HOUSE BILL 2334

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Ryu, Sawyer, Walkinshaw, Peterson, Santos, Pollet, Wilson, Stokesbary, and Van Werven

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AN ACT Relating to the excise taxation of martial arts; amending RCW 82.04.050; creating new sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 1. (1) This section is the tax preference 6 performance statement for the tax preference contained in section 2 7 of this act. It is not intended to create a private right of action 8 by any party or be used to determine eligibility for preferential tax 9 treatment.

10 (2) The legislature categorizes the tax preference created in 11 this act as one intended to reduce structural inefficiencies in the 12 tax structure as indicated in RCW 82.32.808(2)(d).

13 (3) It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to 14 provide permanent relief that corrects the tax structural inefficiencies under RCW 82.04.050 with regard to martial arts 15 16 instruction and training that takes place outside of fitness 17 facilities.

18 Sec. 2. RCW 82.04.050 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 1105 are each 19 amended to read as follows:

1 (1)(a) "Sale at retail" or "retail sale" means every sale of 2 tangible personal property (including articles produced, fabricated, 3 or imprinted) to all persons irrespective of the nature of their 4 business and including, among others, without limiting the scope 5 hereof, persons who install, repair, clean, alter, improve, 6 construct, or decorate real or personal property of or for consumers 7 other than a sale to a person who:

8 (i) Purchases for the purpose of resale as tangible personal 9 property in the regular course of business without intervening use by 10 such person, but a purchase for the purpose of resale by a regional 11 transit authority under RCW 81.112.300 is not a sale for resale; or

(ii) Installs, repairs, cleans, alters, imprints, improves, constructs, or decorates real or personal property of or for consumers, if such tangible personal property becomes an ingredient or component of such real or personal property without intervening use by such person; or

17 (iii) Purchases for the purpose of consuming the property 18 purchased in producing for sale as a new article of tangible personal 19 property or substance, of which such property becomes an ingredient 20 or component or is a chemical used in processing, when the primary 21 purpose of such chemical is to create a chemical reaction directly 22 through contact with an ingredient of a new article being produced 23 for sale; or

(iv) Purchases for the purpose of consuming the property purchased in producing ferrosilicon which is subsequently used in producing magnesium for sale, if the primary purpose of such property is to create a chemical reaction directly through contact with an ingredient of ferrosilicon; or

(v) Purchases for the purpose of providing the property to consumers as part of competitive telephone service, as defined in RCW 82.04.065; or

(vi) Purchases for the purpose of satisfying the person's obligations under an extended warranty as defined in subsection (7) of this section, if such tangible personal property replaces or becomes an ingredient or component of property covered by the extended warranty without intervening use by such person.

37 (b) The term includes every sale of tangible personal property 38 that is used or consumed or to be used or consumed in the performance 39 of any activity defined as a "sale at retail" or "retail sale" even

1 though such property is resold or used as provided in (a)(i) through 2 (vi) of this subsection following such use.

3 (c) The term also means every sale of tangible personal property 4 to persons engaged in any business that is taxable under RCW 5 82.04.280(1) (a), (b), and (g), 82.04.290, and 82.04.2908.

6 (2) The term "sale at retail" or "retail sale" includes the sale 7 of or charge made for tangible personal property consumed and/or for 8 labor and services rendered in respect to the following:

9 (a) The installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, imprinting, or 10 improving of tangible personal property of or for consumers, 11 including charges made for the mere use of facilities in respect 12 thereto, but excluding charges made for the use of self-service 13 laundry facilities, and also excluding sales of laundry service to 14 nonprofit health care facilities, and excluding services rendered in 15 respect to live animals, birds and insects;

16 (b) The constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving of new 17 or existing buildings or other structures under, upon, or above real property of or for consumers, including the installing or attaching 18 of any article of tangible personal property therein or thereto, 19 whether or not such personal property becomes a part of the realty by 20 21 virtue of installation, and also includes the sale of services or charges made for the clearing of land and the moving of earth 22 excepting the mere leveling of land used in commercial farming or 23 24 agriculture;

(c) The constructing, repairing, or improving of any structure upon, above, or under any real property owned by an owner who conveys the property by title, possession, or any other means to the person performing such construction, repair, or improvement for the purpose of performing such construction, repair, or improvement and the property is then reconveyed by title, possession, or any other means to the original owner;

(d) The cleaning, fumigating, razing, or moving of existing 32 buildings or structures, but does not include the charge made for 33 janitorial services; and for purposes of this section the term 34 "janitorial services" means those cleaning and caretaking services 35 36 ordinarily performed by commercial janitor service businesses including, but not limited to, wall and window washing, floor 37 cleaning and waxing, and the cleaning in place of rugs, drapes and 38 39 upholstery. The term "janitorial services" does not include painting,

papering, repairing, furnace or septic tank cleaning, snow removal or sandblasting;

3 (e) Automobile towing and similar automotive transportation 4 services, but not in respect to those required to report and pay 5 taxes under chapter 82.16 RCW;

6 (f) The furnishing of lodging and all other services by a hotel, rooming house, tourist court, motel, trailer camp, and the granting 7 of any similar license to use real property, as distinguished from 8 the renting or leasing of real property, and it is presumed that the 9 occupancy of real property for a continuous period of one month or 10 11 more constitutes a rental or lease of real property and not a mere 12 license to use or enjoy the same. For the purposes of this subsection, it is presumed that the sale of and charge made for the 13 14 furnishing of lodging for a continuous period of one month or more to a person is a rental or lease of real property and not a mere license 15 16 to enjoy the same;

17 (g) The installing, repairing, altering, or improving of digital 18 goods for consumers;

19 (h) Persons taxable under (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of this subsection when such sales or charges are for property, labor 20 21 and services which are used or consumed in whole or in part by such persons in the performance of any activity defined as a "sale at 22 retail or "retail sale" even though such property, labor and 23 services may be resold after such use or consumption. Nothing 24 25 contained in this subsection may be construed to modify subsection 26 (1) of this section and nothing contained in subsection (1) of this section may be construed to modify this subsection. 27

(3) The term "sale at retail" or "retail sale" includes the sale of or charge made for personal, business, or professional services including amounts designated as interest, rents, fees, admission, and other service emoluments however designated, received by persons engaging in the following business activities:

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(a) Abstract, title insurance, and escrow services;

34 (b) Credit bureau services;

35 (c) Automobile parking and storage garage services;

36 (d) Landscape maintenance and horticultural services but 37 excluding (i) horticultural services provided to farmers and (ii) 38 pruning, trimming, repairing, removing, and clearing of trees and 39 brush near electric transmission or distribution lines or equipment, 40 if performed by or at the direction of an electric utility; (e) Service charges associated with tickets to professional
 sporting events;

3 (f) The following personal services: Tanning salon services,
4 tattoo parlor services, steam bath services, turkish bath services,
5 escort services, and dating services; and

6 (g)(i) Operating an athletic or fitness facility, including all 7 charges for the use of such a facility or for any associated services 8 and amenities, except as provided in (g)(ii) of this subsection.

9 (ii) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in (g)(i) of this 10 subsection (3), the term "sale at retail" and "retail sale" under 11 this subsection does not include:

(A) Separately stated charges for the use of an athletic or
fitness facility where such use is primarily for a purpose other than
engaging in or receiving instruction in a physical fitness activity;

(B) Separately stated charges for the use of a discrete portion of an athletic or fitness facility, other than a pool, where such discrete portion of the facility does not by itself meet the definition of "athletic or fitness facility" in this subsection;

(C) Separately stated charges for services, such as advertising, 19 massage, nutritional consulting, and body composition testing, that 20 21 do not require the customer to engage in physical fitness activities to service. The exclusion 22 receive the in this subsection (3)(g)(ii)(C) does not apply to personal training services and 23 instruction in a physical fitness activity; 24

25 (D) Separately stated charges for physical therapy provided by a 26 physical therapist, as those terms are defined in RCW 18.74.010, or 27 occupational therapy provided by an occupational therapy practitioner, as those terms are defined in RCW 18.59.020, when 28 29 performed pursuant to a referral from an authorized health care practitioner or in consultation with an authorized health care 30 31 practitioner. For the purposes of this subsection (3)(g)(ii)(D), an 32 authorized health care practitioner means a health care practitioner licensed under chapter 18.83, 18.25, 18.36A, 18.57, 18.57A, 18.71, or 33 18.71A RCW; 34

35 (E) Rent or association fees charged by a landlord or residential 36 association to a tenant or residential owner with access to an 37 athletic or fitness facility maintained by the landlord or 38 residential association, unless the rent or fee varies depending on 39 whether the tenant or owner has access to the facility;

HB 2334

1 (F) Services provided in the regular course of employment by an 2 employee with access to an athletic or fitness facility maintained by 3 the employer for use without charge by its employees or their family 4 members;

(G) The provision of access to an athletic or fitness facility by 5 б an educational institution to its students and staff. However, charges made by an educational institution to its alumni or other 7 members of the public for the use of any of the educational 8 institution's athletic or fitness facilities are a retail sale under 9 this subsection (3)(g). For purposes of this subsection 10 (3)(g)(ii)(G), "educational institution" has the same meaning as in 11 12 RCW 82.04.170; ((and))

(H) Yoga, ((tai chi, or)) chi gong, or martial arts classes, training, or events held at a community center, park, school, gymnasium, college or university, hospital or other medical facility, private residence, or any facility that is not primarily used for physical fitness activities other than yoga,((<u>tai chi, or</u>)) chi gong, or martial arts classes, training, or events.

(iii) Nothing in (g)(ii) of this subsection (3) may be construed to affect the taxation of sales made by the operator of an athletic or fitness facility, where such sales are defined as a retail sale under any provision of this section other than this subsection (3).

23 (iv) For the purposes of this subsection (3)(g), the following 24 definitions apply:

25 (A) "Athletic or fitness facility" means an indoor or outdoor facility or portion of a facility that is primarily used for: 26 Exercise classes; strength and conditioning programs; personal 27 28 training services; tennis, racquetball, handball, squash, or pickleball; yoga; boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, martial arts, or 29 mixed martial arts training; or other activities requiring the use of 30 31 exercise or strength training equipment, such treadmills, as 32 elliptical machines, stair climbers, stationary cycles, rowing 33 machines, pilates equipment, balls, climbing ropes, jump ropes, and weightlifting equipment. 34

35 (B) <u>"Martial arts" means any of the various systems of training</u> 36 for physical combat or self-defense. "Martial arts" includes, but is 37 not limited to, karate, kung fu, tae kwon do, Krav Maga, boxing, 38 kickboxing, jujitsu, shootfighting, wrestling, aikido, judo, hapkido, 39 Kendo, tai chi, and mixed martial arts.

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1 <u>(C)</u> "Physical fitness activities" means activities that involve 2 physical exertion for the purpose of improving or maintaining the 3 general fitness, strength, flexibility, conditioning, or health of 4 the participant.

5 (4)(a) The term also includes the renting or leasing of tangible 6 personal property to consumers.

7 (b) The term does not include the renting or leasing of tangible 8 personal property where the lease or rental is for the purpose of 9 sublease or subrent.

10 (5) The term also includes the providing of "competitive 11 telephone service," "telecommunications service," or "ancillary 12 services," as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, to consumers.

(6)(a) The term also includes the sale of prewritten computer 13 14 software to a consumer, regardless of the method of delivery to the end user. For purposes of (a) and (b) of this subsection, the sale of 15 16 prewritten computer software includes the sale of or charge made for 17 a key or an enabling or activation code, where the key or code is required to activate prewritten computer software and put the 18 software into use. There is no separate sale of the key or code from 19 20 the prewritten computer software, regardless of how the sale may be 21 characterized by the vendor or by the purchaser.

(b) The term "retail sale" does not include the sale of or charge made for:

24 (i) Custom software; or

25 (ii) The customization of prewritten computer software.

(c)(i) The term also includes the charge made to consumers for the right to access and use prewritten computer software, where possession of the software is maintained by the seller or a third party, regardless of whether the charge for the service is on a per use, per user, per license, subscription, or some other basis.

(ii)(A) The service described in (c)(i) of this subsection (6) includes the right to access and use prewritten computer software to perform data processing.

(B) For purposes of this subsection (6)(c)(ii), "data processing" means the systematic performance of operations on data to extract the required information in an appropriate form or to convert the data to usable information. Data processing includes check processing, image processing, form processing, survey processing, payroll processing, claim processing, and similar activities.

1 (7) The term also includes the sale of or charge made for an extended warranty to a consumer. For purposes of this subsection, 2 "extended warranty" means an agreement for a specified duration to 3 perform the replacement or repair of tangible personal property at no 4 additional charge or a reduced charge for tangible personal property, 5 б labor, or both, or to provide indemnification for the replacement or 7 repair of tangible personal property, based on the occurrence of specified events. The term "extended warranty" does not include an 8 agreement, otherwise meeting the definition of extended warranty in 9 this subsection, if no separate charge is made for the agreement and 10 11 the value of the agreement is included in the sales price of the 12 tangible personal property covered by the agreement. For purposes of 13 this subsection, "sales price" has the same meaning as in RCW 14 82.08.010.

15 (8)(a) The term also includes the following sales to consumers of 16 digital goods, digital codes, and digital automated services:

17 (i) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser the right 18 of permanent use;

(ii) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser a right of use that is less than permanent;

(iii) Sales in which the purchaser is not obligated to make continued payment as a condition of the sale; and

23 (iv) Sales in which the purchaser is obligated to make continued 24 payment as a condition of the sale.

(b) A retail sale of digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services under this subsection (8) includes any services provided by the seller exclusively in connection with the digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services, whether or not a separate charge is made for such services.

30 (c) For purposes of this subsection, "permanent" means perpetual 31 or for an indefinite or unspecified length of time. A right of 32 permanent use is presumed to have been granted unless the agreement 33 between the seller and the purchaser specifies or the circumstances 34 surrounding the transaction suggest or indicate that the right to use 35 terminates on the occurrence of a condition subsequent.

36 (9) The term also includes the charge made for providing tangible 37 personal property along with an operator for a fixed or indeterminate 38 period of time. A consideration of this is that the operator is 39 necessary for the tangible personal property to perform as designed.

For the purpose of this subsection (9), an operator must do more than
 maintain, inspect, or set up the tangible personal property.

3 (10) The term does not include the sale of or charge made for labor and services rendered in respect to the building, repairing, or 4 improving of any street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-5 б way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, 7 tunnel, or trestle which is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state or by the United States and which 8 is used or to be used primarily for foot or vehicular traffic 9 including mass transportation vehicles of any kind. 10

11 (11) The term also does not include sales of chemical sprays or washes to persons for the purpose of postharvest treatment of fruit 12 for the prevention of scald, fungus, mold, or decay, nor does it 13 include sales of feed, seed, seedlings, fertilizer, agents for 14 enhanced pollination including insects such as bees, and spray 15 16 materials to: (a) Persons who participate in the federal conservation 17 reserve program, the environmental quality incentives program, the 18 wetlands reserve program, and the wildlife habitat incentives program, or their successors administered by the United States 19 department of agriculture; (b) farmers for the purpose of producing 20 for sale any agricultural product; (c) farmers for the purpose of 21 providing bee pollination services; and (d) farmers acting under 22 cooperative habitat development or access contracts 23 with an organization exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 24 25 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code or the Washington 26 state department of fish and wildlife to produce or improve wildlife habitat on land that the farmer owns or leases. 27

28 (12) The term does not include the sale of or charge made for 29 labor and services rendered in respect to the constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving of new or existing buildings or 30 31 other structures under, upon, or above real property of or for the 32 United States, any instrumentality thereof, or a county or city housing authority created pursuant to chapter 35.82 RCW, including 33 the installing, or attaching of any article of tangible personal 34 property therein or thereto, whether or not such personal property 35 36 becomes a part of the realty by virtue of installation. Nor does the term include the sale of services or charges made for the clearing of 37 land and the moving of earth of or for the United States, any 38 39 instrumentality thereof, or a county or city housing authority. Nor 40 does the term include the sale of services or charges made for

HB 2334

cleaning up for the United States, or its instrumentalities,
 radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and
 nuclear research and development.

4 (13) The term does not include the sale of or charge made for 5 labor, services, or tangible personal property pursuant to agreements 6 providing maintenance services for bus, rail, or rail fixed guideway 7 equipment when a regional transit authority is the recipient of the 8 labor, services, or tangible personal property, and a transit agency, 9 as defined in RCW 81.104.015, performs the labor or services.

10 (14) The term does not include the sale for resale of any service 11 described in this section if the sale would otherwise constitute a 12 "sale at retail" and "retail sale" under this section.

(15)(a) The term "sale at retail" or "retail sale" includes 13 amounts charged, however labeled, to consumers to engage in any of 14 the activities listed in this subsection (15)(a), including the 15 16 furnishing of any associated equipment or, except as otherwise 17 provided in this subsection, providing instruction in such 18 activities, where such charges are not otherwise defined as a "sale at retail" or "retail sale" in this section: 19

(i)(A) Golf, including any variant in which either golf balls or 20 21 golf clubs are used, such as miniature golf, hitting golf balls at a driving range, and golf simulators, and including fees charged by a 22 golf course to a player for using his or her own cart. However, 23 charges for golf instruction are not a retail sale, provided that if 24 25 the instruction involves the use of a golfing facility that would otherwise require the payment of a fee, such as green fees or driving 26 range fees, such fees, including the applicable retail sales tax, 27 must be separately identified and charged by the golfing facility 28 29 operator to the instructor or the person receiving the instruction.

(B) Notwithstanding (a)(i)(A) of this subsection (15) and except 30 31 as otherwise provided in this subsection (15)(a)(i)(B), the term "sale at retail" or "retail sale" does not include amounts charged to 32 participate in, or conduct, a golf tournament or other competitive 33 event. However, amounts paid by event participants to the golf 34 facility operator are retail sales under this subsection (15)(a)(i). 35 36 Likewise, amounts paid by the event organizer to the golf facility are retail sales under this subsection (15)(a)(i), if such amounts 37 vary based on the number of event participants; 38

39 (ii) Ballooning, hang gliding, indoor or outdoor sky diving,
 40 paragliding, parasailing, and similar activities;

(iii) Air hockey, billiards, pool, foosball, darts, shuffleboard,
 ping pong, and similar games;

(iv) Access to amusement park, theme park, and water park 3 facilities, including but not limited to charges for admission and 4 locker or cabana rentals. Discrete charges for rides or other 5 б attractions or entertainment that are in addition to the charge for admission are not a retail sale under this subsection (15)(a)(iv). 7 For the purposes of this subsection, an amusement park or theme park 8 is a location that provides permanently affixed amusement rides, 9 games, and other entertainment, but does not include parks or zoos 10 11 for which the primary purpose is the exhibition of wildlife, or 12 fairs, carnivals, and festivals as defined in (b)(i) of this subsection; 13

14 (v) Batting cage activities;

(vi) Bowling, but not including competitive events, except that amounts paid by the event participants to the bowling alley operator are retail sales under this subsection (15)(a)(vi). Likewise, amounts paid by the event organizer to the operator of the bowling alley are retail sales under this subsection (15)(a)(vi), if such amounts vary based on the number of event participants;

21 (vii) Climbing on artificial climbing structures, whether indoors 22 or outdoors;

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(viii) Day trips for sightseeing purposes;

(ix) Bungee jumping, zip lining, and riding inside a ball,whether inflatable or otherwise;

(x) Horseback riding offered to the public, where the seller furnishes the horse to the buyer and providing instruction is not the primary focus of the activity, including guided rides, but not including therapeutic horseback riding provided by an instructor certified by a nonprofit organization that offers national or international certification for therapeutic riding instructors;

32 (xi) Fishing, including providing access to private fishing areas 33 and charter or guided fishing, except that fishing contests and 34 license fees imposed by a government entity are not a retail sale 35 under this subsection;

36 (xii) Guided hunting and hunting at game farms and shooting 37 preserves, except that hunting contests and license fees imposed by a 38 government entity are not a retail sale under this subsection;

39 (xiii) Swimming, but only in respect to (A) recreational or40 fitness swimming that is open to the public, such as open swim, lap

swimming, and special events like kids night out and pool parties 1 2 during open swim time, and (B) pool parties for private events, such as birthdays, family gatherings, and employee outings. Fees for 3 lessons, to participate in 4 swimming swim meets and other competitions, or to join a swim team, club, or aquatic facility are 5 б not retail sales under this subsection (15)(a)(xiii);

7 (xiv) Go-karting, bumper cars, and other motorized activities 8 where the seller provides the vehicle and the premises where the 9 buyer will operate the vehicle;

(xv) Indoor or outdoor playground activities, such as inflatable 10 11 bounce structures and other inflatables; mazes; trampolines; slides; 12 ball pits; games of tag, including laser tag and soft-dart tag; and human gyroscope rides, regardless of whether such activities occur at 13 14 the seller's place of business, but not including playground activities provided for children by a licensed child day care center 15 16 or licensed family day care provider as those terms are defined in 17 RCW 43.215.010;

18 (xvi) Shooting sports and activities, such as target shooting, 19 skeet, trap, sporting clays, "5" stand, and archery, but only in 20 respect to discrete charges to members of the public to engage in 21 these activities, but not including fees to enter a competitive 22 event, instruction that is entirely or predominately classroom based, 23 or to join or renew a membership at a club, range, or other facility; 24 (xvii) Paintball and airsoft activities;

(xviii) Skating, including ice skating, roller skating, and inline skating, but only in respect to discrete charges to members of the public to engage in skating activities, but not including skating lessons, competitive events, team activities, or fees to join or renew a membership at a skating facility, club, or other organization;

31 (xix) Nonmotorized snow sports and activities, such as downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ski jumping, sledding, snow 32 tubing, snowshoeing, and similar snow sports and activities, whether 33 engaged in outdoors or in an indoor facility with or without snow, 34 but only in respect to discrete charges to the public for the use of 35 36 land or facilities to engage in nonmotorized snow sports and activities, such as fees, however labeled, for the use of ski lifts 37 and tows and daily or season passes for access to trails or other 38 39 areas where nonmotorized snow sports and activities are conducted. 40 However, fees for the following are not retail sales under this

1 subsection (15)(a)(xix): (A) Instructional lessons; (B) permits 2 issued by a governmental entity to park a vehicle on or access public 3 lands; and (C) permits or leases granted by an owner of private 4 timberland for recreational access to areas used primarily for 5 growing and harvesting timber; and

6 (xx) Scuba diving; snorkeling; river rafting; surfing; 7 kiteboarding; flyboarding; water slides; inflatables, such as water 8 pillows, water trampolines, and water rollers; and similar water 9 sports and activities.

10 (b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this subsection 11 (15), the term "sale at retail" or "retail sale" does not include 12 charges:

(i) Made for admission to, and rides or attractions at, fairs, carnivals, and festivals. For the purposes of this subsection, fairs, carnivals, and festivals are events that do not exceed twenty-one days and a majority of the amusement rides, if any, are not affixed to real property;

(ii) Made by an educational institution to its students and staff for activities defined as retail sales by (a)(i) through (xx) of this subsection. However, charges made by an educational institution to its alumni or other members of the general public for these activities are a retail sale under this subsection (15). For purposes of this subsection (15)(b)(ii), "educational institution" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.170;

(iii) Made by a vocational school for commercial diver training that is licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW; or

(iv) Made for day camps offered by a nonprofit organization or state or local governmental entity that provide youth not older than age eighteen, or that are focused on providing individuals with disabilities or mental illness, the opportunity to participate in a variety of supervised activities.

33 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. RCW 82.32.805 and 82.32.808 do not apply 34 to this act.

35 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate 36 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of

- 1 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
- 2 effect April 1, 2016.

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