
HOUSE BILL 1512

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representative Ryu

Read first time 02/09/21. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to lodging-related assessments under chapter
2 35.87A RCW; amending RCW 35.87A.010, 35.87A.020, and 82.08.010; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.87A.010 and 2005 c 178 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 To aid general economic development and neighborhood
8 revitalization, and to facilitate the cooperation of merchants,
9 businesses, and residential property owners which assists trade,
10 economic viability, and liveability, the legislature hereby
11 authorizes all counties and all incorporated cities and towns,
12 including unclassified cities and towns operating under special
13 charters:

14 (1) To establish, after a petition submitted by the operators
15 responsible for sixty percent of the assessments by businesses and
16 multifamily residential or mixed-use projects within the area,
17 parking and business improvement areas, hereafter referred to as area
18 or areas, for the following purposes:

19 (a) The acquisition, construction or maintenance of parking
20 facilities for the benefit of the area;

21 (b) Decoration of any public place in the area;

1 (c) Sponsorship or promotion of public events which are to take
2 place on or in public places in the area;

3 (d) Furnishing of music in any public place in the area;

4 (e) Providing professional management, planning, and promotion
5 for the area, including the management and promotion of retail trade
6 activities in the area;

7 (f) Providing maintenance and security for common, public areas;
8 or

9 (g) Providing transportation services for the benefit of the
10 area.

11 (2)(a) To levy special assessments on all businesses and
12 multifamily residential or mixed-use projects within the area and
13 specially benefited by a parking and business improvement area to pay
14 in whole or in part the damages or costs incurred therein as provided
15 in this chapter.

16 (b) A lodging business may, but is not required to, collect any
17 special assessment amount from its guests in the form of a separately
18 stated charge per night on the sale of lodging taxable by the state
19 under chapter 82.08 RCW. Such charges must be separately stated on
20 the invoice, bill of sale, or similar document provided by the
21 lodging business to the guest. A lodging business that collects a
22 special assessment from its guests as authorized under this
23 subsection (2)(b) is deemed to be collecting the assessment amount
24 from its guests as agent for the jurisdiction levying the special
25 assessment. Such per night charges are not part of the selling price
26 under RCW 82.08.010 for state and local sales tax purposes, nor are
27 they part of the gross proceeds of sales of the lodging business for
28 purposes of state business and occupation taxes imposed under chapter
29 82.04 RCW.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.87A.020 and 1993 c 429 s 2 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
33 this section apply throughout this chapter.

34 (1) "Business" means all types of business, including
35 professions.

36 (2) "Legislative authority" means the legislative authority of
37 any city or town including unclassified cities or towns operating
38 under special charters or the legislative authority of any county.

1 (3) "Lodging business" means a person that furnishes lodging
2 taxable by the state under chapter 82.08 RCW.

3 (4) "Multifamily residential or mixed-use project" means any
4 building or buildings containing four or more residential units or a
5 combination of residential and commercial units, whether title to the
6 entire property is held in single or undivided ownership or title to
7 individual units is held by owners who also, directly or indirectly
8 through an association, own real property in common with the other
9 unit owners.

10 (~~(4)~~) (5) "Residential operator" means the owner or operator of
11 a multifamily residential or mixed-use project if title is held in
12 single or undivided ownership, or, if title is held in a form of
13 common interest ownership, the association of unit owners,
14 condominium association, homeowners' association, property owners'
15 association, or residential cooperative corporation.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.08.010 and 2019 c 8 s 105 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 For the purposes of this chapter:

19 (1)(a)(i) "Selling price" includes "sales price." "Sales price"
20 means the total amount of consideration, except separately stated
21 trade-in property of like kind, including cash, credit, property, and
22 services, for which tangible personal property, extended warranties,
23 digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or other
24 services or anything else defined as a "retail sale" under RCW
25 82.04.050 are sold, leased, or rented, valued in money, whether
26 received in money or otherwise. (~~(No)~~) Except as otherwise provided
27 in this subsection (1), no deduction from the total amount of
28 consideration is allowed for the following: (A) The seller's cost of
29 the property sold; (B) the cost of materials used, labor or service
30 cost, interest, losses, all costs of transportation to the seller,
31 all taxes imposed on the seller, and any other expense of the seller;
32 (C) charges by the seller for any services necessary to complete the
33 sale, other than delivery and installation charges; (D) delivery
34 charges; and (E) installation charges.

35 (ii) When tangible personal property is rented or leased under
36 circumstances that the consideration paid does not represent a
37 reasonable rental for the use of the articles so rented or leased,
38 the "selling price" must be determined as nearly as possible
39 according to the value of such use at the places of use of similar

1 products of like quality and character under such rules as the
2 department may prescribe;

3 (b) "Selling price" or "sales price" does not include: Discounts,
4 including cash, term, or coupons that are not reimbursed by a third
5 party that are allowed by a seller and taken by a purchaser on a
6 sale; interest, financing, and carrying charges from credit extended
7 on the sale of tangible personal property, extended warranties,
8 digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or other
9 services or anything else defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050,
10 if the amount is separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale, or
11 similar document given to the purchaser; and any taxes legally
12 imposed directly on the consumer, or collected from the consumer
13 pursuant to RCW 35.87A.010(2)(b), that are separately stated on the
14 invoice, bill of sale, or similar document given to the purchaser;

15 (c) "Selling price" or "sales price" includes consideration
16 received by the seller from a third party if:

17 (i) The seller actually receives consideration from a party other
18 than the purchaser, and the consideration is directly related to a
19 price reduction or discount on the sale;

20 (ii) The seller has an obligation to pass the price reduction or
21 discount through to the purchaser;

22 (iii) The amount of the consideration attributable to the sale is
23 fixed and determinable by the seller at the time of the sale of the
24 item to the purchaser; and

25 (iv) One of the criteria in this subsection (1)(c)(iv) is met:

26 (A) The purchaser presents a coupon, certificate, or other
27 documentation to the seller to claim a price reduction or discount
28 where the coupon, certificate, or documentation is authorized,
29 distributed, or granted by a third party with the understanding that
30 the third party will reimburse any seller to whom the coupon,
31 certificate, or documentation is presented;

32 (B) The purchaser identifies himself or herself to the seller as
33 a member of a group or organization entitled to a price reduction or
34 discount, however a "preferred customer" card that is available to
35 any patron does not constitute membership in such a group; or

36 (C) The price reduction or discount is identified as a third
37 party price reduction or discount on the invoice received by the
38 purchaser or on a coupon, certificate, or other documentation
39 presented by the purchaser;

1 (2) (a) (i) "Seller" means every person, including the state and
2 its departments and institutions, making sales at retail or retail
3 sales to a buyer, purchaser, or consumer, whether as agent, broker,
4 or principal, except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2).

5 (ii) "Seller" includes marketplace facilitators, whether making
6 sales in their own right or facilitating sales on behalf of
7 marketplace sellers.

8 (b) (i) "Seller" does not include:

9 (A) The state and its departments and institutions when making
10 sales to the state and its departments and institutions; or

11 (B) A professional employer organization when a covered employee
12 coemployed with the client under the terms of a professional employer
13 agreement engages in activities that constitute a sale at retail that
14 is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter. In such cases, the
15 client, and not the professional employer organization, is deemed to
16 be the seller and is responsible for collecting and remitting the tax
17 imposed by this chapter.

18 (ii) For the purposes of this subsection (2) (b), the terms
19 "client," "covered employee," "professional employer agreement," and
20 "professional employer organization" have the same meanings as in RCW
21 82.04.540;

22 (3) "Buyer," "purchaser," and "consumer" include, without
23 limiting the scope hereof, every individual, receiver, assignee,
24 trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, copartnership, joint
25 venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust,
26 corporation, association, society, or any group of individuals acting
27 as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, nonprofit, or
28 otherwise, municipal corporation, quasi municipal corporation, and
29 also the state, its departments and institutions and all political
30 subdivisions thereof, irrespective of the nature of the activities
31 engaged in or functions performed, and also the United States or any
32 instrumentality thereof;

33 (4) "Delivery charges" means charges by the seller of personal
34 property or services for preparation and delivery to a location
35 designated by the purchaser of personal property or services
36 including, but not limited to, transportation, shipping, postage,
37 handling, crating, and packing;

38 (5) "Direct mail" means printed material delivered or distributed
39 by United States mail or other delivery service to a mass audience or
40 to addressees on a mailing list provided by the purchaser or at the

1 direction of the purchaser when the cost of the items are not billed
2 directly to the recipients. "Direct mail" includes tangible personal
3 property supplied directly or indirectly by the purchaser to the
4 direct mail seller for inclusion in the package containing the
5 printed material. "Direct mail" does not include multiple items of
6 printed material delivered to a single address;

7 (6) The meaning attributed in chapter 82.04 RCW to the terms "tax
8 year," "taxable year," "person," "company," "sale," "sale at
9 wholesale," "wholesale," "business," "engaging in business," "cash
10 discount," "successor," "consumer," "in this state," "within this
11 state," "marijuana," "useable marijuana," and "marijuana-infused
12 products" applies equally to the provisions of this chapter;

13 (7) For the purposes of the taxes imposed under this chapter and
14 under chapter 82.12 RCW, "tangible personal property" means personal
15 property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or touched, or
16 that is in any other manner perceptible to the senses. Tangible
17 personal property includes electricity, water, gas, steam, and
18 prewritten computer software;

19 (8) "Extended warranty" has the same meaning as in RCW
20 82.04.050(7);

21 (9) The definitions in RCW 82.04.192 apply to this chapter;

22 (10) For the purposes of the taxes imposed under this chapter and
23 chapter 82.12 RCW, whenever the terms "property" or "personal
24 property" are used, those terms must be construed to include digital
25 goods and digital codes unless:

26 (a) It is clear from the context that the term "personal
27 property" is intended only to refer to tangible personal property;

28 (b) It is clear from the context that the term "property" is
29 intended only to refer to tangible personal property, real property,
30 or both; or

31 (c) To construe the term "property" or "personal property" as
32 including digital goods and digital codes would yield unlikely,
33 absurd, or strained consequences; and

34 (11) "Retail sale" or "sale at retail" means any sale, lease, or
35 rental for any purpose other than for resale, sublease, or subrent.

36 (12) The terms "agriculture," "farming," "horticulture,"
37 "horticultural," and "horticultural product" may not be construed to
38 include or relate to marijuana, useable marijuana, or marijuana-
39 infused products unless the applicable term is explicitly defined to
40 include marijuana, useable marijuana, or marijuana-infused products.

1 (13)(a) "Affiliated person" means a person that, with respect to
2 another person:

3 (i) Has an ownership interest of more than five percent, whether
4 direct or indirect, in the other person; or

5 (ii) Is related to the other person because a third person, or
6 group of third persons who are affiliated persons with respect to
7 each other, holds an ownership interest of more than five percent,
8 whether direct or indirect, in the related persons.

9 (b) For purposes of this subsection (13):

10 (i) "Ownership interest" means the possession of equity in the
11 capital, the stock, or the profits of the other person; and

12 (ii) An indirect ownership interest in a person is an ownership
13 interest in an entity that has an ownership interest in the person or
14 in an entity that has an indirect ownership interest in the person.

15 (14) "Marketplace" means a physical or electronic place,
16 including, but not limited to, a store, a booth, an internet web
17 site, a catalog or a dedicated sales software application, where
18 tangible personal property, digital codes and digital products, or
19 services are offered for sale.

20 (15)(a) "Marketplace facilitator" means a person that:

21 (i) Contracts with sellers to facilitate for consideration,
22 regardless of whether deducted as fees from the transaction, the sale
23 of the seller's products through a marketplace owned or operated by
24 the person;

25 (ii) Engages directly or indirectly, through one or more
26 affiliated persons, in transmitting or otherwise communicating the
27 offer or acceptance between the buyer and seller. For purposes of
28 this subsection, mere advertising does not constitute transmitting or
29 otherwise communicating the offer or acceptance between the buyer and
30 seller; and

31 (iii) Engages directly or indirectly, through one or more
32 affiliated persons, in any of the following activities with respect
33 to the seller's products:

34 (A) Payment processing services;

35 (B) Fulfillment or storage services;

36 (C) Listing products for sale;

37 (D) Setting prices;

38 (E) Branding sales as those of the marketplace facilitator;

39 (F) Taking orders; or

1 (G) Providing customer service or accepting or assisting with
2 returns or exchanges.

3 (b) (i) "Marketplace facilitator" does not include:

4 (A) A person who provides internet advertising services,
5 including listing products for sale, so long as the person does not
6 also engage in the activity described in (a) (ii) of this subsection
7 (15) in addition to any of the activities described in (a) (iii) of
8 this subsection (15); or

9 (B) A person with respect to the provision of travel agency
10 services or the operation of a marketplace or that portion of a
11 marketplace that enables consumers to purchase transient lodging
12 accommodations in a hotel or other commercial transient lodging
13 facility.

14 (ii) The exclusion in this subsection (15) (b) does not apply to a
15 marketplace or that portion of a marketplace that facilitates the
16 retail sale of transient lodging accommodations in homes, apartments,
17 cabins, or other residential dwelling units.

18 (iii) For purposes of this subsection (15) (b), the following
19 definitions apply:

20 (A) "Hotel" has the same meaning as in RCW 19.48.010.

21 (B) "Travel agency services" means arranging or booking, for a
22 commission, fee or other consideration, vacation or travel packages,
23 rental car or other travel reservations or accommodations, tickets
24 for domestic or foreign travel by air, rail, ship, bus, or other
25 medium of transportation, or hotel or other lodging accommodations.

26 (16) "Marketplace seller" means a seller that makes retail sales
27 through any marketplace operated by a marketplace facilitator,
28 regardless of whether the seller is required to be registered with
29 the department under RCW 82.32.030.

30 (17) "Remote seller" means any seller, including a marketplace
31 facilitator, who does not have a physical presence in this state and
32 makes retail sales to purchasers or facilitates retail sales on
33 behalf of marketplace sellers.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
35 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
36 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
37 effect immediately.

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