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SENATE BILL 5740

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By Senators Braun and Chapman

Read first time 02/13/25. Referred to Committee on Housing.

- AN ACT Relating to eviction reform and tenant safety; amending RCW 59.12.050, 59.18.050, 59.18.365, 59.18.370, 59.18.380, 59.18.640, 59.18.130, 59.18.180, 59.18.650, and 59.18.650; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.
- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that changes to the residential landlord-tenant act since 2018 have lengthened the amount 8 of time that it takes to complete an unlawful detainer action and 9 10 complicated the process for both landlords and tenants. 11 legislature further finds that these changes have restricted the 12 ability of both not-for-profit and for-profit housing providers to operate safe and functional rental housing. The legislature finds 13 that affordable housing communities are currently suffering the most 14 15 impact of the current regulatory regime, with many from the 16 affordable housing organizations questioning their ability to 17 continue to operate.
- 18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 59.12.050 and 1891 c 96 s 6 are each amended to read 19 as follows:

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(1) The superior court of the county in which the property or some part of it is situated shall have jurisdiction of proceedings under this chapter.

- (2) In each county, the superior court may appoint one or more attorneys to act as commissioners pursuant to this chapter to exercise all powers and perform all duties of a court commissioner appointed pursuant to RCW 2.24.010. A person appointed under this chapter as a court commissioner may also be appointed to any other commissioner position authorized by law. The county legislative authority must approve the creation of court commissioner positions pursuant to this chapter.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 59.18.050 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 207 s 5 are each 13 amended to read as follows:
 - (1) The district or superior courts of this state may exercise jurisdiction over any landlord or tenant with respect to any conduct in this state governed by this chapter or with respect to any claim arising from a transaction subject to this chapter within the respective jurisdictions of the district or superior courts as provided in Article IV, section 6 of the Constitution of the state of Washington.
 - (2) In each county, the superior court may appoint one or more attorneys to act as commissioners pursuant to this chapter to exercise all powers and perform all duties of a court commissioner appointed pursuant to RCW 2.24.010. A person appointed under this chapter as a court commissioner may also be appointed to any other commissioner position authorized by law. The county legislative authority must approve the creation of court commissioner positions pursuant to this chapter.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 59.18.365 and 2021 c 115 s 11 are each amended to 30 read as follows:
 - (1) The summons must contain the names of the parties to the proceeding, the attorney or attorneys if any, the court in which the same is brought, the nature of the action, in concise terms, and the relief sought, and also the return day; and must notify the defendant to appear and answer within the time designated or that the relief sought will be taken against him or her. The summons must contain a street address for service of the notice of appearance or answer and, if available, a facsimile number for the plaintiff or the plaintiff's

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attorney, if represented. The summons must be served and returned in 1 the same manner as a summons in other actions is served and returned. 2 3 (2) A defendant may serve a copy of an answer or notice of appearance by any of the following methods: 4 (a) By delivering a copy of the answer or notice of appearance to 5 6 the person who signed the summons at the street address listed on the 7 summons; (b) By mailing a copy of the answer or notice of appearance 8 addressed to the person who signed the summons to the street address 9 listed on the summons; 10 (c) By facsimile to the facsimile number listed on the summons. 11 12 Service by facsimile is complete upon successful transmission to the 13 facsimile number listed upon the summons; 14 (d) As otherwise authorized by the superior court civil rules. (3) The summons for unlawful detainer actions for tenancies 15 16 covered by this chapter shall be substantially in the following form: 17 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE 18 STATE OF WASHINGTON 19 IN AND FOR COUNTY 20 21 Plaintiff/ NO. 22 Landlord/ 23 Owner, 24 25 26 27 2.8 **EVICTION SUMMONS** VS. 29 (Residential) 30 Defendant/ 31 Tenant/ 32 Occupant. 33 THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT TO EVICT YOU. YOUR WRITTEN 34 35 RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED BY: 5:00 p.m., on 36 TO: (Defendant's Name) 37 (Defendant's Address)

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GET HELP: If you do not respond by the deadline above, you will lose your right to defend yourself or be represented by a lawyer if you cannot afford one in court and could be evicted. The court may be able to appoint a lawyer to represent you without cost to you if you are low-income and are unable to afford a lawyer. If you believe you are a qualifying low-income renter and would like an attorney appointed to represent you, please contact the Eviction Defense Screening Line at 855-657-8387 or apply online at https:// nwjustice.org/apply-online. For additional resources, you may call 2-1-1 or the Northwest Justice Project CLEAR Hotline outside King County (888) 201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., or (888) 387-7111 for seniors (age 60 and over). You may find additional information to help you at http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org. ((Free or low-cost mediation services to assist in nonpayment of rent disputes before any judicial proceedings occur are also available at dispute resolution centers throughout the state. You can find your nearest dispute resolution center at https://www.resolutionwa.org.))

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HOW TO RESPOND: Phone calls to your Landlord or your Landlord's lawyer are not a response. ((You may respond with a "notice of appearance.")) To defend against this lawsuit, you must respond to the complaint by stating your defense in writing and by serving a copy upon the person signing this summons. If you do not respond on or before the deadline stated above, a default judgment may be entered against you without notice. A default judgment is one where the plaintiff is entitled to what she or he asks for because you have not responded.

If you serve a notice of appearance on the undersigned person, you are entitled to notice before a default judgment may be entered. This is a letter that includes the following:

- (1) A statement that you are appearing in the court case
- (2) Names of the landlord(s) and the tenant(s) (as listed above)
- 32 (3) Your name, your address where legal documents may be sent, 33 your signature, phone number (if any), and case number (if the case 34 is filed)

WHERE TO RESPOND: You must mail, fax, or hand deliver your response letter to your Landlord's lawyer, or if no lawyer is named

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in the complaint, to your Landlord. If you mail the response letter, you must do it 3 days before the deadline above. Request receipt of a proof of mailing from the post office. If you hand deliver or fax it, you must do it by the deadline above. The address is:

5 (Attorney/Landlord Name)

6 (Address)

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court date: If you respond to this Summons, you will be notified of your hearing date in a document called an "Order to Show Cause." This is usually mailed to you. If you are appointed a lawyer, this notice will be sent to your lawyer. If you get notice of a hearing, you must go to the hearing. If you do not show up, your landlord can evict you. Your landlord might also charge you more money. If you move before the court date, you must tell your landlord or the landlord's attorney.

16 <u>This summons is issued pursuant to RCW 59.18.365 and Rule 4 of</u> 17 <u>the superior court civil rules of the state of Washington.</u>

Sec. 5. RCW 59.18.370 and 2005 c 130 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

The plaintiff, at the time of commencing an action of forcible entry or detainer or unlawful detainer, or at any time afterwards, upon filing the complaint, may apply to the superior court in which the action is pending for an order directing the defendant to appear and show cause, if any he or she has, why a writ of restitution should not issue restoring to the plaintiff possession of the property in the complaint described, and the judge shall by order fix a time and place for a hearing of the motion, which shall not be less than seven nor more than ((thirty)) 30 days from the date of ((service of the order upon defendant)) presentation of the motion. A copy of the order, together with a copy of the summons and complaint if not previously served upon the defendant, shall be served upon the defendant not less than seven days prior to the date of the hearing. The order shall notify the defendant that if he or she fails to file a written answer, appear, and show cause at the time and place specified by the order the court may order the sheriff to restore possession of the property to the plaintiff and may grant such other

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1 relief as may be prayed for in the complaint and provided by this 2 chapter.

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Sec. 6. RCW 59.18.380 and 2011 c 132 s 18 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) At the time and place fixed for the hearing of plaintiff's motion for a writ of restitution, the defendant, or any person in possession or claiming possession of the property, may ((answer, orally or in writing, and assert)) present evidence in support of any legal or equitable defense or set-off arising out of the tenancy((-If the answer is oral the substance thereof shall be endorsed on the complaint by the court.)) and specified in the written answer. If a written answer is not filed prior to the date of the hearing, the defendant, or any person in possession or claiming possession of the property, shall be limited to disputing whether the plaintiff has met the burden of proof.

(2) The court shall examine the parties and witnesses orally to ascertain the merits of the complaint and answer, and if it shall appear by a preponderance of the evidence that the plaintiff has the right to be restored to possession of the property, the court shall enter an order directing the issuance of a writ of restitution, returnable ((ten)) 10 days after its date, restoring to the plaintiff possession of the property ((and if)). If it shall appear to the court that there is no substantial issue of material fact of the right of the plaintiff to be granted other relief as prayed for in the complaint and provided for in this chapter, the court may enter an order and judgment granting so much of such relief as may be sustained by the proof, and the court may grant such other relief as may be prayed for in the plaintiff's complaint and provided for in this chapter, then the court shall enter an order denying any relief sought by the plaintiff for which the court has determined that the plaintiff has no right as a matter of law: PROVIDED, That within three days after the service of the writ of restitution issued prior to final judgment, the defendant, or person in possession of the property, may, in any action for the recovery of possession of the property for failure to pay rent, stay the execution of the writ pending final judgment by paying into court or to the plaintiff, as the court directs, all rent found to be due, and in addition by paying, on a monthly basis pending final judgment, an amount equal to the monthly rent called for by the lease or rental agreement at the

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time the complaint was filed: PROVIDED FURTHER, That before any writ shall issue prior to final judgment the plaintiff shall execute to the defendant and file in the court a bond in such sum as the court may order, with sufficient surety to be approved by the clerk, conditioned that the plaintiff will prosecute his or her action without delay, and will pay all costs that may be adjudged to the defendant, and all damages which he or she may sustain by reason of the writ of restitution having been issued, should the same be wrongfully sued out. The court shall also enter an order directing the parties to proceed to trial on the complaint and answer in the usual manner.

- (3) If it appears to the court that by a preponderance of the evidence the plaintiff should not be restored to possession of the property, the court shall deny plaintiff's motion for a writ of restitution and enter an order directing the parties to proceed to trial within thirty days on the complaint and answer. If it appears to the court that there is a substantial issue of material fact as to whether or not the plaintiff is entitled to other relief as is prayed for in plaintiff's complaint and provided for in this chapter, or that there is a genuine issue of a material fact pertaining to a legal or equitable defense or set-off raised in the defendant's answer, the court shall grant or deny so much of plaintiff's other relief sought and so much of defendant's defenses or set-off claimed, as may be proper.
- (4) If the court orders trial on any issue, it shall still grant relief as described above for any issue which it determines does not require trial. In its order setting trial, the court shall identify with specificity each issue requiring trial and shall grant appropriate relief to the appropriate party on all other issues. The provisions of superior court civil rule 54(b) do not apply to any order entered at a show cause hearing held pursuant to this section.
- (5) The hearing described in this section may not be continued on grounds of availability or unavailability of indigent counsel appointed pursuant to RCW 59.18.640 unless counsel for the defendant was assigned at least seven days prior to the date of the hearing.
- **Sec. 7.** RCW 59.18.640 and 2021 c 115 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the court must appoint an attorney for an indigent

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- 1 tenant in an unlawful detainer proceeding under this chapter and chapter((s 59.12 and)) 59.20 RCW. The office of civil legal aid is 2 responsible for implementation of this subsection as provided in RCW 3 2.53.050, and the state shall pay the costs of legal services 4 provided by an attorney appointed pursuant to this subsection. In 5 6 implementing this section, the office of civil legal aid shall assign priority to providing legal representation to indigent tenants in 7 those counties in which the most evictions occur and to indigent 8 tenants who are disproportionately at risk of eviction. 9
- 10 (2) For purposes of this section, "indigent" means any person 11 who, at any stage of a court proceeding, is:

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- (a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance:
 Temporary assistance for needy families, aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits, medical care services under RCW 74.09.035, pregnant women assistance benefits, poverty-related veterans' benefits, food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, or supplemental security income; or
- 19 (b) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of 200 percent or 20 less of the current federally established poverty level.
- 21 (3) (a) An attorney may not be appointed for an indigent tenant
 22 pursuant to this section unless the office of civil legal aid
 23 receives the following information prior to the defendant's response
 24 deadline specified in the summons:
- 25 <u>(i) Documented verification that the tenant meets the public</u> 26 <u>assistance criteria described in subsection (2)(a) of this section;</u> 27 <u>or</u>
- 28 <u>(ii) Documented verification that the tenant meets the income</u> 29 criteria described in subsection (2)(b) of this section.
- 30 <u>(b) The office of civil legal aid shall require documented</u>
 31 <u>verification of income or participation in a public assistance</u>
 32 <u>program as described in this subsection (3).</u>
- 33 (4) A party may not recover legal fees for legal services 34 provided pursuant to this section.
- 35 **Sec. 8.** RCW 59.18.130 and 2023 c 331 s 6 are each amended to 36 read as follows:
- Each tenant shall pay the rental amount at such times and in such amounts as provided for in the rental agreement or as otherwise provided by law and comply with all obligations imposed upon tenants

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by applicable provisions of all municipal, county, and state codes, statutes, ordinances, and regulations, and in addition shall:

- (1) Keep that part of the premises which he or she occupies and uses as clean and sanitary as the conditions of the premises permit;
- (2) Properly dispose from his or her dwelling unit all rubbish, garbage, and other organic or flammable waste, in a clean and sanitary manner at reasonable and regular intervals, and assume all costs of extermination and fumigation for infestation caused by the tenant;
- (3) Properly use and operate all electrical, gas, heating, plumbing and other fixtures and appliances supplied by the landlord;
- (4) Not intentionally or negligently destroy, deface, damage, impair, or remove any part of the structure or dwelling, with the appurtenances thereto, including the facilities, equipment, furniture, furnishings, and appliances, or permit any member of his or her family, invitee, licensee, or any person acting under his or her control to do so. Violations may be prosecuted under chapter 9A.48 RCW if the destruction is intentional and malicious;
 - (5) Not permit a nuisance or common waste;

- (6) Not engage in drug-related activity at the rental premises, or allow a subtenant, sublessee, resident, or anyone else to engage in drug-related activity at the rental premises with the knowledge or consent of the tenant. "Drug-related activity" means that activity which constitutes a violation of chapter 69.41, 69.50, or 69.52 RCW;
- (7) Maintain the smoke detection device in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, including the replacement of batteries where required for the proper operation of the smoke detection device, as required in RCW 43.44.110(3);
 - (8) Not engage in any activity at the rental premises that is:
- (a) Imminently hazardous to the physical safety of other persons on the premises; and
- (b)(i) Entails physical assaults upon another person ((which
 result in an arrest)); or
- (ii) Entails the unlawful use of a firearm or other deadly weapon as defined in RCW 9A.04.110 ((which results in an arrest)), including threatening another tenant or the landlord with a firearm or other deadly weapon under RCW 59.18.352. Nothing in this subsection (8) shall authorize the termination of tenancy and eviction of the victim of a physical assault or the victim of the use or threatened use of a firearm or other deadly weapon;

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(9) Not engage in any gang-related activity at the premises, as defined in RCW 59.18.030, or allow another to engage in such activity at the premises, that renders people in at least two or more dwelling units or residences insecure in life or the use of property or that injures or endangers the safety or health of people in at least two or more dwelling units or residences. In determining whether a tenant is engaged in gang-related activity, a court should consider the totality of the circumstances, including factors such as whether there have been a significant number of complaints to the landlord about the tenant's activities at the property, damages done by the tenant to the property, including the property of other tenants or neighbors, harassment or threats made by the tenant to other tenants or neighbors that have been reported to law enforcement agencies, any police incident reports involving the tenant, and the tenant's criminal history; and

- (10) Upon termination and vacation, restore the premises to their initial condition except for wear resulting from ordinary use of the premises or conditions caused by failure of the landlord to comply with his or her obligations under this chapter. The tenant shall not be charged for normal cleaning if he or she has paid a nonrefundable cleaning fee.
- **Sec. 9.** RCW 59.18.180 and 2011 c 132 s 10 are each amended to 23 read as follows:
 - (1) ((If the tenant fails to comply with any portion of RCW 59.18.130 or 59.18.140, and such noncompliance can (a) substantially affect the health and safety of the tenant or other tenants, or substantially increase the hazards of fire or accident, and (b) be remedied by repair, replacement of a damaged item, or cleaning, the tenant shall comply within thirty days after written notice by the landlord specifying the noncompliance, or, in the case of emergency as promptly as conditions require. If the tenant fails to remedy the noncompliance within that period the landlord may enter the dwelling unit and cause the work to be done and submit an itemized bill of the actual and reasonable cost of repair, to be payable on the next date when periodic rent is due, or on terms mutually agreed to by the landlord and tenant, or immediately if the rental agreement has terminated. The tenant shall have a defense to an unlawful detainer action filed solely on this ground if it is determined at the hearing authorized under the provisions of chapter 59.12 RCW that the tenant

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is in substantial compliance with the provisions of this section, or if the tenant remedies the noncomplying condition within the thirty day period provided for above or any shorter period determined at the hearing to have been required because of an emergency: PROVIDED, That if the defective condition is remedied after the commencement of an unlawful detainer action, the tenant may be liable to the landlord for statutory costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

(2) Any other)) Except as provided in (a) through (c) of this subsection (1), substantial noncompliance by the tenant of RCW 59.18.130 or 59.18.140 constitutes a ground for commencing an action in unlawful detainer in accordance with chapter 59.12 RCW. A landlord may commence such action at any time after written notice pursuant to chapter 59.12 RCW.

 $((\frac{3}{3}))$ (a) If drug-related activity is alleged to be a basis for termination of tenancy under RCW 59.18.130(6), 59.12.030(5), or 59.20.140(5), the compliance provisions of this section do not apply and the landlord may proceed directly to an unlawful detainer action.

 $((\frac{(4)}{)})$ (b) If criminal activity on the premises as described in RCW 59.18.130(8) is alleged to be the basis for termination of the tenancy, and the ((tenant is arrested as a result of this)) activity results in the tenant's custodial or noncustodial arrest, then the compliance provisions of this section do not apply and the landlord may proceed directly to an unlawful detainer action against the tenant who was arrested for this activity.

((+5))) (c) If gang-related activity, as prohibited under RCW 59.18.130(9), is alleged to be the basis for termination of the tenancy, then the compliance provisions of this section do not apply and the landlord may proceed directly to an unlawful detainer action in accordance with chapter 59.12 RCW, and a landlord may commence such an action at any time after written notice under chapter 59.12 RCW.

(((6))) <u>(2)</u> A landlord may not be held liable in any cause of action for bringing an unlawful detainer action against a tenant for drug-related activity, for creating an imminent hazard to the physical safety of others, or for engaging in gang-related activity that renders people in at least two or more dwelling units or residences insecure in life or the use of property or that injures or endangers the safety or health of people in at least two or more dwelling units or residences under this section, if the unlawful detainer action was brought in good faith. Nothing in this section

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- 1 shall affect a landlord's liability under RCW 59.18.380 to pay all
- 2 damages sustained by the tenant should the writ of restitution be
- 3 wrongfully sued out.

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- Sec. 10. RCW 59.18.650 and 2021 c 212 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) (a) A landlord may ((not)) evict a tenant, refuse to continue a tenancy, or end a periodic tenancy ((except)) only for the causes enumerated in ((subsection (2) of this section and as otherwise provided in this subsection)) this chapter. A landlord may end a tenancy without cause only as provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection (1).
 - (b) If a landlord and tenant enter into a rental agreement that provides for the tenancy to continue for an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis after the agreement expires, ((the landlord may not end the tenancy except for the causes enumerated in subsection (2) of this section; however, a landlord may end such a tenancy at the end of the initial period of the rental agreement without cause only if:
 - (i) At the inception of the tenancy, the landlord and tenant entered into a rental agreement between six and 12 months; and
 - (ii) The)) and the landlord has provided the tenant before the end of the initial lease period at least 60 days' advance written notice ending the tenancy, served in a manner consistent with RCW 59.12.040, then a landlord may end such a tenancy at the end of the initial period of the rental agreement without cause.
 - (c) If a landlord and tenant enter into a rental agreement for a specified period in which the tenancy by the terms of the rental agreement does not continue for an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis after the end of the specified period, ((the landlord may end such a tenancy without cause upon expiration of the specified period only if:
 - (i) At the inception of the tenancy, the landlord and tenant entered into a rental agreement of 12 months or more for a specified period, or the landlord and tenant have continuously and without interruption entered into successive rental agreements of six months or more for a specified period since the inception of the tenancy;
- (ii) The)) and the landlord has provided the tenant before the end of the specified period at least 60 days' advance written notice

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that the tenancy will be deemed expired at the end of such specified period, served in a manner consistent with RCW 59.12.040((; and

- (iii) The tenancy has not been for an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis at any point since the inception of the tenancy. However, for any tenancy of an indefinite period in existence as of May 10, 2021, if the landlord and tenant enter into a rental agreement between May 10, 2021, and three months following the expiration of the governor's proclamation 20-19.6 or any extensions thereof, the landlord may exercise rights under this subsection (1)(c) as if the rental agreement was entered into at the inception of the tenancy provided that the rental agreement is otherwise in accordance with this subsection (1)(c)), then a landlord may end such a tenancy at the end of the initial period of the rental agreement without cause.
- (d) For all other tenancies of a specified period not covered under (b) or (c) of this subsection, and for tenancies of an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis, a landlord may not end the tenancy except for the causes enumerated in ((subsection (2) of this section)) this chapter. Upon the end date of the tenancy of a specified period, the tenancy becomes a month-to-month tenancy.
- (e) Nothing prohibits a landlord and tenant from entering into subsequent lease agreements that are in compliance with the requirements in subsection (2) of this section.
- (f) A tenant may end a tenancy for a specified time by providing notice in writing not less than 20 days prior to the ending date of the specified time.
- (2) ((The following reasons listed in this subsection constitute cause pursuant to subsection (1) of this section)) A landlord may evict a tenant, refuse to continue a tenancy, or end a periodic tenancy for any of the following causes:
- (a) The tenant continues in possession in person or by subtenant after a default in the payment of rent, and after written notice requiring, in the alternative, the payment of the rent or the surrender of the detained premises has remained uncomplied with for the period set forth in RCW 59.12.030(3) for tenants subject to this chapter. The written notice may be served at any time after the rent becomes due;
- (b) The tenant continues in possession after substantial breach of a material program requirement of subsidized housing, material

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term subscribed to by the tenant within the lease or rental agreement, or a tenant obligation imposed by law, other than one for monetary damages, and after the landlord has served written notice specifying the acts or omissions constituting the breach and requiring, in the alternative, that the breach be remedied or the rental agreement will end, and the breach has not been adequately remedied by the date specified in the notice, which date must be at least 10 days after service of the notice;

- (c) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least three days' advance written notice to quit after he or she commits or permits waste or nuisance upon the premises, unlawful activity that affects the use and enjoyment of the premises, or other substantial or repeated and unreasonable interference with the health, safety, and welfare of, or use and enjoyment of the premises by, the landlord or neighbors of the tenant;
- (d) The tenant continues in possession after the landlord of a dwelling unit in good faith seeks possession so that the owner or his or her immediate family may occupy the unit as that person's principal residence and no substantially equivalent unit is vacant and available to house the owner or his or her immediate family in the same building, and the owner has provided at least 90 days' advance written notice of the date the tenant's possession is to end. There is a rebuttable presumption that the owner did not act in good faith if the owner or immediate family fails to occupy the unit as a principal residence for at least 60 consecutive days during the 90 days immediately after the tenant vacated the unit pursuant to a notice to vacate using this subsection (2) (d) as the cause for the lease ending;
- (e) The tenant continues in possession after the owner elects to sell a <u>single dwelling unit</u>, <u>which includes but is not limited to a</u> single-family residence, a <u>condominium unit</u>, a <u>townhouse unit</u>, or any <u>other similar type of dwelling unit</u>, and the landlord has provided at least 90 days' advance written notice of the date the tenant's possession is to end. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(e), an owner "elects to sell" when the owner makes reasonable attempts to sell the ((<u>dwelling</u>)) <u>unit</u> within 30 days after the tenant has vacated, including, at a minimum, listing it for sale at a reasonable price with a realty agency or advertising it for sale at a reasonable price by listing it on the real estate multiple listing service.

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There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the owner did not intend to sell the unit if:

- (i) Within 30 days after the tenant has vacated, the owner does not list the ((single-family dwelling)) unit for sale at a reasonable price with a realty agency or advertise it for sale at a reasonable price by listing it on the real estate multiple listing service; or
- (ii) Within 90 days after the date the tenant vacated or the date the property was listed for sale, whichever is later, the owner withdraws the ((rental)) unit from the market, the landlord rents the unit to someone other than the former tenant, or the landlord otherwise indicates that the owner does not intend to sell the unit;
- (f) The tenant continues in possession of the premises after the landlord serves the tenant with advance written notice pursuant to RCW 59.18.200(2)(c);
- (g) The tenant continues in possession after the owner elects to withdraw the premises to pursue a conversion pursuant to RCW 64.34.440 or 64.90.655;
- (h) The tenant continues in possession, after the landlord has provided at least 30 days' advance written notice to vacate that: (i) The premises has been certified or condemned as uninhabitable by a local agency charged with the authority to issue such an order; and (ii) continued habitation of the premises would subject the landlord to civil or criminal penalties. However, if the terms of the local agency's order do not allow the landlord to provide at least 30 days' advance written notice, the landlord must provide as much advance written notice as is possible and still comply with the order;
- (i) The tenant continues in possession after an owner or lessor, with whom the tenant shares the dwelling unit or access to a common kitchen or bathroom area, has served at least 20 days' advance written notice to vacate prior to the end of the rental term or, if a periodic tenancy, the end of the rental period;
- (j) The tenant continues in possession of a dwelling unit in transitional housing after having received at least 30 days' advance written notice to vacate ((in advance of the expiration of the transitional housing program, the tenant has aged out of the transitional housing program, or the tenant has completed an educational or training or service program and is no longer eligible to participate in the transitional housing program)). Nothing in this subsection (2)(j) prohibits the ending of a tenancy in transitional

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1 housing for any of the other causes specified in this ((subsection))
2 chapter;

- (k) The tenant continues in possession of a dwelling unit after the expiration of a rental agreement without signing a proposed new rental agreement proffered by the landlord; provided, that the landlord proffered the proposed new rental agreement at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current rental agreement and that any new terms and conditions of the proposed new rental agreement are reasonable. This subsection (2)(k) does not apply to tenants whose tenancies are or have become periodic;
- (1) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 30 days' advance written notice to vacate due to ((intentional, knowing, and)) a material misrepresentation((intentional) or omission((intentional)) made on the tenant's application at the inception of the tenancy that, had ((intentional) the misrepresentation((intentional) or omission((intentional)) not been made, would have resulted in the landlord requesting additional information or taking an adverse action;
- (m) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 60 days' advance written notice to vacate for other good cause prior to the end of the period or rental agreement and such cause constitutes a legitimate economic or business reason not covered ((executed to a)) by another basis for ending the lease ((as)) enumerated ((under this subsection (2). When the landlord relies on this basis for ending the tenancy, the court may stay any writ of restitution for up to 60 additional days for good cause shown, including difficulty procuring alternative housing. The court must condition such a stay upon the tenant's continued payment of rent during the stay period. Upon granting such a stay, the court must award court costs and fees as allowed under)) in this chapter;
- (n) (i) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 60 days' written notice to vacate prior to the end of the period or rental agreement ((and)), the tenant has committed four or more of the following violations((rother than ones for monetary damages,)) within the preceding 12-month period, ((the tenant has remedied or cured the violation,)) and the landlord ((has)) provided the tenant with a written warning notice at the time of each violation: A substantial breach of a material program requirement of subsidized housing, a substantial breach of a material term subscribed to by the tenant within the lease or rental agreement, a substantial or repeated and unreasonable interference with the

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- health, safety, and welfare of, or use and enjoyment of the premises
- 2 by, the landlord or neighbors of the tenant, or a substantial breach
- 3 of a tenant obligation imposed by law;
 - (ii) Each written warning notice must((÷
- 5 (A) Specify the violation;

- (B) Provide the tenant an opportunity to cure the violation;
- (C) State)) state that the landlord may choose to end the tenancy at the end of the rental term if there are four violations within a 12-month period preceding the end of the $\operatorname{term}((\div))_L$ and $((-(D) State))_L$ state that correcting the fourth or subsequent violation is not a defense to the ending of the lease under this subsection((\div
 - (iii) The 60-day notice to vacate must:
- (A) State that the rental agreement will end upon the specified ending date for the rental term or upon a designated date not less than 60 days after the delivery of the notice, whichever is later;
- 16 (B) Specify the reason for ending the lease and supporting facts;
 17 and
 - (C) Be served to the tenant concurrent with or after the fourth or subsequent written warning notice;
 - (iv) The notice under this subsection must include all notices supporting the basis of ending the lease;
 - (v) Any notices asserted under this subsection must pertain to four or more separate incidents or occurrences; and
 - (vi)). This subsection (2)(n) does not absolve a landlord from demonstrating by admissible evidence that the four or more violations constituted breaches under (b) of this subsection at the time of the violation ((had the tenant not remedied or cured the violation));
 - (o) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least ((60)) 30 days' advance written notice to vacate prior to the end of the rental period or rental agreement if the tenant is required to register as a sex offender during the tenancy, or failed to disclose a requirement to register as a sex offender when required in the rental application or otherwise known to the property owner at the beginning of the tenancy;
 - (p) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 20 days' advance written notice to vacate prior to the end of the rental period or rental agreement if the tenant has made unwanted sexual advances or other acts of sexual harassment directed at the property owner, property manager, property employee, ((or)) another tenant ((based on the person's race, gender, or other protected

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status in violation of any covenant or term in the lease)), or any other person on or near the property;

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- (q) The tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant engages in drug-related activity on or near the premises as described in RCW 59.18.130(6), 59.12.030(5), or 59.20.140(5);
- (r) The tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant engages in criminal activity on or near the premises as described in RCW 59.18.130(8) and the activity results in the arrest of the tenant, occupant, or quest of the tenant or occupant;
- (s) The tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant engages in gang-related activity on or near the premises as described in RCW 59.18.130(9) and the activity results in the arrest of the tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant.
- (3) ((When a tenant has permanently vacated due to voluntary or involuntary events, other than by the ending of the tenancy by the landlord, a landlord must serve a notice to any remaining occupants who had coresided with the tenant at least six months prior to and up to the time the tenant permanently vacated, requiring the occupants to either apply to become a party to the rental agreement or vacate within 30 days of service of such notice. In processing any application from a remaining occupant under this subsection, the landlord may require the occupant to meet the same screening, background, and financial criteria as would any other prospective tenant to continue the tenancy. If the occupant fails to apply within 30 days of receipt of the notice in this subsection, or the application is denied for failure to meet the criteria, the landlord may commence an unlawful detainer action under this chapter. If an occupant becomes a party to the tenancy pursuant to this subsection, a landlord may not end the tenancy except as provided under subsection (2) of this section. This subsection does not apply to tenants residing in subsidized housing.
- (4) A landlord who removes a tenant or causes a tenant to be removed from a dwelling in any way in violation of this section is liable to the tenant for wrongful eviction, and the tenant prevailing in such an action is entitled to the greater of their economic and noneconomic damages or three times the monthly rent of the dwelling at issue, and reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs.
- (5)) Nothing in subsection (2)(d), (e), or (f) of this section permits a landlord to end a tenancy for a specified period before the completion of the term unless the landlord and the tenant mutually

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consent, in writing, to ending the tenancy early and the tenant is afforded at least 60 days to vacate.

- (((6) All written notices required under subsection (2) of this section must:
 - (a) Be served in a manner consistent with RCW 59.12.040; and
- (b) Identify the facts and circumstances known and available to the landlord at the time of the issuance of the notice that support the cause or causes with enough specificity so as to enable the tenant to respond and prepare a defense to any incidents alleged. The landlord may present additional facts and circumstances regarding the allegations within the notice if such evidence was unknown or unavailable at the time of the issuance of the notice.))
- **Sec. 11.** RCW 59.18.650 and 2024 c 321 s 409 are each amended to 14 read as follows:
 - (1) (a) A landlord may ((not)) evict a tenant, refuse to continue a tenancy, or end a periodic tenancy ((except)) only for the causes enumerated in ((subsection (2) of this section and as otherwise provided in this subsection)) this chapter. A landlord may end a tenancy without cause only as provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection (1).
 - (b) If a landlord and tenant enter into a rental agreement that provides for the tenancy to continue for an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis after the agreement expires, ((the landlord may not end the tenancy except for the causes enumerated in subsection (2) of this section; however, a landlord may end such a tenancy at the end of the initial period of the rental agreement without cause only if:
 - (i) At the inception of the tenancy, the landlord and tenant entered into a rental agreement between six and 12 months; and
 - (ii) The)) and the landlord has provided the tenant before the end of the initial lease period at least 60 days' advance written notice ending the tenancy, served in a manner consistent with RCW 59.12.040, then a landlord may end such a tenancy at the end of the initial period of the rental agreement without cause.
 - (c) If a landlord and tenant enter into a rental agreement for a specified period in which the tenancy by the terms of the rental agreement does not continue for an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis after the end of the specified period, ((the

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landlord may end such a tenancy without cause upon expiration of the specified period only if:

- (i) At the inception of the tenancy, the landlord and tenant entered into a rental agreement of 12 months or more for a specified period, or the landlord and tenant have continuously and without interruption entered into successive rental agreements of six months or more for a specified period since the inception of the tenancy;
- (ii) The)) and the landlord has provided the tenant before the end of the specified period at least 60 days' advance written notice that the tenancy will be deemed expired at the end of such specified period, served in a manner consistent with RCW 59.12.040((; and
- (iii) The tenancy has not been for an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis at any point since the inception of the tenancy. However, for any tenancy of an indefinite period in existence as of May 10, 2021, if the landlord and tenant enter into a rental agreement between May 10, 2021, and three months following the expiration of the governor's proclamation 20-19.6 or any extensions thereof, the landlord may exercise rights under this subsection (1)(c) as if the rental agreement was entered into at the inception of the tenancy provided that the rental agreement is otherwise in accordance with this subsection (1)(c)), then a landlord may end such a tenancy at the end of the initial period of the rental agreement without cause.
- (d) For all other tenancies of a specified period not covered under (b) or (c) of this subsection, and for tenancies of an indefinite period on a month-to-month or periodic basis, a landlord may not end the tenancy except for the causes enumerated in ((subsection (2) of this section)) this chapter. Upon the end date of the tenancy of a specified period, the tenancy becomes a month-to-month tenancy.
- (e) Nothing prohibits a landlord and tenant from entering into subsequent lease agreements that are in compliance with the requirements in subsection (2) of this section.
- (f) A tenant may end a tenancy for a specified time by providing notice in writing not less than 20 days prior to the ending date of the specified time.
- (2) ((The following reasons listed in this subsection constitute cause pursuant to subsection (1) of this section)) A landlord may evict a tenant, refuse to continue a tenancy, or end a periodic tenancy for any of the following causes:

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(a) The tenant continues in possession in person or by subtenant after a default in the payment of rent, and after written notice requiring, in the alternative, the payment of the rent or the surrender of the detained premises has remained uncomplied with for the period set forth in RCW 59.12.030(3) for tenants subject to this chapter. The written notice may be served at any time after the rent becomes due;

- (b) The tenant continues in possession after substantial breach of a material program requirement of subsidized housing, material term subscribed to by the tenant within the lease or rental agreement, or a tenant obligation imposed by law, other than one for monetary damages, and after the landlord has served written notice specifying the acts or omissions constituting the breach and requiring, in the alternative, that the breach be remedied or the rental agreement will end, and the breach has not been adequately remedied by the date specified in the notice, which date must be at least 10 days after service of the notice;
- (c) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least three days' advance written notice to quit after he or she commits or permits waste or nuisance upon the premises, unlawful activity that affects the use and enjoyment of the premises, or other substantial or repeated and unreasonable interference with the health, safety, and welfare of, or use and enjoyment of the premises by, the landlord or neighbors of the tenant;
- (d) The tenant continues in possession after the landlord of a dwelling unit in good faith seeks possession so that the owner or his or her immediate family may occupy the unit as that person's principal residence and no substantially equivalent unit is vacant and available to house the owner or his or her immediate family in the same building, and the owner has provided at least 90 days' advance written notice of the date the tenant's possession is to end. There is a rebuttable presumption that the owner did not act in good faith if the owner or immediate family fails to occupy the unit as a principal residence for at least 60 consecutive days during the 90 days immediately after the tenant vacated the unit pursuant to a notice to vacate using this subsection (2)(d) as the cause for the lease ending;
- (e) The tenant continues in possession after the owner elects to sell a <u>single dwelling unit</u>, <u>which includes but is not limited to a</u> single-family residence, a <u>condominium unit</u>, a <u>townhouse unit</u>, or any

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other similar type of dwelling unit, and the landlord has provided at least 90 days' advance written notice of the date the tenant's possession is to end. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(e), an owner "elects to sell" when the owner makes reasonable attempts to sell the ((dwelling)) <u>unit</u> within 30 days after the tenant has vacated, including, at a minimum, listing it for sale at a reasonable price with a realty agency or advertising it for sale at a reasonable price by listing it on the real estate multiple listing service. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the owner did not intend to sell the unit if:

(i) Within 30 days after the tenant has vacated, the owner does not list the ((single-family dwelling)) unit for sale at a reasonable price with a realty agency or advertise it for sale at a reasonable price by listing it on the real estate multiple listing service; or

- (ii) Within 90 days after the date the tenant vacated or the date the property was listed for sale, whichever is later, the owner withdraws the ((rental)) unit from the market, the landlord rents the unit to someone other than the former tenant, or the landlord otherwise indicates that the owner does not intend to sell the unit;
- (f) The tenant continues in possession of the premises after the landlord serves the tenant with advance written notice pursuant to RCW 59.18.200(2)(c);
- (g) The tenant continues in possession after the owner elects to withdraw the premises to pursue a conversion pursuant to RCW 64.90.655;
- (h) The tenant continues in possession, after the landlord has provided at least 30 days' advance written notice to vacate that: (i) The premises has been certified or condemned as uninhabitable by a local agency charged with the authority to issue such an order; and (ii) continued habitation of the premises would subject the landlord to civil or criminal penalties. However, if the terms of the local agency's order do not allow the landlord to provide at least 30 days' advance written notice, the landlord must provide as much advance written notice as is possible and still comply with the order;
- (i) The tenant continues in possession after an owner or lessor, with whom the tenant shares the dwelling unit or access to a common kitchen or bathroom area, has served at least 20 days' advance written notice to vacate prior to the end of the rental term or, if a periodic tenancy, the end of the rental period;

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(j) The tenant continues in possession of a dwelling unit in transitional housing after having received at least 30 days' advance written notice to vacate ((in advance of the expiration of the transitional housing program, the tenant has aged out of the transitional housing program, or the tenant has completed an educational or training or service program and is no longer eligible to participate in the transitional housing program)). Nothing in this subsection (2)(j) prohibits the ending of a tenancy in transitional housing for any of the other causes specified in this ((subsection)) chapter;

- (k) The tenant continues in possession of a dwelling unit after the expiration of a rental agreement without signing a proposed new rental agreement proffered by the landlord; provided, that the landlord proffered the proposed new rental agreement at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current rental agreement and that any new terms and conditions of the proposed new rental agreement are reasonable. This subsection (2)(k) does not apply to tenants whose tenancies are or have become periodic;
- (1) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 30 days' advance written notice to vacate due to ((intentional, knowing, and)) a material misrepresentation((s)) or omission((s)) made on the tenant's application at the inception of the tenancy that, had ((these)) the misrepresentation((s)) or omission((s)) not been made, would have resulted in the landlord requesting additional information or taking an adverse action;
- (m) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 60 days' advance written notice to vacate for other good cause prior to the end of the period or rental agreement and such cause constitutes a legitimate economic or business reason not covered ((errelated to)) by another a basis for ending the lease ((as)) enumerated ((under this subsection (2). When the landlord relies on this basis for ending the tenancy, the court may stay any writ of restitution for up to 60 additional days for good cause shown, including difficulty procuring alternative housing. The court must condition such a stay upon the tenant's continued payment of rent during the stay period. Upon granting such a stay, the court must award court costs and fees as allowed under)) in this chapter;
- (n)(i) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 60 days' written notice to vacate prior to the end of the period or rental agreement ((and)), the tenant has committed four or

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- 1 more of the following violations ((tother than ones for monetary damages,)) within the preceding 12-month period, ((the tenant has 2 3 remedied or cured the violation,)) and the landlord ((has)) provided the tenant with a written warning notice at the time of each 4 violation: A substantial breach of a material program requirement of 5 6 subsidized housing, a substantial breach of a material term subscribed to by the tenant within the lease or rental agreement, a 7 substantial or repeated and unreasonable interference with the 8 health, safety, and welfare of, or use and enjoyment of the premises 9 10 by, the landlord or neighbors of the tenant, or a substantial breach 11 of a tenant obligation imposed by law;
 - (ii) Each written warning notice must((÷
- 13 (A) Specify the violation;

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- (B) Provide the tenant an opportunity to cure the violation;
- (C) State)) state that the landlord may choose to end the tenancy at the end of the rental term if there are four violations within a 12-month period preceding the end of the term((\div)), and ((-D)) state that correcting the fourth or subsequent violation is not a defense to the ending of the lease under this subsection((\div))
 - (iii) The 60-day notice to vacate must:
- (A) State that the rental agreement will end upon the specified ending date for the rental term or upon a designated date not less than 60 days after the delivery of the notice, whichever is later;
- (B) Specify the reason for ending the lease and supporting facts; and
- (C) Be served to the tenant concurrent with or after the fourth or subsequent written warning notice;
- (iv) The notice under this subsection must include all notices supporting the basis of ending the lease;
- (v) Any notices asserted under this subsection must pertain to four or more separate incidents or occurrences; and
- $\frac{(\text{vi})}{})$. This subsection (2)(n) does not absolve a landlord from demonstrating by admissible evidence that the four or more violations constituted breaches under (b) of this subsection at the time of the violation ((had the tenant not remedied or cured the violation));
- (o) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least ((60)) 30 days' advance written notice to vacate prior to the end of the rental period or rental agreement if the tenant is required to register as a sex offender during the tenancy, or failed to disclose a requirement to register as a sex offender when required

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in the rental application or otherwise known to the property owner at the beginning of the tenancy;

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- (p) The tenant continues in possession after having received at least 20 days' advance written notice to vacate prior to the end of the rental period or rental agreement if the tenant has made unwanted sexual advances or other acts of sexual harassment directed at the property owner, property manager, property employee, ((or)) another tenant ((based on the person's race, gender, or other protected status in violation of any covenant or term in the lease)), or any other person on or near the property;
- (q) The tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant engages in drug-related activity on or near the premises as described in RCW 59.18.130(6), 59.12.030(5), or 59.20.140(5);
- (r) The tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant engages in criminal activity on or near the premises as described in RCW 59.18.130(8) and the activity results in the arrest of the tenant, occupant, or quest of the tenant or occupant;
- (s) The tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant engages in gang-related activity on or near the premises as described in RCW 59.18.130(9) and the activity results in the arrest of the tenant, occupant, or guest of the tenant or occupant.
- (3) ((When a tenant has permanently vacated due to voluntary or involuntary events, other than by the ending of the tenancy by the landlord, a landlord must serve a notice to any remaining occupants who had coresided with the tenant at least six months prior to and up to the time the tenant permanently vacated, requiring the occupants to either apply to become a party to the rental agreement or vacate within 30 days of service of such notice. In processing any application from a remaining occupant under this subsection, the landlord may require the occupant to meet the same screening, background, and financial criteria as would any other prospective tenant to continue the tenancy. If the occupant fails to apply within 30 days of receipt of the notice in this subsection, or the application is denied for failure to meet the criteria, the landlord may commence an unlawful detainer action under this chapter. If an occupant becomes a party to the tenancy pursuant to this subsection, a landlord may not end the tenancy except as provided under subsection (2) of this section. This subsection does not apply to tenants residing in subsidized housing.

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(4) A landlord who removes a tenant or causes a tenant to be removed from a dwelling in any way in violation of this section is liable to the tenant for wrongful eviction, and the tenant prevailing in such an action is entitled to the greater of their economic and noneconomic damages or three times the monthly rent of the dwelling at issue, and reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs.

- (5)) Nothing in subsection (2)(d), (e), or (f) of this section permits a landlord to end a tenancy for a specified period before the completion of the term unless the landlord and the tenant mutually consent, in writing, to ending the tenancy early and the tenant is afforded at least 60 days to vacate.
- 12 (((6) All written notices required under subsection (2) of this 13 section must:
 - (a) Be served in a manner consistent with RCW 59.12.040; and
 - (b) Identify the facts and circumstances known and available to the landlord at the time of the issuance of the notice that support the cause or causes with enough specificity so as to enable the tenant to respond and prepare a defense to any incidents alleged. The landlord may present additional facts and circumstances regarding the allegations within the notice if such evidence was unknown or unavailable at the time of the issuance of the notice.)
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. Section 10 of this act expires January 1, 23 2028.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. Section 11 of this act takes effect January 1, 2028.

--- END ---

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