing jobs in any community in the state.

32 (4) The credit may be used against any tax due under chapter 82.04
33 RCW, and may be carried over until used. No refunds may be granted for
34 credits under this section.

35 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.62.045 and 1999 c 164 s 307 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

1 (1) For the purposes of this section "eligible area" also means a
2 designated community empowerment zone approved under RCW ((43.63A.700))
3 43.31C.020.

4 (2) An eligible business project located within an eligible area as
5 defined in this section qualifies for a credit under this chapter for
6 those employees who at the time of hire are residents of the community
7 empowerment zone in which the project is located, if the fifteen
8 percent threshold is met. As used in this subsection, "resident" means
9 the person makes his or her home in the community empowerment zone. A
10 mailing address alone is insufficient to establish that a person is a
11 resident for the purposes of this section.

12 (3) All other provisions and eligibility requirements of this
13 chapter apply to applicants eligible under this section.

14 **Sec. 5.** RCW 82.62.050 and 2001 c 320 s 14 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (1) Each recipient shall submit a report to the department ((~~on~~
17 ~~January 31st following the year the application for credit was~~
18 ~~allowed~~)) by the last day of the month immediately following the end of
19 the four consecutive full calendar quarter period for which a credit
20 under this chapter is earned. The report shall contain information, as
21 required by the department, from which the department may determine
22 whether the recipient is meeting the requirements of this chapter. If
23 the recipient fails to submit a report or submits an inadequate report,
24 the department may declare the amount of taxes for which a credit has
25 been used to be immediately assessed and payable. The recipient must
26 keep records, such as payroll records showing the date of hire and
27 employment security reports, to verify eligibility under this section.

28 (2) If, on the basis of a report under this section or other
29 information, the department finds that a business project is not
30 eligible for tax credit under this chapter for reasons other than
31 failure to create the required number of qualified employment
32 positions, the amount of taxes for which a credit has been used for the
33 project shall be immediately due.

34 (3) If, on the basis of a report under this section or other
35 information, the department finds that a business project has failed to
36 create the specified number of qualified employment positions, the
37 department shall assess interest, but not penalties, on the credited

1 taxes for which a credit has been used for the project. The interest
2 shall be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes,
3 shall be assessed retroactively to the date of the tax credit, and
4 shall accrue until the taxes for which a credit has been used are
5 repaid.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act applies prospectively only, except
7 that section 4 of this act applies both prospectively and
8 retroactively.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 3 and 5 of this act apply
10 with respect to applications for credit under chapter 82.62 RCW
11 received by the department of revenue on or after January 1, 2008.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act takes effect January 1, 2008.

Passed by the House March 8, 2007.

Passed by the Senate April 20, 2007.

Approved by the Governor May 15, 2007.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 2007.