SENATE BILL 6248

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session

By Senators Robinson, Nguyen, Nobles, Saldaña, and Trudeau; by request of Department of Revenue

Read first time 01/16/24. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

- AN ACT Relating to modifying the capital gains tax under chapter 1 2 82.87 RCW and related statutes by closing loopholes, repealing and 3 replacing the business and occupation tax credit with a capital gains 4 tax credit, clarifying ambiguities and making technical corrections 5 in a manner that is not estimated to affect state or local tax and domestic 6 collections, treating spouses partners 7 consistently, modifying and adding definitions, creating a good faith 8 penalty waiver, and modifying the publication schedule for inflation 9 82.04.4497, 82.87.020, 82.87.040, adjustments; amending RCW 82.87.050, 82.87.070, 82.87.080, 82.87.110, 82.87.120, 82.87.150, 10 82.32.060, 82.32.090, and 82.32.105; reenacting and amending RCW 11 12 82.32.050; adding a new section to chapter 82.87 RCW; providing an 13 effective date; and providing an expiration date.
- 14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 15 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.04.4497 and 2021 c 196 s 16 are each amended to 16 read as follows:
- 17 (1) To avoid taxing the same sale or exchange under both the 18 business and occupation tax and capital gains tax, a credit is 19 allowed against taxes due under this chapter on a sale or exchange 20 that is also subject to the tax imposed under RCW 82.87.040. The

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credit is equal to the amount of tax imposed under this chapter on such sale or exchange.

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- 3 (2) The credit may be used against any tax due under this 4 chapter.
 - (3) The credit under this section is earned in regards to a sale or exchange, and may be claimed against taxes due under this chapter, for the tax reporting period in which the sale or exchange occurred. The credit claimed for a tax reporting period may not exceed the tax otherwise due under this chapter for that tax reporting period. Unused credit may not be carried forward or backward to another tax reporting period. No refunds may be granted for unused credit under this section.
 - (4) ((The department must apply the credit first to taxes deposited into the general fund.)) If ((any remaining)) the credit reduces the amount of taxes deposited into the workforce education investment account established in RCW 43.79.195, the department must ((notify the state treasurer of such amounts monthly, and the state treasurer must)) transfer ((those)) an equal amount((s)) from the general fund to the workforce education investment account.
- 20 <u>(5)(a) The expiration of this section provided in subsection (6)</u> 21 of this section does not affect:
 - (i) A taxpayer's liability for tax, penalty, or interest;
- 23 <u>(ii) A taxpayer's ability to claim a credit under this section</u>
 24 <u>earned from sales or exchanges that occurred prior to the expiration</u>
 25 <u>of this section; or</u>
- 26 <u>(iii) A taxpayer's ability to claim relief from tax, penalty, or</u> 27 <u>interest.</u>
- 28 (b) For purposes of this subsection (5), "liability for tax"
 29 means that the obligation for payment of a tax has been incurred by a
 30 taxpayer, regardless of when the tax is payable or whether the amount
 31 of tax due has been established.
- 32 (6) This section expires January 1, 2025.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 82.87 RCW to read as follows:
- 35 (1) Beginning in tax year 2025 with taxes due in 2026, to avoid 36 taxing the same sale or exchange under both the business and 37 occupation tax and capital gains tax, a nonrefundable credit is 38 allowed against taxes due under this chapter on a sale or exchange 39 that is also subject to the tax imposed under chapter 82.04 RCW. The

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credit is equal to the amount of tax imposed under chapter 82.04 RCW on such sale or exchange.

- (2) The credit under this section is earned in regards to a sale or exchange, and may be claimed against taxes due under this chapter, for the tax reporting period in which the sale or exchange occurred. The credit claimed for a tax reporting period may not exceed the tax otherwise due under this chapter for that tax reporting period. Unused credit may not be carried forward or backward to another tax reporting period. No refunds may be granted for unused credit under this section.
- (3) (a) By the last working day in March, June, September, and December of each fiscal year, the state treasurer must transfer from the general fund to the education legacy trust account created in RCW 83.100.230 and the common school construction fund, as applicable, an amount equal to the reduction in capital gains taxes due to this section, as determined by the department under (b) of this subsection (3). Moneys transferred from the general fund pursuant to this subsection (3)(a) must be distributed as provided in RCW 82.87.030 as if they were taxes collected under this chapter.
- (b)(i) The department must notify the state treasurer of the amounts required to be transferred as provided in (a) of this subsection (3) no later than two weeks before the deadline for such transfers or such other date as may be mutually agreed to by the department and the state treasurer.
- (ii) If the department determines, at any time, that a previous transfer amount determined under this subsection (3)(b) was overstated or understated for any reason, including an error in calculation by the department or a reporting error by the taxpayer, the department must adjust its calculation of the current amount to be transferred by an amount necessary to offset the previous overstatement or understatement.
- (iii) No person may contest the department's determination under this subsection (3)(b) in any court more than 15 days after the department furnishes notice of such determination to the state treasurer. Any action contesting the department's determination must be made through a petition for judicial review pursuant to the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and may only be filed in Thurston county. The person seeking judicial review is not required to exhaust any available administrative remedies.

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- 1 (c) For purposes of this subsection (3), "reduction in capital gains taxes due to this section" means the reduction in taxes collected under this chapter due to the nonrefundable credit in this section, where such amounts have not already been offset by the transfer required by (a) of this subsection (3).
- 6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.87.020 and 2021 c 196 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:
- 8 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter 9 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 10 (1) "Adjusted capital gain" means federal net long-term capital 11 gain:

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- (a) Plus any amount of long-term capital loss from a sale or exchange that is exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter, to the extent such loss was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain;
- (b) Plus any amount of long-term capital loss from a sale or exchange that is not allocated to Washington under RCW 82.87.100, to the extent such loss was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain;
- (c) Plus any amount of <u>long-term capital</u> loss ((carryforward)) carryover that is carried forward from a sale or exchange that is not allocated to Washington under RCW 82.87.100, to the extent such loss was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain;
- (d) Plus any amount of long-term capital loss carryover that is carried forward from a sale or exchange that is exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter, to the extent such loss was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain;
- (e) Plus any amount of long-term capital loss carryover that is carried forward from a sale or exchange that occurred prior to January 1, 2022, to the extent such loss was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain;
 - (f) Less any amount of long-term capital gain from a sale or exchange that is not allocated to Washington under RCW 82.87.100, to the extent such gain was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain; and
- $((\frac{(e)}{(e)}))$ (g) Less any amount of long-term capital gain from a sale or exchange that is exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter, to the extent such gain was included in calculating federal net long-term capital gain.

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- 1 (2) "Capital asset" has the same meaning as provided by Title 26
 2 U.S.C. Sec. 1221 of the internal revenue code and also includes any
 3 other property if the sale or exchange of the property results in a
 4 gain that is treated as a long-term capital gain under Title 26
 5 U.S.C. Sec. 1231 or any other provision of the internal revenue code.
 - (3) "Federal net long-term capital gain" means the net long-term capital gain reportable for federal income tax purposes determined as if Title 26 U.S.C. Secs. 55 through 59, 1400Z-1, and 1400Z-2 of the internal revenue code did not exist.
 - (4) "Individual" means a natural person.

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- 11 (5) "Intangible personal property" means personal property that 12 is not tangible personal property.
- 13 <u>(6)</u> "Internal revenue code" means the United States internal 14 revenue code of 1986, as amended, as of July 25, 2021, or such 15 subsequent date as the department may provide by rule consistent with 16 the purpose of this chapter.
- 17 $((\frac{(+6)}{(+6)}))$ "Long-term capital asset" means a capital asset that 18 is held for more than one year.
- 19 $((\frac{(7)}{(7)}))$ <u>(8)</u> "Long-term capital gain" means gain from the sale or 20 exchange of a long-term capital asset.
- 21 $((\frac{(8)}{)})$ "Long-term capital loss" means a loss from the sale 22 or exchange of a long-term capital asset.
- (((9))) <u>(10)</u> "Real estate" means land and fixtures affixed to land. "Real estate" also includes used mobile homes, used park model trailers, used floating homes, and improvements constructed upon leased land.
 - $((\frac{10}{10}))$ (11)(a) "Resident" means an individual:
 - (i) Who is domiciled in this state during the taxable year, unless the individual (A) maintained no permanent place of abode in this state during the entire taxable year, (B) maintained a permanent place of abode outside of this state during the entire taxable year, and (C) spent in the aggregate not more than 30 days of the taxable year in this state; or
 - (ii) Who is not domiciled in this state during the taxable year, but maintained a place of abode and was physically present in this state for more than 183 days during the taxable year.
- 37 (b) For purposes of this subsection, "day" means a calendar day 38 or any portion of a calendar day.
- 39 (c) An individual who is a resident under (a) of this subsection 40 is a resident for that portion of a taxable year in which the

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- 1 individual was domiciled in this state or maintained a place of abode 2 in this state.
- 3 (((11))) (12) "Tangible personal property" means personal
 4 property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or touched.
 5 "Tangible personal property" does not include steam, electricity, or
 6 electrical energy.
- 7 (13) "Taxable year" means the taxpayer's taxable year as 8 determined under the internal revenue code.
- $((\frac{(12)}{(12)}))$ "Taxpayer" means an individual subject to tax under this chapter.
- $((\frac{(13)}{(15)}))$ <u>(15)</u> "Washington capital gains" means an individual's adjusted capital gain, as modified in RCW 82.87.060, for each return filed under this chapter.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.87.040 and 2021 c 196 s 5 are each amended to 15 read as follows:

- (1) Beginning January 1, 2022, an excise tax is imposed on the sale or exchange of long-term capital assets. Only individuals are subject to payment of the tax, which equals seven percent multiplied by an individual's Washington capital gains.
- 20 (2) The tax levied in subsection (1) of this section is necessary 21 for the support of the state government and its existing public 22 institutions.
 - (3) If an individual's Washington capital gains are less than zero for a taxable year, no tax is due under this section and no such amount is allowed as a carryover for use in the calculation of that individual's adjusted capital gain, as defined in RCW 82.87.020(1), for any taxable year. To the extent that a loss carryforward is included in the calculation of an individual's federal net long-term capital gain and that loss carryforward is directly attributable to losses from sales or exchanges allocated to this state under RCW 82.87.100, the loss carryforward is included in the calculation of that individual's adjusted capital gain for the purposes of this chapter. An individual may not include any losses carried back for federal income tax purposes in the calculation of that individual's adjusted capital gain for any taxable year.
 - (4)(a) The tax imposed in this section applies to the sale or exchange of long-term capital assets owned by the taxpayer, whether the taxpayer was the legal or beneficial owner of such assets at the time of the sale or exchange. The tax applies when the Washington

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- capital gains are recognized by the taxpayer in accordance with this chapter.
 - (b) For purposes of this chapter:

- (i) An individual is considered to be a beneficial owner of long-term capital assets held by an entity that is a pass-through or disregarded entity for federal tax purposes, such as a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, or grantor trust, to the extent of the individual's ownership interest in the entity as reported for federal income tax purposes.
- (ii) A nongrantor trust is deemed to be a grantor trust if the trust does not qualify as a grantor trust for federal tax purposes, and the grantor's transfer of assets to the trust is treated as an incomplete gift under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2511 of the internal revenue code and its accompanying regulations. A grantor of such trust is considered the beneficial owner of the capital assets of the trust for purposes of the tax imposed in this section and must include any long-term capital gain or loss from the sale or exchange of a capital asset by the trust in the calculation of that individual's adjusted capital gain, if such gain or loss is allocated to this state under RCW 82.87.100.
- (iii) Section 1256 contracts that are treated as sold pursuant to Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1256(a) of the internal revenue code are considered sold for the purposes of the tax imposed in this chapter. Any long-term capital gain or loss from such sale, as determined by Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1256(a)(3), is included in the calculation of the individual's adjusted capital gain to the extent such gain or loss is included in calculating the individual's federal net long-term capital gain. For the purposes of this subsection, "section 1256 contracts" has the same meaning as provided by Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1256 of the internal revenue code.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 82.87.050 and 2021 c 196 s 6 are each amended to 32 read as follows:

This chapter does not apply to the sale or exchange of:

- (1) All real estate transferred by deed, real estate contract, judgment, or other lawful instruments that transfer title to real property and are filed as a public record with the counties where real property is located;
- 38 (2)(a) An interest in a privately held entity only to the extent 39 that any long-term capital gain or loss from such sale or exchange is

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1 directly attributable to the real estate owned directly by such 2 entity.

- (b)(i) Except as provided in (b)(ii) and (iii) of this subsection, the value of the exemption under this subsection is equal to the fair market value of the real estate owned directly by the entity less its basis, at the time that the sale or exchange of the individual's interest occurs, multiplied by the percentage of the ownership interest in the entity which is sold or exchanged by the individual.
- (ii) If a sale or exchange of an interest in an entity results in an amount directly attributable to real property and that is considered as an amount realized from the sale or exchange of property other than a capital asset under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 751 of the internal revenue code, such amount must not be considered in the calculation of an individual's exemption amount under (b)(i) of this subsection (2).
- (iii) Real estate not owned directly by the entity in which an individual is selling or exchanging the individual's interest must not be considered in the calculation of an individual's exemption amount under (b)(i) of this subsection (2).
- (c) Fair market value of real estate may be established by a fair market appraisal of the real estate or an allocation of assets by the seller and the buyer made under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1060 of the internal revenue code, as amended. However, the department is not bound by the parties' agreement as to the allocation of assets, allocation of consideration, or fair market value, if such allocations or fair market value do not reflect the fair market value of the real estate. The assessed value of the real estate for property tax purposes may be used to determine the fair market value of the real estate, if the assessed value is current as of the date of the sale or exchange of the ownership interest in the entity owning the real estate and the department determines that this method is reasonable under the circumstances.
- (d) The value of the exemption under this subsection (2) may not exceed the individual's long-term capital gain or loss from the sale or exchange of an interest in an entity for which the individual is claiming this exemption;
- (3) Assets held under a retirement savings account under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 401(k) of the internal revenue code, a tax-sheltered annuity or custodial account described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 403(b)

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- of the internal revenue code, a deferred compensation plan under 1 Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 457(b) of the internal revenue code, an 2 individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity 3 described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 408 of the internal revenue code, a 4 Roth individual retirement account described in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 5 6 408A of the internal revenue code, an employee defined contribution 7 program, an employee defined benefit plan, or a similar retirement savings vehicle, whether foreign or domestic, that penalizes 8 withdrawals until the legal or beneficial owner reaches a certain 9 10 age;
 - (4) Assets pursuant to, or under imminent threat of, condemnation proceedings by the United States, the state or any of its political subdivisions, or a municipal corporation;
 - (5) Cattle, horses, or breeding livestock if for the taxable year of the sale or exchange, more than 50 percent of the taxpayer's gross income for the taxable year, including from the sale or exchange of capital assets, is from farming or ranching;
 - (6) Property ((depreciable)) depreciated under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 167(a)(1) of the internal revenue code, or ((that qualifies for expensing)) expensed under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 179 of the internal revenue code;
 - (7) Timber, timberland, or the receipt of Washington capital gains as dividends and distributions from real estate investment trusts derived from gains from the sale or exchange of timber and timberland. "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, on privately or publicly owned land, and includes Christmas trees and short-rotation hardwoods. The sale or exchange of timber includes the cutting or disposal of timber qualifying for capital gains treatment under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 631(a) or (b) of the internal revenue code;
 - (8) (a) Commercial fishing privileges.

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- (b) For the purposes of this subsection (8), "commercial fishing privilege" means a right, held by a seafood harvester or processor, to participate in a limited access fishery. "Commercial fishing privilege" includes and is limited to:
- (i) In the case of federally managed fisheries, quota and access to fisheries assigned pursuant to individual fishing quota programs, limited entry and catch share programs, cooperative fishing management agreements, or similar arrangements; and

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- 1 (ii) In the case of state-managed fisheries, quota and access to 2 fisheries assigned under fishery permits, limited entry and catch 3 share programs, or similar arrangements; and
- 4 (9) Goodwill received from the sale of an auto dealership 5 licensed under chapter 46.70 RCW whose activities are subject to 6 chapter 46.96 RCW.
- 7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.87.070 and 2021 c 196 s 8 are each amended to 8 read as follows:

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- (1) In computing tax under this chapter for a taxable year, a taxpayer may deduct from his or her Washington capital gains the amount of adjusted capital gain derived in the taxable year from the sale of substantially all of the fair market value of the assets of, or the transfer of substantially all of the taxpayer's interest in, a qualified family-owned small business, to the extent that such adjusted capital gain would otherwise be included in the taxpayer's Washington capital gains.
- (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
- 19 (a) "Assets" means real property and personal property, including 20 tangible personal property and intangible property.
- 21 (b) "Family" means the same as "member of the family" in RCW 22 83.100.046.
 - (c)(i) "Materially participated" means an individual was involved in the operation of a business on a basis that is regular, continuous, and substantial.
 - (ii) The term "materially participated" must be interpreted consistently with the applicable treasury regulations for Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 469 of the internal revenue code, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with any provision of this section.
 - (d) "Qualified family-owned small business" means a business:
 - (i) In which the taxpayer held a qualifying interest for at least five years immediately preceding the sale or transfer described in subsection (1) of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, the calculation of an individual's holding period for a qualifying interest is not reset in the event that a business either changes its entity type or makes a nonmaterial change, or both;
- (ii) In which either the taxpayer or members of the taxpayer's family, or both, materially participated in operating the business for at least five of the 10 years immediately preceding the sale or

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- transfer described in subsection (1) of this section, unless such sale or transfer was to a qualified heir; and
 - (iii) That had worldwide gross revenue of \$10,000,000 or less in the 12-month period immediately preceding the sale or transfer described in subsection (1) of this section. The worldwide gross revenue amount under this subsection (2)(d)(iii) shall be adjusted annually as provided in RCW 82.87.150.
 - (e) "Qualified heir" means a member of the taxpayer's family.
 - (f) "Qualifying interest" means:

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- 10 (i) An interest as a proprietor in a business carried on as a 11 sole proprietorship; or
 - (ii) An interest in a business if at least:
- 13 (A) Fifty percent of the business is owned, directly or 14 indirectly, by any combination of the taxpayer or members of the 15 taxpayer's family, or both;
- 16 (B) Thirty percent of the business is owned, directly or 17 indirectly, by any combination of the taxpayer or members of the 18 taxpayer's family, or both, and at least:
- 19 (I) Seventy percent of the business is owned, directly or 20 indirectly, by members of two families; or
- 21 (II) Ninety percent of the business is owned, directly or 22 indirectly, by members of three families.
 - (g) "Substantially all" means at least 90 percent.
- 24 **Sec. 7.** RCW 82.87.080 and 2021 c 196 s 9 are each amended to 25 read as follows:
 - (1) In computing tax under this chapter for a taxable year, a taxpayer may deduct from ((his or her)) the person's Washington capital gains the amount donated by the taxpayer to one or more qualified organizations during the same taxable year in excess of the minimum qualifying charitable donation amount. For the purposes of this section, the minimum qualifying charitable donation amount equals \$250,000. The minimum qualifying charitable donation amount under this subsection (1) shall be adjusted pursuant to RCW 82.87.150.
- 35 (2) The deduction authorized under subsection (1) of this section 36 may not exceed \$100,000 for the taxable year. The maximum amount of 37 the available deduction under this subsection (2) shall be adjusted 38 pursuant to RCW 82.87.150.

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- 1 (3) The deduction authorized under subsection (1) of this section 2 may not be carried forward or backward to another tax reporting 3 period.
- 4 (4) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions 5 apply:
- 6 (a) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from 7 tax under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue 8 code.
- 9 (b) "Principally directed or managed" means the place where a
 10 qualified organization's officers direct, control, and coordinate the
 11 qualified organization's activities.
- 12 <u>(c)</u> "Qualified organization" means a nonprofit organization, or 13 any other organization, that is:
- (i) Eligible to receive a charitable ((deduction)) contribution as defined in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 170(c) of the internal revenue code; and
- 17 (ii) Principally directed or managed within the state of 18 Washington.
- 19 **Sec. 8.** RCW 82.87.110 and 2021 c 196 s 12 are each amended to 20 read as follows:

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- (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section or RCW 82.32.080, taxpayers owing tax under this chapter must file, on forms prescribed by the department, a return with the department on or before the date the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year is required to be filed.
- (b)(i) Except as provided in (b)(ii) of this subsection (1), returns and all supporting documents must be filed electronically using the department's online tax filing service or other method of electronic reporting as the department may authorize.
- 30 (ii) The department may waive the electronic filing requirement 31 in this subsection for good cause as provided in RCW 82.32.080.
- 32 (2) ((In addition to the Washington return required to be filed under subsection (1) of this section, taxpayers)) (a) Taxpayers owing 33 tax under this chapter must ((file with the department on or before 34 the date the federal return is required to be filed)) include with 35 the Washington return described in subsection (1) of this section a 36 copy of ((the)) all federal income tax return ((along with all)) 37 forms, schedules, and supporting documentation, that are used in the 38 calculation of the individual's federal net long-term capital gain 39

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- and filed with the internal revenue service of the United States by
 either the taxpayer or another person, or both. In the event that
 document is filed with the internal revenue service of the United
 States by a person other than the individual, the individual is
 required to provide a copy of the filed document.
 - (b) A taxpayer must provide to the department, upon request, other federal tax return information needed to verify the tax owed under this chapter.

- (c) The department may prescribe additional filing requirements under (a) of this subsection (2) to substantiate an individual's federal net long-term capital gain.
 - (3) Each taxpayer required to file a return under this section must, without assessment, notice, or demand, pay any tax due thereon to the department on or before the date fixed for the filing of the return, regardless of any filing extension. The tax must be paid by electronic funds transfer as defined in RCW 82.32.085 or by other forms of electronic payment as may be authorized by the department. The department may waive the electronic payment requirement for good cause as provided in RCW 82.32.080. If any tax due under this chapter is not paid by the due date, interest and penalties as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW apply to the deficiency.
 - (4) (a) In addition to the Washington return required to be filed under subsection (1) of this section, an individual claiming an exemption under RCW 82.87.050(2) must <u>file a return with the department</u>, including the documentation described in subsection (2) of this section, on or before the date the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the taxable year is required to be filed regardless of whether they owe tax under this chapter. Additionally, the individual must file documentation substantiating the following:
- (i) The fair market value and basis of the real estate held directly by the entity in which the interest was sold or exchanged;
- (ii) The percentage of the ownership interest sold or exchanged in the entity owning real estate; and
- (iii) The methodology, if any, established by the entity in which the interest was sold or exchanged, for allocating gains or losses to the owners, partners, or shareholders of the entity from the sale of real estate.
- (b) The department may by rule prescribe additional filing requirements to substantiate an individual's claim for an exemption under RCW 82.87.050(2). Prior to adopting any rule under this

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subsection (4)(b), the department must allow for an opportunity for participation by interested parties in the rule-making process in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

- (5) If a taxpayer has obtained an extension of time for filing the federal income tax return for the taxable year and the taxpayer provides the department, on or before the date fixed for the filing of the return, regardless of any filing extension, evidence satisfactory to the department confirming the federal extension, the taxpayer is entitled to the same extension of time for filing the return required under this section ((if the taxpayer provides the department, before the due date provided in subsection (1) of this section, the extension confirmation number or other evidence satisfactory to the department confirming the federal extension)). An extension under this subsection for the filing of a return under this chapter is not an extension of time to pay the tax due under this chapter.
- (6) (a) If any return due under subsection (1) of this section, along with a copy of the federal income tax return, is not filed with the department by the due date or any extension granted by the department, the department must assess a penalty in the amount of five percent of the tax due for the taxable year covered by the return for each month or portion of a month that the return remains unfiled. The total penalty assessed under this subsection may not exceed 25 percent of the tax due for the taxable year covered by the delinquent return. The penalty under this subsection is in addition to any penalties assessed for the late payment of any tax due on the return.
- 28 (b) The department must waive or cancel the penalty imposed under 29 this subsection if:
- 30 (i) The department is persuaded that the taxpayer's failure to 31 file the return by the due date was due to circumstances beyond the 32 taxpayer's control; or
- 33 (ii) The taxpayer has not been delinquent in filing any return 34 due under this section during the preceding five calendar years.
- **Sec. 9.** RCW 82.87.120 and 2021 c 196 s 13 are each amended to 36 read as follows:
- 37 (1) If the federal income tax liabilities of both spouses are 38 determined on a joint federal return for the taxable year, they must 39 file a joint return under this chapter.

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(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if the federal income tax liability of <u>any individual</u>, <u>including</u> either spouse <u>of a marital community</u>, is determined on a separate federal return for the taxable year, they must file separate returns under this chapter. State registered domestic partners may file a joint return under this chapter even if they filed separate federal returns for the taxable year.

- (3) The liability for tax due under this chapter of each spouse or state registered domestic partner is joint and several, unless:
- (a) The spouse is relieved of liability for federal tax purposes as provided under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6015 of the internal revenue code; or
- (b) The department determines that the domestic partner qualifies for relief as provided by rule of the department. Such rule, to the extent possible without being inconsistent with this chapter, must follow Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6015.
- (4) (a) Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, individuals who are spouses or state registered domestic partners are not considered separate taxpayers for the purposes of this chapter regardless of whether they file a joint or separate return for the tax imposed under this chapter. The activities and assets of each spouse or state registered domestic partner are combined as if they were one individual for the purposes of determining the applicability of any threshold amounts, caps, deductions, credits, or any other amounts related to the activities or assets of an individual throughout this chapter.
- (b) (i) Except as provided in (b) (ii) of this subsection (4), when an individual does not file a joint return for the tax imposed under this chapter, both spouses or state registered domestic partners must allocate between themselves their respective share of the marital community's or domestic partnership's assets and activity. The allocation must be reported to the department on any returns required to be filed pursuant to this chapter in a manner prescribed by the department.
- (ii) If both spouses or state registered domestic partners cannot agree on an allocation of assets and activity as authorized under (b)(i) of this subsection (4), each spouse is limited to one-half of the total assets and activities of their marital community or domestic partnership.

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- 1 **Sec. 10.** RCW 82.87.150 and 2021 c 196 s 17 are each amended to read as follows:
- 3 (1) Beginning ((December 2023)) October 2024 and ((December)) October thereafter, the department must adjust the 4 applicable amounts by multiplying the current applicable amounts by 5 6 one plus the percentage by which the most current consumer price 7 index available on ((December)) October 1st of the current year exceeds the consumer price index for the prior 12-month period, and 8 rounding the result to the nearest \$1,000. If an adjustment under 9 subsection (1) would reduce the applicable amounts, the 10 11 department must not adjust the applicable amounts for use in the 12 following year. The department must publish the adjusted applicable amounts on its public website by ((December)) October 31st. The 13 adjusted applicable amounts calculated under this subsection (1) take 14 effect for taxes due and distributions made, as the case may be, in 15 16 the following calendar year.
- 17 (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions 18 apply:
- 19 (a) "Applicable amounts" means:

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- 20 (i) The distribution amount to the education legacy trust account 21 as provided in RCW 82.87.030(1)(a);
- 22 (ii) The standard deduction amount in RCW ((82.87.020(13) and))23 82.87.060(1);
- 24 (iii) The worldwide gross revenue amount under RCW 82.87.070; 25 and
- 26 (iv) The minimum qualifying charitable donation amount and 27 maximum charitable donation amount under RCW 82.87.080.
 - (b) "Consumer price index" means the consumer price index for all urban consumers, all items, for the Seattle area as calculated by the United States bureau of labor statistics or its successor agency.
- 31 (c) "Seattle area" means the geographic area sample that includes 32 Seattle and surrounding areas.
- 33 **Sec. 11.** RCW 82.32.050 and 2022 c 282 s 2 and 2022 c 41 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 35 (1) If upon examination of any returns or from other information 36 obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been 37 paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against 38 the taxpayer such additional amount found to be due and shall add 39 thereto interest on the tax only. The department shall notify the

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taxpayer by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of the additional amount and the additional amount shall become due and shall be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

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- (a) For tax liabilities arising before January 1, 1992, interest shall be computed at the rate of nine percent per annum from the last day of the year in which the deficiency is incurred until the earlier of December 31, 1998, or the date of payment. After December 31, 1998, the rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.
- (b) For tax liabilities arising after December 31, 1991, the rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section from the last day of the year in which the deficiency is incurred until the date of payment. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.
- (c) (i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (1)(c), interest imposed after December 31, 1998, shall be computed from the last day of the month following each calendar year included in a notice, and the last day of the month following the final month included in a notice if not the end of a calendar year, until the due date of the notice.
- (ii) For interest associated with annual tax reporting periods having a due date as prescribed in RCW 82.32.045(3) and 82.87.110, interest must be computed from the last day of April immediately following each such annual reporting period included in the notice, until the due date of the notice.
- 30 (iii) For purposes of computing interest under (c)(i) and (ii) of 31 this subsection (1):
- 32 (A) The same computation of interest applies regardless of 33 whether the department grants additional time for filing any return 34 under RCW 82.32.080(4)(a)(i).
- 35 (B) If the department extends a due date under subsection (3) of 36 this section or RCW 82.32.080(4)(b), and payment is not made in full 37 by the extended due date, interest is computed from the last day of 38 the month in which the extended due date occurs until the date of 39 payment.

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(iv) If payment in full is not made by the due date of the notice, additional interest shall be computed under this subsection (1)(c) until the date of payment. The rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.

- (2) For the purposes of this section, the rate of interest to be charged to the taxpayer shall be an average of the federal short-term rate as defined in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1274(d) plus two percentage points. The rate set for each new year shall be computed by taking an arithmetical average to the nearest percentage point of the federal short-term rate, compounded annually. That average shall be calculated using the rates from four months: January, April, and July of the calendar year immediately preceding the new year, and October of the previous preceding year.
- (3) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the due date of any assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest as the department deems proper.
- (4) No assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest due may be made by the department more than four years after the close of the tax year, except (a) against a taxpayer who has not registered as required by this chapter, (b) upon a showing of fraud or of misrepresentation of a material fact by the taxpayer, or (c) where a taxpayer has executed a written waiver of such limitation. The execution of a written waiver shall also extend the period for making a refund or credit as provided in RCW 82.32.060(2).
- 30 (5) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions 31 apply:
 - (a) "Due date of the notice" means the date indicated in the notice by which the amount due in the notice must be paid, or such later date as provided by RCW 1.12.070(3).
 - (b) "Return" means any document a person is required by the state of Washington to file to satisfy or establish a tax or fee obligation that is administered or collected by the department and that has a statutorily defined due date. "Return" also means an application for refund under RCW 82.08.0206.

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Sec. 12. RCW 82.32.060 and 2020 c 139 s 61 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) If, upon receipt of an application by a taxpayer for a refund or for an audit of the taxpayer's records, or upon an examination of the returns or records of any taxpayer, it is determined by the department that within the statutory period for assessment of taxes, penalties, or interest prescribed by RCW 82.32.050 any amount of tax, penalty, or interest has been paid in excess of that properly due, the excess amount paid within, or attributable to, such period must be credited to the taxpayer's account or must be refunded to the taxpayer, at the taxpayer's option. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no refund or credit may be made for taxes, penalties, or interest paid more than four years prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which the refund application is made or examination of records is completed.
- (2) (a) The execution of a written waiver under RCW 82.32.050 or 82.32.100 will extend the time for making a refund or credit of any taxes paid during, or attributable to, the years covered by the waiver if, prior to the expiration of the waiver period, an application for refund of such taxes is made by the taxpayer or the department discovers a refund or credit is due.
- (b) A refund or credit must be allowed for an excess payment resulting from the failure to claim a bad debt deduction, credit, or refund under RCW 82.04.4284, 82.08.037, 82.12.037, 82.14B.150, or 82.16.050(5) for debts that became bad debts under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003, less than four years prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which the refund application is made or examination of records is completed.
- (3) Any such refunds must be made by means of vouchers approved by the department and by the issuance of state warrants drawn upon and payable from such funds as the legislature may provide. However, taxpayers who are required to pay taxes by electronic funds transfer under RCW 82.32.080 must have any refunds paid by electronic funds transfer if the department has the necessary account information to facilitate a refund by electronic funds transfer.
- (4) Any judgment for which a recovery is granted by any court of competent jurisdiction, not appealed from, for tax, penalties, and interest which were paid by the taxpayer, and costs, in a suit by any taxpayer must be paid in the same manner, as provided in subsection

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(3) of this section, upon the filing with the department of a certified copy of the order or judgment of the court.

- (a) Interest at the rate of three percent per annum must be allowed by the department and by any court on the amount of any refund, credit, or other recovery allowed to a taxpayer for taxes, penalties, or interest paid by the taxpayer before January 1, 1992. This rate of interest applies for all interest allowed through December 31, 1998. Interest allowed after December 31, 1998, must be computed at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed must be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.
- (b) For refunds or credits of amounts paid or other recovery allowed to a taxpayer after December 31, 1991, the rate of interest must be the rate as computed for assessments under RCW 82.32.050(2) less one percent. This rate of interest applies for all interest allowed through December 31, 1998. Interest allowed after December 31, 1998, must be computed at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed must be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.
- 21 (5) Interest allowed on a credit notice or refund issued after 22 December 31, 2003, must be computed as follows:
 - (a) If all overpayments for each calendar year and all reporting periods ending with the final month included in a notice or refund were made on or before the due date of the final return for each calendar year or the final reporting period included in the notice or refund:
 - (i) Interest must be computed from January 31st following each calendar year included in a notice or refund;
 - (ii) Interest must be computed from the last day of the month following the final month included in a notice or refund; or
 - (iii) For interest associated with annual tax reporting periods having a due date as prescribed in RCW 82.32.045(3) and 82.87.110, interest must be computed from the last day of April following each such annual reporting period included in a notice or refund.
 - (b) If the taxpayer has not made all overpayments for each calendar year and all reporting periods ending with the final month included in a notice or refund on or before the dates specified by RCW 82.32.045 for the final return for each calendar year or the final month included in the notice or refund, interest must be

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computed from the last day of the month following the date on which payment in full of the liabilities was made for each calendar year included in a notice or refund, and the last day of the month following the date on which payment in full of the liabilities was made if the final month included in a notice or refund is not the end of a calendar year.

- (c) Interest included in a credit notice must accrue up to the date the taxpayer could reasonably be expected to use the credit notice, as defined by the department's rules. If a credit notice is converted to a refund, interest must be recomputed to the date the refund is issued, but not to exceed the amount of interest that would have been allowed with the credit notice.
- **Sec. 13.** RCW 82.32.090 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 5 s 401 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) If payment of any tax due on a return to be filed by a taxpayer is not received by the department of revenue by the due date, there is assessed a penalty of nine percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received on or before the last day of the month following the due date, there is assessed a total penalty of ((nineteen)) 19 percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection; and if the tax is not received on or before the last day of the second month following the due date, there is assessed a total penalty of ((twenty-nine)) 29 percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection. No penalty so added may be less than ((five dollars)) §5.
 - substantially underpaid, there is assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax determined by the department to be due. If payment of any tax determined by the department to be due is not received by the department by the due date specified in the notice, or any extension thereof, there is assessed a total penalty of ((fifteen)) 15 percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection; and if payment of any tax determined by the department to be due is not received on or before the thirtieth day following the due date specified in the notice of tax due, or any extension thereof, there is assessed a total penalty of ((twenty-five)) 25 percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection. No penalty so added may be less than five dollars. As used in this section, "substantially underpaid" means that the taxpayer has paid less than

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((eighty)) 80 percent of the amount of tax determined by the department to be due for all of the types of taxes included in, and for the entire period of time covered by, the department's examination, and the amount of underpayment is at least ((one thousand dollars)) \$1,000.

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- (3) If a warrant is issued by the department of revenue for the collection of taxes, increases, and penalties, there is added thereto a penalty of ((ten)) 10 percent of the amount of the tax, but not less than ((ten dollars)) \$10.
- (4) If the department finds that a person has engaged in any business or performed any act upon which a tax is imposed under this title and that person has not obtained from the department a registration certificate as required by RCW 82.32.030, the department must impose a penalty of five percent of the amount of tax due from that person for the period that the person was not registered as required by RCW 82.32.030. The department may not impose the penalty under this subsection (4) if a person who has engaged in business taxable under this title without first having registered as required by RCW 82.32.030, prior to any notification by the department of the need to register, obtains a registration certificate from the department.
- (5) If the department finds that a taxpayer has disregarded specific written instructions as to reporting or tax liabilities, or willfully disregarded the requirement to file returns or remit payment electronically, as provided by RCW 82.32.080, the department must add a penalty of ((ten)) 10 percent of the amount of the tax that should have been reported and/or paid electronically or the additional tax found due if there is a deficiency because of the failure to follow the instructions. A taxpayer disregards specific written instructions when the department has informed the taxpayer in writing of the taxpayer's tax obligations and the taxpayer fails to act in accordance with those instructions unless, in the case of a deficiency, the department has not issued final instructions because the matter is under appeal pursuant to this chapter or departmental regulations. The department may not assess the penalty under this section upon any taxpayer who has made a good faith effort to comply with the specific written instructions provided by the department to that taxpayer. A taxpayer will be considered to have made a good faith effort to comply with specific written instructions to file returns and/or remit taxes electronically only if the taxpayer can

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show good cause, as defined in RCW 82.32.080, for the failure to 1 comply with such instructions. A taxpayer will be considered to have 2 willfully disregarded the requirement to file returns or remit 3 payment electronically if the department has mailed or otherwise 4 delivered the specific written instructions to the taxpayer on at 5 6 least two occasions. Specific written instructions may be given as a 7 part of a tax assessment, audit, determination, closing agreement, or other written communication, provided that such specific written 8 instructions apply only to the taxpayer addressed or referenced on 9 communication. Any specific written instructions 10 11 department must be clearly identified as such and must inform the 12 taxpayer that failure to follow the instructions may subject the taxpayer to the penalties imposed by this subsection. If the 13 department determines that it is necessary to provide specific 14 written instructions to a taxpayer that does not comply with the 15 16 requirement to file returns or remit payment electronically as 17 provided in RCW 82.32.080, the specific written instructions must 18 provide the taxpayer with a minimum of ((forty-five)) 45 days to come 19 into compliance with its electronic filing and/or payment obligations before the department may impose the penalty authorized in this 20 21 subsection.

(6) If the department finds that all or any part of a deficiency resulted from engaging in a disregarded transaction, as described in RCW 82.32.655(3), the department must assess a penalty of ((thirty-five)) 35 percent of the additional tax found to be due as a result of engaging in a transaction disregarded by the department under RCW 82.32.655(2). The penalty provided in this subsection may be assessed together with any other applicable penalties provided in this section on the same tax found to be due, except for the evasion penalty provided in subsection (7) of this section. The department may not assess the penalty under this subsection if, before the department discovers the taxpayer's use of a transaction described under RCW 82.32.655(3), the taxpayer discloses its participation in the transaction to the department.

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- (7) If the department finds that all or any part of the deficiency resulted from an intent to evade the tax payable hereunder, a further penalty of ((fifty)) 50 percent of the additional tax found to be due must be added.
- (8) The penalties imposed under subsections (1) through (4) of this section can each be imposed on the same tax found to be due.

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This subsection does not prohibit or restrict the application of other penalties authorized by law.

- (9) The department may not impose the evasion penalty in combination with the penalty for disregarding specific written instructions or the penalty provided in subsection (6) of this section on the same tax found to be due.
- (10) If an individual substantially underpays an estimated payment of tax imposed under RCW 82.87.040 pursuant to RCW 82.87.110(3), there is assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the actual tax due for tax imposed under RCW 82.87.040. As used in this section, "substantially underpaid" means that an individual's estimated payment for taxes imposed under RCW 82.87.040 was less than 80 percent of the actual tax due, and at least \$1,000.
- (11) For the purposes of this section, "return" means any document a person is required by the state of Washington to file to satisfy or establish a tax or fee obligation that is administered or collected by the department, and that has a statutorily defined due date. It also includes the submission of any estimated payment of tax as provided in RCW 82.87.110(3) and the confirmation of an extension of the filing due date required under RCW 82.87.110(5).
- **Sec. 14.** RCW 82.32.105 and 2023 c 374 s 13 are each amended to 22 read as follows:
 - (1) If the department finds that the payment by a taxpayer of a tax less than that properly due or the failure of a taxpayer to pay any tax by the due date was the result of circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer, the department must waive or cancel any penalties imposed under this chapter with respect to such tax.
 - (2) The department must waive or cancel the penalty imposed under RCW 82.32.090(1) when the circumstances under which the delinquency occurred do not qualify for waiver or cancellation under subsection (1) of this section if:
- 32 (a) The taxpayer requests the waiver for a tax return required to 33 be filed under RCW 54.28.040, 82.32.045, 82.14B.061, 82.23B.020, 34 82.29A.050, or 84.33.086; and
 - (b) The taxpayer has timely filed and remitted payment on all tax returns due for that tax program for a period of 24 months immediately preceding the period covered by the return for which the waiver is being requested.

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- 1 (3) (a) The department may waive or cancel the penalty imposed
 2 under RCW 82.32.090(1) when the circumstances under which the
 3 delinquency occurred do not qualify for waiver or cancellation under
 4 subsection (1) of this section if:
 - (i) The taxpayer requests the waiver for a tax return required to be filed under RCW 82.87.110; and

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- (ii) The taxpayer can show they have made a good faith effort to timely pay the tax due. The department may prescribe by rule the form and manner for a taxpayer to prove a good faith effort was made under this subsection (3)(a).
- 11 (b) The department may not waive or cancel a penalty under this
 12 subsection (3) if the department has previously waived or canceled a
 13 penalty for the taxpayer under this subsection (3) for any prior
 14 period.
- 15 <u>(4)</u> The department must waive or cancel interest imposed under 16 this chapter if:
 - (a) The failure to timely pay the tax was the direct result of written instructions given the taxpayer by the department; or
- 19 (b) The extension of a due date for payment of an assessment of 20 deficiency was not at the request of the taxpayer and was for the 21 sole convenience of the department.
- 22 (((4+))) (5) The department must adopt rules for the waiver or cancellation of penalties and interest imposed by this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 15. Sections 2, 3, and 9 of this act take effect January 1, 2025.

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