NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) An owner, contractor, or subcontractor may withhold as retainage an amount equal to not more than five percent of the contract price of the work completed for private construction projects. Partial payment allowed under this subsection is not acceptance or approval of some of the work or a waiver of defects in the work.

(2) The owner, contractor, or subcontractor shall pay interest at the rate of one percent per month on the final payment due the contractor or subcontractor. The interest shall commence 30 days after the contractor or subcontractor has completed and the owner has accepted the work under the contract for construction for which the final payment is due. The interest shall run until the date when final payment is tendered to the contractor or subcontractor.

(3) When the contractor or subcontractor considers the work that the contractor or subcontractor is contracted to perform to be complete, the contractor or subcontractor shall notify the party to whom the contractor or subcontractor is responsible for performing the construction work under the contract.

(4) The party shall, within 15 days after receiving the notice, either accept the work or notify the contractor or subcontractor of work yet to be performed under the contract or subcontract. If the party does not accept the work or does not notify the contractor or subcontractor of work yet to be performed within the time allowed, the interest required under this subsection shall commence 30 days after the end of the 15-day period. A contractor may provide notice under this subsection to an owner or upper-tier contractor for release of retainage due to a subcontractor whose work is complete. If an owner or upper-tier contractor does not accept the subcontractor's work or does not notify the contractor of work yet to be performed by the subcontractor within 15 days after receiving the
notice, the interest required under this section shall commence 30
days after the end of the 15-day period. A contractor's obligation to
pay interest to a subcontractor under this section does not begin
until the contractor has received payment for the subcontractor's
retainage provided that the contractor has submitted the
subcontractor's retainage request to the owner or upper-tier
contractor within 30 days after receipt from the subcontractor.

(5) This section does not apply to single-family residential
construction less than 12 units.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) In lieu of retainage, a subcontractor
or contractor may tender, and a contractor or owner must accept, a
retainage bond in an amount not to exceed five percent of the moneys
earned by the subcontractor or contractor.

(2) A subcontractor or contractor must provide a good and
sufficient bond from an authorized surety company, conditioned that
such person or persons must:

(a) Faithfully perform all the provisions of such contract;
(b) Pay all laborers, mechanics, and subcontractors and material
suppliers, and all persons who supply such person or persons, or
subcontractors, with provisions and supplies for the carrying on of
such work; and
(c) Pay the taxes, increases, and penalties incurred on the
project.

(3) The contractor or owner may require that the authorized
surety have a minimum A.M. Best financial strength rating so long as
that minimum rating does not exceed A-. The contractor may withhold
the subcontractor's portion of the bond premium, to the extent the
contractor provides a retainage bond to obtain a release of the
subcontractor's retainage.

(4) The contractor or owner must accept a bond meeting the
requirements of this section. The subcontractor or contractor's bond
and any proceeds therefrom are subject to all claims and liens and in
the same manner and priority as set forth for retained percentages in
the contract and other applicable provisions.

(5) Whenever an owner accepts a bond in lieu of retained funds
from a contractor, the contractor must accept like bonds from any
subcontractors or suppliers from which the contractor has retained
funds. The contractor must then release the funds retained from the
subcontractor or supplier to the subcontractor or supplier within 30
days of accepting the bond from the subcontractor or supplier.
(6) This section does not apply to single-family residential
construction less than 12 units.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this act only apply to
private construction projects and do not apply to public improvement
contracts, as defined in RCW 60.28.011.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Sections 1 through 3 of this act
constitute a new chapter in Title 60 RCW."

Correct the title.

EFFECT: Allows general contractors, in addition to subcontractors
as provided in the underlying bill, to submit retainage bonds in lieu
of retainage. Aligns references to owners, contractors, and
subcontractors in provisions pertaining to retainage bonds. Provides
that the contractor may withhold the subcontractor's portion of the
bond premium to the extent the contractor provides a retainage bond
to obtain a release of the subcontractor's retainage. Specifies that
a bond is subject to the claims and liens in a manner set forth in
the applicable contract (rather than the new chapter created in the
bill). Adds subsection numbering and removes superfluous language.

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