
SENATE BILL 5813

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Stanford, Alvarado, Frame, Nobles, Pedersen, and Valdez

Read first time 04/16/25. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing funding to the education legacy
2 trust account for public education, child care, early learning, and
3 higher education by creating a more progressive rate structure for
4 the capital gains tax and estate tax; amending RCW 82.87.040 and
5 83.100.040; reenacting and amending RCW 83.100.020; creating new
6 sections; and providing an effective date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that it is the
9 paramount duty of the state to amply provide every child in the state
10 with an education, creating the opportunity for the child to succeed
11 in school and thrive in life. The legislature further finds that high
12 quality early learning and child care is critical to a child's
13 success in school and life, as it supports the development of the
14 child's social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and language skills.
15 The legislature further finds that the state's higher education
16 system ensures Washington residents have the opportunity to succeed
17 in a competitive global economy.

18 (2) The legislature further finds that in 2024, when given the
19 opportunity to retain investments in the education legacy trust
20 account for high quality early learning and child care, 64.11 percent

1 of Washington voters in 32 of its 39 counties voted to uphold the
2 excise tax on sales of long-term capital assets for this purpose.

3 (3) Therefore, the legislature will fund ongoing support of
4 public K-12 education, early learning and child care, and higher
5 education, by dedicating revenues from this act to the education
6 legacy trust account. The legislature further recognizes that a tax
7 system that is fair, balanced, and works for everyone is essential to
8 help all Washingtonians grow and thrive. Washington's tax system
9 remains the second most regressive in the nation as it asks those
10 with the least to pay the most as a percentage of their income. Low-
11 income Washingtonians pay at least three times more in state and
12 local taxes as a percentage of their income than the state's highest-
13 income households.

14 (4) To help increase funding to the education legacy trust
15 account, the legislature intends to levy an additional excise tax on
16 the sale or exchange of long-term capital assets, which equals 2.90
17 percent multiplied by the portion of an individual's Washington
18 capital gains exceeding \$1,000,000, and by creating a more
19 progressive rate structure for the estate tax by increasing the top
20 tier rates up to 35 percent. Further, the legislature intends to
21 increase the exclusion amount to \$3,000,000 for the estate tax. The
22 legislature recognizes that levying these taxes with a more
23 progressive rate structure, and increasing the exclusion amount for
24 the estate tax, will have the additional effect of making material
25 progress toward rebalancing the state's tax code.

26 **PART I**

27 **INCREASING THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATE ON ANNUAL LONG-TERM CAPITAL**
28 **GAINS IN EXCESS OF \$1,000,000**

29 **Sec. 101.** RCW 82.87.040 and 2021 c 196 s 5 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) (a) Beginning January 1, 2022, an excise tax is imposed on the
32 sale or exchange of long-term capital assets. Only individuals are
33 subject to payment of the tax, which equals seven percent multiplied
34 by an individual's Washington capital gains.

35 (b) Beginning January 1, 2025, an additional excise tax is
36 imposed on the sale or exchange of long-term capital assets, which
37 equals 2.90 percent multiplied by the portion of an individual's
38 Washington capital gains exceeding \$1,000,000.

1 (2) The tax levied in subsection (1) of this section is necessary
2 for the support of the state government and its existing public
3 institutions.

4 (3) If an individual's Washington capital gains are less than
5 zero for a taxable year, no tax is due under this section and no such
6 amount is allowed as a carryover for use in the calculation of that
7 individual's adjusted capital gain, as defined in RCW 82.87.020(1),
8 for any taxable year. To the extent that a loss carryforward is
9 included in the calculation of an individual's federal net long-term
10 capital gain and that loss carryforward is directly attributable to
11 losses from sales or exchanges allocated to this state under RCW
12 82.87.100, the loss carryforward is included in the calculation of
13 that individual's adjusted capital gain for the purposes of this
14 chapter. An individual may not include any losses carried back for
15 federal income tax purposes in the calculation of that individual's
16 adjusted capital gain for any taxable year.

17 (4)(a) The tax imposed in this section applies to the sale or
18 exchange of long-term capital assets owned by the taxpayer, whether
19 the taxpayer was the legal or beneficial owner of such assets at the
20 time of the sale or exchange. The tax applies when the Washington
21 capital gains are recognized by the taxpayer in accordance with this
22 chapter.

23 (b) For purposes of this chapter:

24 (i) An individual is considered to be a beneficial owner of long-
25 term capital assets held by an entity that is a pass-through or
26 disregarded entity for federal tax purposes, such as a partnership,
27 limited liability company, S corporation, or grantor trust, to the
28 extent of the individual's ownership interest in the entity as
29 reported for federal income tax purposes.

30 (ii) A nongrantor trust is deemed to be a grantor trust if the
31 trust does not qualify as a grantor trust for federal tax purposes,
32 and the grantor's transfer of assets to the trust is treated as an
33 incomplete gift under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2511 of the internal
34 revenue code and its accompanying regulations. A grantor of such
35 trust is considered the beneficial owner of the capital assets of the
36 trust for purposes of the tax imposed in this section and must
37 include any long-term capital gain or loss from the sale or exchange
38 of a capital asset by the trust in the calculation of that
39 individual's adjusted capital gain, if such gain or loss is allocated
40 to this state under RCW 82.87.100.

PART II

MODIFYING THE ESTATE TAX

1
2
3 **Sec. 201.** RCW 83.100.020 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 2 s 2 are each
4 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

5 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
6 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1)(a) The applicable exclusion amount for the decedent's estate
8 is the applicable exclusion amount in effect as of the date of the
9 decedent's death. "Applicable exclusion amount" means:

10 (i) ~~((One million five hundred thousand dollars))~~ \$1,500,000 for
11 decedents dying before January 1, 2006;

12 (ii) ~~((Two million dollars))~~ \$2,000,000 for estates of decedents
13 dying on or after January 1, 2006, and before January 1, 2014;
14 ~~((and))~~

15 (iii) \$2,012,000 for estates of decedents dying on or after
16 January 1, 2014, and before January 1, 2015;

17 (iv) \$2,054,000 for estates of decedents dying on or after
18 January 1, 2015, and before January 1, 2016;

19 (v) \$2,079,000 for estates of decedents dying on or after January
20 1, 2016, but before January 1, 2017;

21 (vi) \$2,129,000 for estates of decedents dying on or after
22 January 1, 2017, but before January 1, 2018;

23 (vii) \$2,193,000 for estates of decedents dying on or after
24 January 1, 2018, but before January 1, 2025;

25 (viii) \$3,000,000 for estates of decedents dying on or after
26 January 1, 2025, but before January 1, 2026; and

27 (ix) For estates of decedents dying in calendar year ~~((2014))~~
28 2026 and each calendar year thereafter, the amount in (a) ~~((+iii))~~
29 (viii) of this subsection must be adjusted annually, except as
30 otherwise provided in this subsection (1)(a) ~~((+iii))~~ (ix). The
31 annual adjustment is determined by multiplying ~~((two million~~
32 ~~dollars))~~ \$3,000,000 by the sum of one ~~((plus))~~ and the percentage by
33 which the most recent October consumer price index exceeds the
34 consumer price index for October ~~((2012))~~ 2024, and rounding the
35 result to the nearest ~~((one thousand dollars))~~ \$1,000. No adjustment
36 is made for a calendar year if the adjustment would result in the
37 same or a lesser applicable exclusion amount than the applicable
38 exclusion amount for the immediately preceding calendar year. ~~((The~~
39 ~~applicable exclusion amount under this subsection (1)(a)(iii) for the~~

1 ~~decedent's estate is the applicable exclusion amount in effect as of~~
2 ~~the date of the decedent's death.)~~)

3 (b) For purposes of this subsection (1), "consumer price index"
4 means the consumer price index for all urban consumers, all items,
5 for the Seattle(~~-Tacoma-Bremerton~~) metropolitan area as calculated
6 by the United States bureau of labor statistics. For the purposes of
7 this subsection (1)(b), "Seattle metropolitan area" means the
8 geographic area sample that includes Seattle and surrounding areas.

9 (2) "Decedent" means a deceased individual.

10 (3) "Department" means the department of revenue, the director of
11 that department, or any employee of the department exercising
12 authority lawfully delegated to him or her by the director.

13 (4) "Federal return" means any tax return required by chapter 11
14 of the internal revenue code.

15 (5) "Federal tax" means a tax under chapter 11 of the internal
16 revenue code.

17 (6) "Federal taxable estate" means the taxable estate as
18 determined under chapter 11 of the internal revenue code without
19 regard to: (a) The termination of the federal estate tax under
20 section 2210 of the internal revenue code or any other provision of
21 law, and (b) the deduction for state estate, inheritance, legacy, or
22 succession taxes allowable under section 2058 of the internal revenue
23 code.

24 (7) "Gross estate" means "gross estate" as defined and used in
25 section 2031 of the internal revenue code.

26 (8) "Internal revenue code" means the United States internal
27 revenue code of 1986, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2005.

28 (9) "Person" means any individual, estate, trust, receiver,
29 cooperative association, club, corporation, company, firm,
30 partnership, joint venture, syndicate, or other entity and, to the
31 extent permitted by law, any federal, state, or other governmental
32 unit or subdivision or agency, department, or instrumentality
33 thereof.

34 (10) "Person required to file the federal return" means any
35 person required to file a return required by chapter 11 of the
36 internal revenue code, such as the personal representative of an
37 estate.

38 (11) "Property" means property included in the gross estate.

39 (12) "Resident" means a decedent who was domiciled in Washington
40 at time of death.

1 (13) "Taxpayer" means a person upon whom tax is imposed under
2 this chapter, including an estate or a person liable for tax under
3 RCW 83.100.120.

4 (14) "Transfer" means "transfer" as used in section 2001 of the
5 internal revenue code and includes any shifting upon death of the
6 economic benefit in property or any power or legal privilege
7 incidental to the ownership or enjoyment of property. However,
8 "transfer" does not include a qualified heir disposing of an interest
9 in property qualifying for a deduction under RCW 83.100.046 or
10 ceasing to use the property for farming purposes.

11 (15) "Washington taxable estate" means the federal taxable estate
12 and includes, but is not limited to, the value of any property
13 included in the gross estate under section 2044 of the internal
14 revenue code, regardless of whether the decedent's interest in such
15 property was acquired before May 17, 2005, (a) plus amounts required
16 to be added to the Washington taxable estate under RCW 83.100.047,
17 (b) less: (i) The applicable exclusion amount under subsection (1) of
18 this section; (ii) the amount of any deduction allowed under RCW
19 83.100.046; (iii) amounts allowed to be deducted from the Washington
20 taxable estate under RCW 83.100.047; and (iv) the amount of any
21 deduction allowed under RCW 83.100.048.

22 **Sec. 202.** RCW 83.100.040 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 2 s 4 are each
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (1) A tax in an amount computed as provided in this section is
25 imposed on every transfer of property located in Washington. For the
26 purposes of this section, any intangible property owned by a resident
27 is located in Washington.

28 (2) (a) (~~Except~~) (i) For estates of decedents dying before
29 January 1, 2025, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the
30 amount of tax is the amount provided in the following table:

If Washington Taxable		The amount of Tax Equals		Of Washington Taxable Estate Value Greater than
Estate is at least	But Less Than	Initial Tax Amount	Plus Tax Rate %	
\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	10.00%	\$0
\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$100,000	14.00%	\$1,000,000
\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$240,000	15.00%	\$2,000,000

1	\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$390,000	16.00%	\$3,000,000
2	\$4,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$550,000	18.00%	\$4,000,000
3	\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$910,000	19.00%	\$6,000,000
4	\$7,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$1,100,000	19.50%	\$7,000,000
5	\$9,000,000		\$1,490,000	20.00%	\$9,000,000

6 (ii) For estates of decedents dying on or after January 1, 2025,
7 except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the amount of tax is
8 the amount provided in the following table:

9					Of Washington
10					Taxable Estate Value
11	<u>If Washington Taxable</u>	<u>The amount of Tax Equals</u>		<u>Greater than</u>	
12	<u>Estate is at least</u>	<u>But Less Than</u>	<u>Initial Tax Amount</u>	<u>Plus Tax Rate %</u>	
13	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>10.00%</u>	<u>\$0</u>
14	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>15.00%</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
15	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$3,000,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>17.00%</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
16	<u>\$3,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,000,000</u>	<u>\$420,000</u>	<u>19.00%</u>	<u>\$3,000,000</u>
17	<u>\$4,000,000</u>	<u>\$6,000,000</u>	<u>\$610,000</u>	<u>23.00%</u>	<u>\$4,000,000</u>
18	<u>\$6,000,000</u>	<u>\$7,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,070,000</u>	<u>26.00%</u>	<u>\$6,000,000</u>
19	<u>\$7,000,000</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,330,000</u>	<u>30.00%</u>	<u>\$7,000,000</u>
20	<u>\$9,000,000</u>		<u>\$1,930,000</u>	<u>35.00%</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>

21 (b) If any property in the decedent's estate is located outside
22 of Washington, the amount of tax is the amount determined in (a) of
23 this subsection multiplied by a fraction. The numerator of the
24 fraction is the value of the property located in Washington. The
25 denominator of the fraction is the value of the decedent's gross
26 estate. Property qualifying for a deduction under RCW 83.100.046 must
27 be excluded from the numerator and denominator of the fraction.

28 (3) The tax imposed under this section is a stand-alone estate
29 tax that incorporates only those provisions of the internal revenue
30 code as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2005, that do not
31 conflict with the provisions of this chapter. The tax imposed under
32 this chapter is independent of any federal estate tax obligation and
33 is not affected by termination of the federal estate tax.

34 **PART III**

1 **MISCELLANEOUS**

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** Section 101 of this act applies to taxes
3 imposed in calendar year 2025 for collection in calendar year 2026.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 302.** Sections 201 and 202 of this act apply
5 prospectively as well as retroactively to estates of decedents dying
6 on or after January 1, 2025.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 303.** This act does not affect any existing
8 right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections
9 amended or repealed in this act or under any rule or order adopted
10 under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted
11 under those sections.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 304.** If any provision of this act or its
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 305.** This act is necessary for the support of
17 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
18 effect immediately.

--- END ---