

WSR 23-22-012

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

[Filed October 19, 2023, 11:05 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 458-20-168 Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes, and similar health care facilities and 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The department of revenue intends to update and amend WAC 458-20-168 and 458-20-244 to recognize recent legislation, SHB 1431 (2023).

Reasons Supporting Proposal: The proposed changes to WAC 458-20-168 and 458-20-244 are necessary in order to provide references and information in respect to a new retail sales tax exclusion for food, drinks, or meals furnished by senior living communities created during the 2023 legislative session.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 82.01.060, 82.32.300.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 82.04.040.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Michael Hwang, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1575; Implementation and Enforcement: John Ryser, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1605.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Adopts or incorporates by reference without material change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes, rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The expedited rule-making process is appropriate for this rule update because the department is incorporating provisions of SHB 1431 (2023) by reference without material change to Washington state rules.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Michael Hwang, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 47453, phone 360-534-1575, email MichaelHw@dor.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

October 19, 2023
Atif Aziz
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5030.3

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-14-014, filed 6/23/22, effective 7/24/22)

WAC 458-20-168 Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes, and similar health care facilities. (1) **Introduction.** This rule explains the application of business and occupation (B&O), retail sales, and use taxes to persons operating:

- Hospitals as defined in RCW 70.41.020;
- Nursing homes as defined in RCW 18.51.010;
- Assisted living facilities as defined in RCW 18.20.020;
- Adult family homes as defined in RCW 70.128.010;
- Senior living communities as defined in RCW 82.04.040; and
- Similar health care facilities.

(a) **Examples.** This rule contains examples that identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. The examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all of the facts and circumstances.

(b) **Other rules that may apply.** Readers may want to refer to the rules in the following list for additional information:

- (i) WAC 458-20-102 Reseller permits.
- (ii) WAC 458-20-111 Advances and reimbursements.
- (iii) WAC 458-20-150 Optometrists, ophthalmologists, and opticians.
- (iv) WAC 458-20-151 Dentists, audiologists, and other health care providers—Dental laboratories and dental technicians.
- (v) WAC 458-20-169 Nonprofit organizations.
- (vi) WAC 458-20-178 Use tax and the use of tangible personal property.
- (vii) WAC 458-20-18801 Medical substances, devices, and supplies for humans—Drugs prescribed for human use—Medically prescribed oxygen—Prosthetic devices—Mobility enhancing equipment—Durable medical equipment.
- (viii) WAC 458-20-233 Tax liability of medical and hospital service bureaus and associations and similar health care organizations.

(2) **Personal and professional services of hospitals.** For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

- **"Hospital"** - The term hospital is as defined in RCW 70.41.020. It includes hospitals that come within the scope of chapter 71.12 RCW, but only if they are also licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.
- **"Public hospital" or "nonprofit hospital"** - Public or nonprofit hospitals are hospitals operated by the state or any of its political subdivisions or operated as nonprofit corporations.

(a) **Hospital services to patients.** Gross income earned by hospitals for providing personal or professional services to patients is subject to B&O tax as shown in the table below. RCW 82.04.260.

Report Income From Providing Personal or Professional Services	Reporting Classification
For profit hospitals	For profit hospitals B&O tax classification
Public and nonprofit hospitals	Public or nonprofit hospitals B&O tax classification

Gross income earned for providing nonmedical services, interest received on patient accounts receivable, and amounts earned for providing transcribing services to physicians are subject to service and other activities B&O tax.

(b) **Clinics and departments operated by hospitals.** Gross income earned by medical clinics and departments providing services to patients and operated by a hospital is subject to B&O tax as shown in subsection (2)(a) of this rule, where the operation of a medical clinic or department is covered by the hospital's license. If the clinic or department is not covered by the hospital's license, the gross income earned by a medical clinic or department providing services to patients is subject to B&O tax under the service and other activities B&O tax classification.

(i) **Example 1.** Acme Hospital is a nonprofit hospital that has a medical clinic that is physically located within the hospital. The clinic is open only during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and provides no domiciliary care or overnight facilities to its patients. The medical clinic is covered under Acme Hospital's hospital license. Gross income earned by the medical clinic for providing patient care is subject to the Public and Nonprofit Hospital B&O Tax Classification because the clinic is covered under the hospital license.

(ii) **Example 2.** Mountain Hospital is a for profit hospital with a cancer treatment facility that is located one mile from the hospital campus. The cancer treatment facility provides the type of services normally provided by hospitals to cancer patients but only during regular business hours. The cancer treatment facility is covered under the hospital's license. Gross income earned by the cancer treatment facility is subject to the For Profit Hospitals B&O tax classification because the facility is covered under the hospital's license.

(c) **Educational programs and services.** Amounts earned by public or nonprofit hospitals for providing educational programs and services to the general public are subject to B&O tax under the public or nonprofit hospitals classification if the educational programs and services are an integral, interrelated, and essential part of the hospital. Otherwise, such amounts are subject to B&O tax under the service and other activities classification. Educational services are considered an integral, interrelated, and essential part of the hospital only if they are unique and incidental to the provision of hospitalization services. Only those educational programs and services offered by a hospital that would be very difficult or impossible to duplicate by a person other than a hospital because of the specialized body of knowledge, facilities, and equipment required are unique and incidental to the provision of hospitalization services. Amounts received from educational programs and services are subject to the service and other activities B&O tax when the educational programs or services could be provided by any physician, clinic, or trained lay person.

(3) **Personal and professional services from other medical clinics, nursing homes, and similar health care facilities.** Gross income earned by medical clinics, nursing homes, and similar health care facilities for providing personal and professional services is subject to service and other activities B&O tax. Physicians performing these services are also subject to service and other activities B&O tax on gross income earned. Services provided are ones not integral, interrelated, and an essential part of a hospital operation.

(4) **Assisted living facilities and domiciliary care.** For the purpose of this rule, "assisted living facilities" and "domiciliary care" have the same meaning as found in RCW 18.20.020. A preferential B&O

tax rate is provided by RCW 82.04.2908 to persons operating assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW. Persons operating licensed assisted living facilities should report their gross income derived from providing room and domiciliary care to residents under the licensed assisted living facilities B&O tax classification. Refer to subsection (9)(h) of this rule for B&O tax deductions and exemptions available to persons operating assisted living facilities.

(5) **Hospitals or other health care facilities operated by the state of Washington.** Gross income earned by the state of Washington for operating a hospital or other health care facilities, whether or not owned by the state, is not subject to B&O tax.

(6) **Nonprofit corporations and associations performing research and development.** A separate B&O tax rate applies to nonprofit corporations and nonprofit associations for gross income earned in performing research and development within this state, including medical research. See RCW 82.04.260.

(7) **Sales of tangible personal property.** Retailing B&O tax applies to sales of tangible personal property sold and billed separately from the performance of personal or professional services by hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes, and similar health care facilities. This includes charges for making copies of medical records. The seller must collect retail sales tax from the buyer and remit the tax to the department unless the sale is specifically exempt by law.

(a) **Tangible personal property used in providing medical services to patients.** Retailing B&O and retail sales taxes do not apply to charges to a patient for tangible personal property used in providing medical services to the patient, even if separately billed. Tangible personal property used in providing medical services is not considered to have been sold separately from the medical services simply because those items are separately invoiced. These charges, even if separately itemized, are for providing medical services.

For example, when a hospital charges a patient for drugs physically administered by the hospital staff, the charges to the patient are subject to B&O tax under the appropriate tax classification as shown in subsection (2)(a) of this rule based on the hospital making the charge. However, charges for drugs sold to persons or their caregivers, either for self-administration or administration by a caregiver other than the seller, are subject to retailing B&O tax and retail sales tax unless specifically exempt by law. Readers should refer to WAC 458-20-18801 for detailed information regarding retail sales tax exemptions that apply to sales of prescription drugs and other medical items.

(b) **Sales of food, drinks, and meals.** Although the sale of food, drinks, or meals is generally considered to be a retail sale((~~r~~)):

(i) Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care facilities that furnish meals to patients or residents as a part of the services provided to those patients or residents are not considered to be making retail sales of meals. Thus, such amounts are not subject to retail sales tax. However, amounts earned by hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care facilities for furnishing meals to patients or residents are subject to B&O tax as part of the services provided to those patients or residents(~~(. Such amounts are not subject to retail sales tax.)~~);

(ii) Senior living communities that furnish food, drinks, or meals to tenants as a part of a rental or residency agreement for

which no separate charge is made, regardless of whether the tenant is a resident for purposes of chapter 18.20 or 18.390 RCW, are not considered to be making retail sales of food, drinks, or meals. Thus, such sales are not subject to retail sales tax. However, amounts earned by senior living communities for furnishing food, drinks, or meals to tenants, as described in this subsection (7)(b)(ii), are subject to B&O tax as part of the services provided to those tenants. RCW 82.04.040;

(iii) RCW 82.08.0293 and 82.12.0293 provide, respectively, retail sales tax and use tax exemptions for prepared meals sold to senior citizens, disabled persons, or low-income persons by a nonprofit organization organized under chapter 24.03A or 24.12 RCW. The exemptions apply to sales of prepared meals to nonprofit organizations organized under chapter 24.03A or 24.12 RCW, that provide the meals to senior citizens, disabled persons, or low-income persons as a part of the patient services they render((-)); and

(iv) Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care facilities may have restaurants, cafeterias, or other dining facilities where meals are sold to doctors, employees, and visitors. These sales of meals are subject to retailing B&O and retail sales taxes. For additional information regarding the sale of meals, including meals furnished to employees, refer to WAC 458-20-124.

(8) **Industry reporting.** This subsection discusses common reporting issues affecting persons operating medical or other health care facilities.

(a) **Adjustments to revenues.** Many hospitals provide medical care without charge or where some portion of the charge will be canceled. In other cases, medical care is billed to patients at "standard" rates but is later adjusted to reduce the charges to the rates established by contract with medicare, medicaid, or private insurers. In these situations, the hospital must initially include the total charges as billed to the patient as gross income unless the hospital's records clearly indicate the amount of income to which it will be entitled under its contracts with insurance carriers. Where tax returns are initially filed based on gross charges, an adjustment may be taken on future tax returns after the hospital has adjusted its records to reflect the actual amounts collected. In no event may the hospital reduce the amount of its current gross income by amounts that were not previously reported on its excise tax return. If the tax rate changes from the time the B&O tax was first paid on the gross charges and the time of the adjustment, the hospital must file amended tax returns to report the B&O tax on the transaction as finally completed at the rate in effect when the service was performed.

(b) **Tax consequences if a hospital contracts with an independent contractor to provide medical services at the hospital.** When a hospital contracts with an independent contractor (service provider) to provide medical services, such as managing and staffing the hospital's emergency department, the hospital may not deduct the amount paid to the service provider from its gross income. If, however, the patients are alone liable for paying the service provider, and the hospital has no personal liability, either primarily or secondarily, for paying the service provider, other than as agent for the patients, then the hospital may deduct from its gross income the amount it receives and pays to the service provider.

In addition, the service provider is subject to service and other activities B&O tax on the amount earned from the hospital for provid-

ing these services for the hospital. If the service provider subcontracts with a third party, such as a physician or nurse, to help provide medical services as an independent contractor, the service provider may not deduct from its gross income amounts paid to the subcontractor where the service provider is personally liable, either primarily or secondarily, for paying the subcontractor. If, however, the hospital is alone liable for paying the subcontractor, and the service provider has no personal liability, either primarily or secondarily, other than as agent for the hospital, then the service provider may deduct from its gross income the amount it receives from the hospital and pays to the subcontractor. For additional information regarding deductible advances and reimbursements, refer to WAC 458-20-111.

(c) **Nursing homes and assisted living facilities may not claim a B&O tax exemption for the rental of real estate.** The purpose of nursing homes is to provide medical care to their residents. The purpose of assisted living facilities is to assume general responsibility for the safety and well-being of their residents and to provide other services to residents such as housekeeping, meals, laundry, and activities. Assisted living facilities may also provide residents with assistance with activities of daily living, health support services, and intermittent nursing services. Because the purpose of nursing homes and assisted living facilities is to provide services and not to lease or rent real property, no part of the gross income of nursing homes or assisted living facilities is exempted from B&O tax as the rental of real estate.

(9) **B&O tax deductions, credits, and exemptions.** This subsection provides information about B&O tax deductions, credits, and exemptions available to persons operating medical or other health care facilities.

Deductible amounts should be included in the gross income reported on the combined excise tax return and then identified on the appropriate deduction detail line of the return to determine the amount of taxable income.

(a) **Organ procurement organizations.** RCW 82.04.326 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned by a qualified organ procurement organization under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 273(b) in effect as of January 1, 2001, to the extent that the amounts are exempt from federal income tax.

(b) **Contributions, donations, and endowment funds.** RCW 82.04.4282 provides a B&O tax deduction for amounts received as contributions, donations, and endowment funds, including grants, which are not in exchange for goods, services, or business benefits. For example, a B&O tax deduction is allowed for donations received by a public hospital, as long as the donors do not receive any goods, services, or any business benefits in return. On the other hand, a public hospital may not take a B&O tax deduction on amounts earned from a state university for work-study programs or training seminars, because the university receives business benefits in return, as students receive education and training while enrolled in the university's degree programs.

(c) **Adult family homes.** RCW 82.04.327 provides a B&O tax exemption for gross income derived from personal and professional services of adult family homes licensed by the department of social and health services (DSHS), or which are specifically exempt from licensing under the rules of DSHS. This exemption does not apply to persons who provide home care services to clients in the clients' own residences.

For the purpose of this rule, "adult family home" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.128.010.

(d) **Nonprofit kidney dialysis facilities, hospice agencies, and nonprofit nursing homes and homes for unwed mothers.** RCW 82.04.4289 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned as compensation for services rendered to patients or from sales of drugs for human use pursuant to a prescription furnished as an integral part of services rendered to patients by kidney dialysis facilities operated as a nonprofit corporation, nonprofit hospice agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, nonprofit nursing homes and homes for unwed mothers operated as religious or charitable organizations. This exemption applies only if no part of the net earnings earned by such an institution inures, directly or indirectly, to any person other than the institution entitled to this exemption. This exemption is available to nonprofit hospitals for income from the operation of kidney dialysis facilities if the hospital accurately identifies and accounts for the income from this activity.

Examples of nonprofit nursing homes include nursing homes operated by church organizations or by nonprofit corporations designed to assist alcoholics in recovery and rehabilitation. Nursing homes and homes for unwed mothers operated by governmental entities, including public hospital districts, do not qualify for the B&O tax exemption provided in RCW 82.04.4289.

(e) **Government payments made to health or social welfare organizations.** RCW 82.04.4297 provides a B&O tax deduction to health or social welfare organizations, as defined in RCW 82.04.431, for amounts earned directly from the United States, any instrumentality of the United States, the state of Washington, or any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state of Washington as compensation for health or social welfare services.

RCW 82.04.4275 provides a B&O tax deduction for amounts health or social welfare organizations receive as compensation for providing child welfare services under a government-funded program.

A deduction is not allowed, however, for amounts that are received under an employee benefit plan. For purposes of the deduction provided by RCW 82.04.4297, "employee benefit plan" includes any plan, trust, commingled employee benefit trust, or custodial arrangement that is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq., or that is described in sections 125, 401, 403, 408, 457, and 501(c)(9) and (17) through (23) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or a similar plan maintained by a state or local government, or a plan, trust, or custodial arrangement established to self-insure benefits required by federal, state, or local law.

(f) **Amounts earned under a health service program subsidized by federal or state government.** RCW 82.04.4311 provides a B&O tax deduction to:

- A public hospital that is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision; or
- A nonprofit hospital; or
- A nonprofit community health center; or
- A network of nonprofit community health centers, that qualifies as a health and social welfare organization as defined in RCW 82.04.431, for amounts earned as compensation for health care services covered under the federal medicare program authorized under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act; medical assistance, children's health, or other program under chapter 74.09 RCW; or for the state of Washington basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW. This deduction applies to amounts received directly or through a third par-

ty from the qualified programs or plans. However, it does not apply to amounts received from patient copayments or patient deductibles. For purposes of the deduction provided by RCW 82.04.4311, "community health center" means a federally qualified health center as defined in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396d as existed on August 1, 2005.

Example 3. Acme Hospital is a nonprofit hospital that qualifies as a health and social welfare organization as defined in RCW 82.04.431. Acme receives \$1,000 for providing health care services to Jane, who qualifies for the federal medicare program authorized under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act. Jane is covered in a health care plan that is a combination of medicare, which is B&O tax deductible by Acme, and a medicare plus plan, which is paid for by Jane and is not B&O tax deductible by Acme. Jane pays \$20 to Acme as patient copayments. Medicare pays \$600 to Acme for the health care services, and the medicare plus plan pays \$380. Acme may deduct only the \$600 received from medicare.

(g) **Blood and tissue banks.** Except as otherwise provided, RCW 82.04.324 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned by a qualifying blood bank, a qualifying tissue bank, or a qualifying blood and tissue bank to the extent such amounts are exempt from federal income tax.

For the purposes of this exemption, the following definitions apply:

(i) **Qualifying blood bank.** "Qualifying blood bank" means a blood bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, that is registered under 21 C.F.R., Part 607 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the collection, preparation, and processing of blood.

"Qualifying blood bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the National Cancer Institute.

(ii) **Qualifying tissue bank.** "Qualifying tissue bank" means a tissue bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, is registered under 21 C.F.R., Part 1271 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the recovery, processing, storage, labeling, packaging, or distribution of human bone tissue, ligament tissue and similar musculoskeletal tissues, skin tissue, heart valve tissue, or human eye tissue. "Qualifying tissue bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the National Cancer Institute.

(iii) **Qualifying blood and tissue bank.** "Qualifying blood and tissue bank" means a bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, is registered under 21 C.F.R., Parts 607 and 1271 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the collection, preparation, and processing of blood, and the recovery, processing, storage, labeling, packaging, or distribution of human bone tissue, ligament tissue and similar musculoskeletal tissues, skin tissue, and heart valve tissue.

"Qualifying blood and tissue bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the National Cancer Institute.

(h) **Assisted living facilities.** RCW 82.04.4337 provides a B&O tax deduction to licensed assisted living facility operators for amounts earned as compensation for providing adult residential care, enhanced adult residential care, or assisted living services under contract with the department of social and health services authorized by chapter 74.39A RCW to residents who are medicaid recipients. For the pur-

pose of this rule, "adult residential care," "enhanced adult residential care," and "assisted living services" have the same meaning as in RCW 74.39A.009.

In addition, RCW 82.04.4264 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned by a nonprofit assisted living facility licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW for providing room and domiciliary care to residents of the assisted living facility. For purposes of this rule, "nonprofit assisted living facility" means an assisted living facility that is operated as a religious or charitable organization, is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501 (c) (3), is incorporated under chapter 24.03A RCW, is operated as part of a nonprofit hospital, or is operated as part of a public hospital district.

(i) **Comprehensive cancer centers.** RCW 82.04.4265 provides a B&O tax exemption for amounts earned by a comprehensive cancer center to the extent such amounts are exempt from federal income tax. For purposes of this rule, "comprehensive cancer center" means a cancer center that has written confirmation that it is recognized by the National Cancer Institute as a comprehensive cancer center and that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501 (c) (3) as existing on July 1, 2006.

(j) **Prescription drugs administered by the medical service provider.** RCW 82.04.620 allows a deduction from the measure of tax for reporting under the service and other activities classification of the B&O tax (RCW 82.04.290) for amounts earned by physicians or clinics for drugs for infusion or injection by licensed physicians or their agents for human use pursuant to a prescription. This deduction only applies to amounts that:

(i) Are separately stated on invoices or other billing statements;

(ii) Do not exceed the then current federal rate; and

(iii) Are covered or required under a health care service program subsidized by the federal or state government.

For the purpose of this deduction only, amounts that "are covered or required under a health care service program subsidized by the federal or state government" include any required drug copayments made directly from the patient to the physician or clinic.

(A) "Federal rate" means the rate at or below which the federal government or its agents reimburse providers for prescription drugs administered to patients as provided for in the medicare, Part B, drugs average sales price information resource as published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or any index that succeeds it.

(B) The deduction is available on an "all or nothing" basis against the total amount earned for a specific drug charge. If the total amount earned by the physician or clinic for a specific drug exceeds the federal reimbursement rate, none of the total amount earned qualifies for the deduction (including any required copayment received directly from the patient). In other words, a physician or clinic may not simply take an "automatic" deduction equal to the federal reimbursement rate for each drug.

(C) For physicians or clinics reporting taxes on the accrual basis, the total amount charged for a drug must be included in the gross income at the time of billing if it is in excess of the federal rate. However, in some cases the gross income from charges may be adjusted, as indicated in subsection (8) (a) of this rule. If such an adjustment to gross income is appropriate, the exemption discussed in this subsection may also be taken at the time of billing if the adjustment

leaves the physician or clinic contractually liable to receive a total amount, including any copayment received from the patient that does not exceed the federal rate.

(10) **Sales, use, and other specified taxes deductions and exemptions.** Unless otherwise exempt by law, hospitals, nursing homes, adult family homes, assisted living facilities, and similar health care providers are required to pay retail sales tax on purchases of equipment and supplies. The deductions and exemptions listed in this subsection are available to qualified persons.

(a) For the purpose of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) **"Chemical"** means any catalyst, solvent, water, acid, oil, or other additive that physically or chemically interacts with blood, bone, or tissue.

(ii) **"Materials"** for the purposes of RCW 82.08.02807 means any item of tangible personal property including, but not limited to, bags, packs, collecting sets, filtering materials, testing reagents, antisera, and refrigerants, used or consumed in performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue.

(iii) **"Medical supplies"** means any item of tangible personal property, including any repair and replacement parts for such tangible personal property, used by a comprehensive cancer center for the purpose of performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue. The term includes tangible personal property used to:

(A) Provide preparatory treatment of blood, bone, or tissue;

(B) Control, guide, measure, tune, verify, align, regulate, test, or physically support blood, bone, or tissue; and

(C) Protect the health and safety of employees or others present during research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue.

(iv) **"Research"** means basic and applied research that has as its objective the design, development, refinement, testing, marketing, or commercialization of a product, service, or process.

(b) **Temporary medical housing provided by a health or social welfare organization.** RCW 82.08.997 provides an exemption from state and local retail sales taxes and lodging taxes for temporary medical housing provided by a health or social welfare organization. The term "health or social welfare organization" is defined in RCW 82.04.431. "Temporary medical housing" means transient lodging and related services provided to a patient or the patient's immediate family, legal guardian, or other persons necessary to the patient's mental or physical well-being.

(i) The exemption applies to the following taxes:

(A) Retail sales tax levied under RCW 82.08.020;

(B) Lodging taxes levied under chapter 67.28 RCW;

(C) Convention and trade center tax levied under chapter 36.100

RCW;

(D) Public facilities tax levied under RCW 36.100.040; and

(E) Tourism promotion areas tax levied under RCW 35.101.050.

(ii) The exemptions in this subsection apply to charges made for "temporary medical housing" only:

(A) While the patient is receiving medical treatment at a hospital required to be licensed under RCW 70.41.090 or at an outpatient clinic associated with such hospital, including any period of recuperation or observation immediately following such medical treatment; and

(B) By a person that does not furnish lodging or related services to the general public.

(c) **Purchases for resale.** Purchases of tangible personal property for resale without intervening use are not subject to retail sales tax. Persons purchasing tangible personal property for resale must furnish a copy of their reseller permit to the seller to document the wholesale nature of the sale.

(d) **Sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to a comprehensive cancer center.** RCW 82.08.808 and 82.12.808 provide, respectively, retail sales tax and use tax exemptions for sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to a comprehensive cancer center. These exemptions do not apply to sales of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(e) **Sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to organ procurement organizations.** RCW 82.08.02807 and 82.12.02749 provide, respectively, retail sales tax and use tax exemptions for sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to organ procurement organizations exempt under RCW 82.04.326. These exemptions do not apply to the sale of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(11) **Buyer's responsibility to remit deferred sales or use tax.** If the seller does not collect retail sales tax on a retail sale, the buyer must remit the retail sales tax, commonly referred to as "deferred sales tax", or use tax directly to the department unless the purchases are specifically exempt by law. For detailed information regarding the use tax, refer to WAC 458-20-178.

(a) **Reporting deferred sales or use tax.** Persons registered with the department and required to file tax returns should report deferred sales or use tax on their combined excise tax return. As the combined excise tax return does not have a separate line for reporting deferred sales tax, the buyer should report the tax liability on the use tax line. If a deferred sales tax or use tax liability is incurred by a person who is not required to be registered with the department, the person must report the tax on a "Consumer Use Tax Return" and remit the appropriate tax to the department.

(b) **Consumer Use Tax Return.** The Consumer Use Tax Return may be obtained from the department's website at dor.wa.gov, or by calling the department's telephone information center at 1-360-705-6705.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-24-096, filed 12/6/22, effective 1/6/23)

WAC 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients. (1) Introduction. This rule provides guidelines for determining if food or food ingredients qualify for the retail sales tax and use tax exemptions under RCW 82.08.0293 and 82.12.0293 (collectively referred to in this rule as the "exemptions").

There is no corresponding business and occupation (B&O) tax exemption. Even if a sale of food or food ingredients is exempt from retail sales tax or use tax under the exemptions, gross proceeds from sales of food or food ingredients remain subject to the retailing B&O tax.

(2) **Other rules that may apply.** Rules in the following list may contain additional relevant information:

- (a) WAC 458-20-119 Sales by caterers and food service contractors;
- (b) WAC 458-20-124 Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses;
- (c) WAC 458-20-166 Hotels, motels, boarding houses, rooming houses, resorts, hostels, trailer camps, short-term rentals and similar lodging businesses;
- (d) WAC 458-20-167 Educational institutions, school districts, student organizations, and private schools;
- (e) WAC 458-20-168 Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes, and similar health care facilities. This rule also provides information on an exclusion from retail sales tax for certain food, drinks, or meals furnished by senior living communities;
- (f) WAC 458-20-169 Nonprofit organizations;
- (g) WAC 458-20-229 Refunds; and
- (h) WAC 458-20-243 Litter tax.

(3) Items qualifying for the exemptions.

(a) **In general.** The exemptions apply to food and food ingredients. "Food and food ingredients" means substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value.

(b) **Items not used solely for ingestion or chewing.** Items that are commonly ingested or chewed by humans for their taste or nutritional value but which may also be used for other purposes are generally treated as food or food ingredients. For example, pumpkins are presumed to be a food or food ingredient unless the pumpkin is sold painted or is otherwise clearly for decorative purposes rather than consumption. This is true even though the purchaser may use an undecorated pumpkin for carving and display rather than for eating.

(4) **Items not qualifying for the exemptions.** The exemptions do not apply to the following items, which are not considered "food or food ingredients" or which are otherwise specifically excluded from the exemptions:

(a) **Items sold for medical or hygiene purposes.** Items commonly used for medical or hygiene purposes, such as cough drops, breath sprays, toothpaste, etc., are not ingested for taste or nutrition and are not considered a food or food ingredient. In contrast, breath mints are commonly ingested for taste and are considered a food or food ingredient.

(b) **Bulk sales of ice.** Ice sold in bags, containers, or units of greater than 10 pounds and blocks of ice of any weight are not considered a food or food ingredient. Ice sold in cubed, shaved, or crushed form in packages or quantities of 10 pounds or less is considered a food or food ingredient. Refer to WAC 458-20-120, Sales of ice, for additional guidance on the sale of ice.

(c) **Alcoholic beverages.** Alcoholic beverages are excluded from the definition of food and food ingredients. "Alcoholic beverages" means beverages that are suitable for human consumption and contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.

(d) **Tobacco.** Tobacco is excluded from the definition of food and food ingredients. "Tobacco" includes cigarettes, cigars, chewing or pipe tobacco, or any other item that contains tobacco.

(e) **Cannabis.** Cannabis, useable cannabis, cannabis concentrates, or cannabis-infused products, as defined in RCW 69.50.101, are excluded from the definition of food and food ingredients. "Cannabis" means

all parts of the plant *Cannabis*, whether growing or not, with a THC concentration greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

(f) **Bottled water.** Bottled water is excluded from the exemptions for food and food ingredients. "Bottled water" means water that is placed in a safety sealed container or package for human consumption.

(i) Bottled water is calorie free and does not contain sweeteners or other additives except that it may contain:

- (A) Antimicrobial agents;
- (B) Fluoride;
- (C) Carbonation;
- (D) Vitamins, minerals, and electrolytes;
- (E) Oxygen;
- (F) Preservatives; and
- (G) Only those flavors, extracts, or essences derived from a

spice or fruit.

(ii) **Exemptions for tax on bottled water.** There are limited retail sales tax exemptions on bottled water. Sellers must collect the retail sales tax on all sales of bottled water, unless the bottled water is delivered to the buyer as described in (f)(ii)(C) of this subsection. Any buyer that has paid at least \$25.00 in state and local taxes on purchases of bottled water subject to the exemptions described in (f)(ii)(A) and (B) of this subsection may apply for a refund of the taxes directly from the department.

(A) **Prescription issued bottled water.** Bottled water prescribed to patients for use in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or other medical condition is exempt. RCW 82.08.9994. The bottled water must be prescribed, through an order, formula, or recipe issued in any form of oral, written, electronic, or other means of transmission, by a licensed practitioner authorized by Washington law to prescribe.

(B) **Primary water source unsafe.** Bottled water for human use by persons whose primary source of drinking water is unsafe is exempt. RCW 82.08.99941. A person's primary source of drinking water is unsafe if:

(I) The public water system providing the drinking water has issued a public notification that the drinking water may pose a health risk, and the notification is still in effect on the date that the bottled water was purchased;

(II) Test results on the person's drinking water, which are no more than 12 months old, from a laboratory certified to perform drinking water testing show that the person's drinking water does not meet safe drinking water standards applicable to public water systems; or

(III) The person otherwise establishes, to the department's satisfaction, that the person's drinking water does not meet safe drinking water standards applicable to public water systems.

(C) **Bottled water delivered to the buyer in a reusable container not sold with the water.** Buyers claiming an exemption listed in (f)(ii)(A) or (B) of this subsection that have the qualifying water delivered in a reusable container that is not sold with the water must complete a retail sales exemption certificate and provide it to the seller. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate.

(iii) For information regarding exemption certificates and refund requests, visit dor.wa.gov.

(g) **Soft drinks.** Soft drinks are excluded from the exemptions for food and food ingredients. "Soft drinks" means any nonalcoholic beverage that contains natural or artificial sweeteners, except beverages that contain:

- (i) Milk or milk products;
- (ii) Soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes; or
- (iii) More than 50 percent by volume of vegetable or fruit juice.

For example, sweetened sports beverages are considered "soft drinks," but a sweetened soy beverage is a food or food ingredient.

Beverage mixes that are not sold in liquid form are not soft drinks even though they are intended to be made into a beverage by the customer. Examples include powdered fruit drinks, powdered tea or coffee drinks, and frozen concentrates. These items are food or food ingredients and are not subject to retail sales tax.

(h) **Dietary supplements.** Dietary supplements are excluded from the exemptions for food and food ingredients. "Dietary supplement" means any product intended to supplement the diet, other than tobacco, which meets all of the following requirements:

- (i) Contains a vitamin; mineral; herb or other botanical; an amino acid; a substance for use by humans to increase total dietary intake; or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract; or a combination of any of these ingredients;

- (ii) Is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, soft gel, gelcap, or liquid form, or if not intended for ingestion in such a form, is not represented as conventional food and is not represented for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet; and

- (iii) Is required to be labeled with a Food and Drug Administration "supplement facts" box. If a product is otherwise considered a food or food ingredient and labeled with both a "supplement facts" box and "nutrition facts" box, the product is treated as a food or food ingredient.

Nutrition products formulated to provide balanced nutrition as a sole source of a meal or of the diet are considered a food or food ingredient and not a dietary supplement. Refer to RCW 82.08.925 for information on the retail sales tax exemption applicable to dietary supplements dispensed under a prescription.

- (i) **Prepared food.** Prepared food is excluded from the exemptions for food and food ingredients. Prepared food generally means heated foods, combined foods, or foods sold with utensils provided by the seller, as described in more detail in subsection (5) of this rule.

(5) **Items designated as prepared foods.** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if any one of the following is true:

- (a) **Heated foods.** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if sold in a heated state or are heated by the seller, except bakery items. "Bakery items" include bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries, donuts, Danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, and tortillas. Food is sold in a heated state or is heated by the seller when the seller provides the food to the customer at a temperature that is higher than the air temperature of the seller's establishment. Food is not sold in a heated state or heated by the seller if the customer, rather than the seller, heats the food in a microwave provided by the seller.

- (b) **Combined foods.** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if the item sold consists of two or more foods or food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller for sale as a single item, unless the food or food ingredients are any of the following:

- (i) Bakery items (defined in (a) of this subsection);

- (ii) Items that the seller only cuts, repackages, or pasteurizes;

- (iii) Items that contain eggs, fish, meat, or poultry, in a raw or undercooked state requiring cooking as recommended by the federal Food and Drug Administration in chapter 3, part 401.11 of *The Food*

Code, published by the Food and Drug Administration, as amended or re-numbered as of January 1, 2003, so as to prevent foodborne illness; or

(iv) Items sold in an unheated state as a single item at a price that varies based on weight or volume.

(c) **Food sold with utensils provided by the seller.** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if sold with utensils provided by the seller. Utensils include plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, and straws. A plate does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food.

(i) **Utensils are customarily provided by the seller.** A food or food ingredient is "sold with utensils provided by the seller" if the seller's customary practice for that item is to physically deliver or hand a utensil to the customer with the food or food ingredient as part of the sales transaction. If the food or food ingredient is pre-packaged with a utensil, the seller is considered to have physically delivered a utensil to the customer unless the food and utensil are prepackaged together by a food manufacturer classified under sector 311 of the NAICS. Examples of utensils provided by such manufacturers include juice boxes that are packaged with drinking straws, and yogurt or ice cream cups that are packaged with wooden or plastic spoons.

(ii) **Utensils are necessary to receive the food.** Individual food or food ingredient items are "sold with utensils provided by the seller" if a plate, glass, cup, or bowl is necessary to receive the food or food ingredient and the seller makes those utensils available to its customers. For example, items obtained from a self-serve salad bar are sold with utensils provided by the seller, because the customer must use a bowl or plate provided by the seller in order to receive the items.

(iii) **More than 75 percent prepared food sales with utensils available.** All food and food ingredients sold at an establishment, including foods prepackaged with a utensil by a manufacturer classified under sector 311 of the NAICS, are "sold with utensils provided by the seller" if the seller makes utensils available to its customers and the seller's gross retail sales of prepared food under (a), (b), and (c)(ii) of this subsection equal more than 75 percent of the seller's gross retail sales of all food and food ingredients, including prepared food, soft drinks, bottled water, and dietary supplements.

(A) **Exception for four or more servings.** Even if a seller has more than 75 percent prepared food sales, four servings or more of food or food ingredients packaged for sale as a single item and sold for a single price are not "sold with utensils provided by the seller" unless the seller's customary practice for the package is to physically hand or otherwise deliver a utensil to the customer as part of the sales transaction. Whenever available, the number of servings included in a package of food or food ingredients is to be determined based on the manufacturer's product label. If no label is available, the seller must reasonably determine the number of servings.

(B) **Determining total sales of prepared foods.** The seller must determine a single prepared food sales percentage annually for all the seller's establishments in the state based on the prior year of sales. The seller may elect to determine its prepared food sales percentage based either on the prior calendar year or on the prior fiscal year. A seller may not change its elected method for determining its prepared food percentage without the written consent of the department of revenue. The seller must determine its annual prepared food sales percentage as soon as possible after accounting records are available, but in no event later than 90 days after the beginning of the seller's calen-

dar or fiscal year. A seller may make a good faith estimate of its first annual prepared food sales percentage if the seller's records for the prior year are not sufficient to allow the seller to calculate the prepared food sales percentage. The seller must adjust its good faith estimate prospectively if its relative sales of prepared foods in the first 90 days of operation materially depart from the seller's estimate.

(d) **Examples.** The following examples identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. These examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all of the facts and circumstances.

(i) **Example 1.** Fast Cafe sells hot and cold coffee and mixed coffee and mixed milk beverages, cold soft drinks, milk and juice in single-serving containers, sandwiches, whole fruits, cold pasta salad, cookies and other pastries. Fast Cafe prepares the pasta salad on-site. It orders the pastries from a local bakery, including specialty cakes which it sells both as whole cakes and by the slice. It purchases its sandwiches from a local caterer. The sandwiches are delivered by the caterer prewrapped in plastic with condiments and a plastic knife. Fast Cafe makes straws, napkins and cup lids available for all customers by placing them on a self-service stand. In its first full year of operation, Fast Cafe's annual gross retail sales of all food and food ingredients, including prepared food, soft drinks, bottled water, and dietary supplements is \$100,000. Of this gross retail sales total, \$80,000 is from the sale of hot coffee and hot and cold mixed coffee and milk beverages, all sold in disposable paper or plastic cups with the Fast Cafe logo.

Because more than 75 percent of Fast Cafe's total retail sales of food and food ingredients, including prepared food, soft drinks, bottled water, and dietary supplements are sales of food or food ingredients that are heated or combined by the seller or sold with a utensil (cups) necessary to receive the food, Fast Cafe has more than 75 percent prepared food sales. Because Fast Cafe makes utensils available for its customers, all food and food ingredients sold by Fast Cafe are considered "prepared food," including the cold milk beverages, cookies and pastries, pasta salad, sandwiches and whole fruits. The only exception is the sale of whole specialty cakes. Because a whole cake contains four or more servings, it is not subject to retail sales tax unless Fast Cafe customarily hands a utensil to the customer as part of the sale transaction.

(ii) **Example 2.** Assume the same facts as in Example 1, but that only \$60,000 of Fast Cafe's Year 1 gross retail sales were sales of hot coffee and hot and cold mixed coffee and milk beverages. The remainder of its retail sales were sales of sandwiches, whole fruits, cookies and other pastries. Under these facts, Fast Cafe does not have more than 75 percent prepared food sales. Thus, the items sold by Fast Cafe are taxed as follows:

(A) Hot coffee and milk beverages are heated by the seller and are also sold by Fast Cafe with a utensil (a paper cup) necessary to receive the food. The hot coffee and milk beverages are "prepared food" for either reason and are subject to retail sales tax.

(B) Cold mixed milk beverages are a combination of two or more foods or food ingredients and are also sold by Fast Cafe with a utensil (a paper or plastic cup) necessary to receive the food. The cold milk beverages are "prepared food" for either reason and are subject to retail sales tax.

(C) Cold soft drinks are not exempt and are subject to retail sales tax.

(D) Sandwiches prepared by the caterer are subject to retail sales tax. Even though the caterer, rather than the seller, combines the ingredients and includes a utensil, Fast Cafe is considered to have provided the utensil because the caterer is not a food manufacturer classified under sector 311 of the NAICS.

(E) Pasta salad is combined by the seller and is subject to retail sales tax. Note that if the pasta salad was sold by the pound, rather than by servings, it would not be subject to retail sales tax.

(F) Milk and juice in single serving containers, whole fruit, cookies, pastries, slices of cake, and whole cakes are not subject to retail sales tax unless the seller's customary practice is to hand a utensil to the customer as part of the sales transaction. None of these items are heated by the seller, combined by the seller, or require a plate, glass, cup, or bowl in order to receive the item. Even if Fast Cafe heats the pastries for its customers, the pastries are not subject to retail sales tax.

(iii) **Example 3.** A pizza restaurant sells whole hot pizzas, hot pizza by the slice, and unheated ready-to-bake pizzas. The whole hot pizzas and hot pizza sold by the slice, including delivered pizzas, are "prepared food" because these items are sold in a heated state. If the unheated ready-to-bake pizzas are prepared by the seller, they are "prepared food" because the seller has mixed or combined two or more food ingredients. This is true even though some ingredients in the unheated pizzas are raw or uncooked, because those ingredients do not require cooking to prevent foodborne illness. If the unheated ready-to-bake pizzas are prepared by a manufacturer other than the seller, they will be taxable as "prepared food" only if sold with utensils provided by the seller.

(6) **Combined sales of taxable and exempt items.** Where two or more distinct and identifiable items of tangible personal property, at least one of which is a food or food ingredient, are sold for one nonitemized price that does not vary based on the selection by the purchaser of items included in the transaction:

(a) The entire transaction is taxable if the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable items is greater than 50 percent of the combined purchase price or sales price; and

(b) The entire transaction is exempt from retail sales tax if the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable items is 50 percent or less of the combined purchase price or sales price.

The seller may make the determination based on either purchase price or sales price, but may not use a combination of the purchase price and sales price.

Example. A combination wine and cheese picnic basket contains four items packaged together: A bottle of wine, a wine opener, single-serving cheeses, and the picnic basket holding these items. The seller's purchase price for the wine, wine-opener, and picnic basket totals \$10.00. The seller's purchase price for the cheeses is two dollars. The seller must collect retail sales taxes on the entire package, because the seller's purchase price for the taxable items (\$10.00) is greater than 50 percent of the combined purchase price (\$12.00).

(c) **Incidental packaging.** "Distinct and identifiable items" does not include packaging which is immaterial or incidental to the sale of another item or items. For example, a decorative bag sold filled with candy is not the sale of "distinct and identifiable" items where the

bag is merely ornamental packaging immaterial in the sale of the candy.

(d) **Free items.** "Distinct and identifiable items" does not include items provided free of charge. An item is only provided free of charge if the seller's sales price does not vary depending on whether the item is included in the sale.

(7) **Seller's accounting requirements.** All sales of food and food ingredients at an establishment will be treated as taxable unless the seller separately accounts for sales of exempt and nonexempt food and food ingredients. It is sufficient separation for accounting purposes if cash registers or the like are programmed to identify items that are not tax exempt and to calculate and assess the proper sales tax accordingly.

(8) **Other retail sales tax exemptions that may apply.**

(a) **Meals served to certain persons.** The exemptions apply to food and food ingredients furnished, prepared, or served as meals:

(i) Under a state-administered nutrition program for the aged as provided for in the Older Americans Act (Public Law 95-478 Title III) and RCW 74.38.040(6);

(ii) Provided to senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, or low-income persons by a nonprofit organization organized under chapter 24.03A or 24.12 RCW; or

(iii) Provided to residents, 62 years of age or older, of a qualified low-income senior housing facility by the lessor or operator of the facility. The sale of a meal that is billed to both spouses of a marital community or both domestic partners of a domestic partnership meets the age requirement in this subsection (a)(iii) if at least one of the spouses or domestic partners is at least 62 years of age. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified low-income senior housing facility" means a facility:

(A) That meets the definition of a qualified low-income housing project under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 42 of the federal Internal Revenue Code, as existing on August 1, 2009;

(B) That has been partially funded under Title 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1485 of the federal Internal Revenue Code; and

(C) For which the lessor or operator has at any time been entitled to claim a federal income tax credit under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 42 of the federal Internal Revenue Code.

(b) **Foods exempt under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).** Under RCW 82.08.0297, eligible foods purchased with food benefits under the SNAP or a successor program are exempt from the retail sales tax. This is a separate and broader exemption than the retail sales tax exemption for food and food ingredients under RCW 82.08.0293. For example, bottled water, soft drinks, garden seeds, and plants which produce food for the household to eat are "eligible foods" but are not "food or food ingredients." If such items are purchased with food benefits under SNAP or a successor program, they are exempt from the retail sales tax under RCW 82.08.0297, even though the items do not qualify for the exemption under RCW 82.08.0293.

(i) **Use of food benefits combined with other means of payment.** When both food benefits and other means of payment are used in the same sales transaction, for purposes of collecting retail sales taxes, the other means of payment must be applied first to items which are food and food ingredients exempt under RCW 82.08.0293. The intent is to apply the benefits and other means of payment in such a way as to provide the greatest possible exemption from retail sales tax.

(ii) **Example.** A customer purchases the following at a grocery store: Meat for three dollars, cereal for three dollars, canned soft drinks for five dollars, and soap for two dollars for a total of \$13.00. The customer pays with seven dollars in benefits and six dollars in cash. The cash is applied first to the soap because the soap is neither exempt under RCW 82.08.0293 nor an eligible food under SNAP. The remaining cash (four dollars) is applied first to the meat and the cereal. The food benefits are applied to the balance of the meat and cereal (two dollars) and to the soft drinks (five dollars). Retail sales tax is due only on the soap.

(9) **Vending machine sales.** The exemptions do not apply to sales of food and food ingredients dispensed from vending machines. There are special requirements for reporting retail sales tax collected on vending machine sales, discussed in (a) of this subsection. "Honor box" sales (sales of snacks or other items from open display trays) are not considered vending machine sales.

(a) **Calculating and reporting retail sales tax collected on vending machine sales.** Vending machine owners do not need to state the retail sales tax amount separately from the selling price. See RCW 82.08.050 and 82.08.0293. Instead, vending machine owners must determine the amount of retail sales tax collected on the sale of food or food ingredients by using one of the following methods:

(i) **Food or food ingredients dispensed in a heated state, soft drinks, and bottled water.** For food or food ingredients dispensed from vending machines in a heated state (e.g., hot coffee, soups, tea, and hot chocolate) and vending machine sales of soft drinks and bottled water, a vending machine owner must calculate the amount of retail sales tax that has been collected ("tax in gross") based on the gross vending machine proceeds. The "tax in gross" is a deduction against the gross amount of both retailing B&O and retail sales. The formula is:

$$\text{gross machine proceeds} - [(\text{gross machine proceeds}) / (1 + \text{sales tax rate})] = \text{tax in gross}$$

(ii) **All other food or food ingredients.** For all other food and food ingredients dispensed from vending machines, a vending machine owner must calculate the amount of retail sales tax that has been collected ("tax in gross") based on 57 percent of the gross vending machine proceeds. The "tax in gross" is a deduction against the gross amount of both retailing B&O and retail sales. The formula is:

$$(\text{gross machine proceeds} \times .57) \times \text{sales tax rate} = \text{tax in gross}$$

The remaining 43 percent of the gross vending machine proceeds, less the "tax in gross" amount, is reported as an exempt food sales deduction against retail sales proceeds only calculated as follows:

$$(\text{gross machine proceeds} \times .43) - \text{tax in gross} = \text{exempt food deduction}$$

(b) **Example.** Jane owns a vending machine business with machines in Spokane and Seattle. In each location, she has a vending machine selling candy and a second vending machine selling hot cocoa and coffee drinks. Her annual sales for the vending machines and the combined retail sales tax rates for Seattle and Spokane are as follows:

	Coffee Machine (cocoa & coffee)	Candy Machine	Combined Retail Sales Tax Rate
Seattle	\$2,500	\$10,000	.101
Spokane	\$3,000	\$6,000	.089

To determine the amount of retail sales tax she collected on the sale of cocoa and coffee (food dispensed in a heated state, subject to retail sales tax), Jane calculates the "tax in gross" deduction amount as follows:

gross machine proceeds - [(gross machine proceeds)/(1 + sales tax rate)] = tax in gross

$$\begin{aligned} \$2,500 - (\$2,500/1.101) &= \$229.34 && \text{(Seattle coffee machine)} \\ \$3,000 - (\$3,000/1.089) &= \underline{\$245.18} && \text{(Spokane coffee machine)} \\ &&& \$474.52 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for both retailing B&O and retail sales, Jane must report her total gross coffee machine proceeds of \$5,500 with a "tax in gross" deduction of \$474.52.

To determine the amount of retail sales tax she collected on the sale of candy, Jane calculates the "tax in gross" deduction amount as follows:

(gross machine proceeds x .57) x sales tax rate = tax in gross

$$\begin{aligned} \$10,000 \times .57 \times .101 &= \$575.70 && \text{(Seattle candy machine)} \\ \$6,000 \times .57 \times .089 &= \underline{\$304.38} && \text{(Spokane candy machine)} \\ &&& \$880.08 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for both retailing B&O and retail sales, Jane must report her total gross candy machine proceeds of \$16,000 with a "tax in gross" deduction of \$880.08.

Jane must also report an exempt food sales deduction representing the remaining 43 percent of the gross candy machine proceeds.

(43% x gross machine proceeds) - tax in gross = exempt food deduction

$$(.43 \times \$16,000) - \$880.08 = \$5999.92$$

Jane reports the exempt food sales deduction only against the gross amount of her retail sales. The deduction does not apply to retailing B&O.

Reviser's note: The brackets and enclosed material in the text of the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.

WSR 23-22-013

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

[Filed October 19, 2023, 11:18 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 458-20-124 Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses and 458-20-119 Sales by caterers and food service contractors.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: To update the rules to incorporate SHB 1431's retail sales tax exemption for food, drink, or meals provided by senior living communities.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: To reflect change in law.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 82.01.060, 82.32.300.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 82.04.040.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Jason Andre, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1580; Implementation and Enforcement: John Ryser, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1605.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The expedited rule-making process is appropriate for this rule because the department is incorporating an exemption added by 2023 legislation and makes no other changes to the rule.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Jason Andre, Department of Revenue, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, phone 360-534-1580, fax 360-534-1606, email jasona@dor.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

October 19, 2023
Atif Aziz
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5022.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-14-014, filed 6/23/22, effective 7/24/22)

WAC 458-20-119 Sales by caterers and food service contractors.

(1) **Introduction.** This rule explains Washington's business and occupa-

tion (B&O) tax and retail sales tax applications for sales by caterers and food service contractors.

(a) **Examples.** This rule contains examples that identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. These examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all facts and circumstances.

(b) **Other rules that may apply.** The following rules may contain additional relevant information:

(i) WAC 458-20-107 Requirement to separately state sales tax—Advertised prices including sales tax.

(ii) WAC 458-20-124 Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses.

(iii) WAC 458-20-166 Hotels, motels, boarding houses, rooming houses, resorts, hostels, trailer camps, short-term rentals and similar lodging businesses.

(iv) WAC 458-20-167 Educational institutions, school districts, student organizations, and private schools.

(v) WAC 458-20-168 Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes and similar health care facilities.

(vi) WAC 458-20-175 Persons engaged in the business of operating as a private or common carrier by air, rail or water in interstate or foreign commerce.

(vii) WAC 458-20-189 Sales to and by the state of Washington and municipal corporations, including counties, cities, towns, school districts, and fire districts.

(viii) WAC 458-20-190 Sales to and by the United States and certain entities created by the United States—Doing business on federal reservations—Sales to foreign governments.

(ix) WAC 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients.

(2) **Sales by caterers.** Sales of meals and prepared food by caterers are subject to the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes when sold to consumers. "Caterer" means a person who provides, prepares, and serves meals for immediate consumption at a location selected by the customer. The tax liability is the same whether the meals are prepared at the customer's site or the caterer's site. The retailing B&O and retail sales taxes also apply when caterers prepare and serve meals using ingredients provided by the customer.

(3) **Food service contractors.** The term "food service contractor" means a person who operates a food service at a kitchen, cafeteria, dining room, or similar facility owned by an institution or business. Food service contractors may manage the food service operation on behalf of the institution or business, or may actually make sales of meals or prepared foods.

(a) **Sales of meals.** Food service contractors who sell meals or prepared foods to consumers are subject to the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes on their gross proceeds of sales. For example, the operation of a cafeteria which provides meals to employees of a manufacturing or financial business is generally a retail activity. The food service contractor is considered to be making retail sales of meals, whether payment for the meal is made by the employees or the business, unless the business itself is reselling the meals to the employees.

In all cases where the meals are prepared at off-site facilities not owned by the institution or business, the food service contractor is considered to be making sales of meals and the retailing B&O and

retail sales taxes apply to the gross proceeds of sale, or gross income for sales to consumers.

(b) **Food service management.** The gross proceeds derived from the management of a food service operation are subject to the service and other business activities B&O tax. These tax reporting provisions apply whether the staff actually preparing the meals or prepared foods is employed by the institution or business hiring the food service contractor, or by the food service contractor itself. If the food service contractor merely manages the food service operation on behalf of an institution or business, that institution or business is considered to be selling meals or providing the meals as a part of the services the institution or business renders to its customers. These institutions and businesses should refer to subsections (4) and (5) in this rule to determine their B&O tax and retail sales tax liabilities.

Food service management includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

(i) Food service contractors operating a cafeteria or similar facility which provides meals and prepared food for employees or guests of a business, but only where the business owning the facility is the one actually selling the meals to its employees.

(ii) Food service contractors managing or operating a cafeteria, lunch room, or similar facility for the exclusive use of students or faculty at an educational institution or private school. The educational institution or private school provides these meals to the students and faculty as a part of its educational services. The food service contractor is managing a food service operation on behalf of the institution, and is not making retail sales of meals to the students, faculty, or institution. Sales of meals or prepared foods to guests in such areas are, however, subject to the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes.

(iii) Food service contractors managing or operating the dietary facilities of a hospital, nursing home, or similar institution, for the purpose of providing meals or prepared foods to its patients or residents. These meals are provided to the patients or residents by the hospital, nursing home, or similar institution as a part of the services rendered by the institution. The food service contractor is managing a food service operation on behalf of the institution, and is not considered to be making retail sales of meals to the patients, residents, or institution. Sales of meals to doctors, nurses, visitors, and other employees through a cafeteria or similar facility are, however, subject to the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes.

(c) **Examples.**

(i) Example 1. GC Inc. is a food service contractor managing and operating an on-site cafeteria for B College. This cafeteria is operated for the exclusive use of students and faculty. Guests of students or faculty members, however, are allowed to use the facilities. All moneys collected in the cafeteria are retained by B College. B College pays GC's direct costs for managing and operating the cafeteria, including the costs of the unprepared food products, employee salaries, and overhead expenses. GC also receives a management fee.

GC Inc. is managing a food service operation. The measure of tax is the gross proceeds received from B College. GC Inc. may not claim a deduction on account of cost of materials, salaries, or any other expense. GC Inc.'s proceeds are subject to the service and other activities B&O tax classification. B College is considered to be making retail sales of meals to the guests and must collect and remit retail

sales tax on the gross proceeds of these sales. B College should refer to WAC 458-20-167 to determine whether the retailing B&O tax applies.

(ii) Example 2. DF Food Service contracts with Hospital A to manage and operate Hospital A's dietary and cafeteria facilities. DF is to receive a per meal fee for meals provided to Hospital A's patients. DF Food Service retains all proceeds for sales of meals to physicians, nurses, and visitors in the cafeteria.

The gross proceeds received from Hospital A regarding the meals provided to the patients are derived from the management of a food service operation. These proceeds are subject to the service and other activities B&O tax classification. DF, however, is making retail sales of meals to physicians, nurses, and visitors in the cafeteria. DF Food Service must pay retailing B&O tax, and collect and remit retail sales tax, on the gross proceeds derived from the cafeteria sales.

(4) **Retailing B&O and retail sales taxes.** The sales of meals to consumers are subject to the retailing B&O tax and generally subject to retail sales tax. However, a retail sales tax exemption is available for the following sales of meals:

(a) Prepared meals sold under a state-administered nutrition program for the aged as provided for in the Older Americans Act (Public Law 95-478 Title III) and RCW 74.38.040(6);

(b) Prepared meals sold to or for senior citizens, disabled persons, or low-income persons by a nonprofit organization organized under chapter 24.03A or 24.12 RCW. However, this exemption does not apply to purchases of prepared meals by nonprofit organizations, such as hospitals, which provide the meals to patients as a part of the services they render; ~~((and))~~

(c) Food, drink, or meals furnished by a senior living community, as defined in RCW 82.04.040, to tenants as part of a rental or residency agreement for which no separate charge is made, regardless of whether the tenant is a resident for purposes of chapter 18.20 or 18.390 RCW. RCW 82.04.040. However, senior living communities must still report the value of such meals under the service and other activities B&O tax classification or under the classification which otherwise applies to that community; and

(d) Prepared meals sold to the federal government. WAC 458-20-190. However, meals sold to federal employees are taxable, even if the federal employee will be reimbursed for the cost of the meals by the federal government.

(5) **Wholesale sales of prepared meals.** Persons making sales of prepared meals to persons who will be reselling the meals are subject to the wholesaling B&O tax classification. Sellers must obtain a reseller permit for sales from their customers to document the wholesale nature of any sale as provided in WAC 458-20-102 Reseller permits.

(6) **Deferred sales or use tax.** If the seller fails to collect the appropriate retail sales tax, the purchaser is required to pay the deferred sales or use tax directly to the department for many catering and food service items, as follows:

(a) Purchases of dishes, kitchen utensils, linens, and items which do not become an ingredient of the meal, are subject to retail sales tax.

(b) Retail sales tax or use tax applies to purchases of equipment, repairs, appliances, and construction.

(c) Retail sales tax or use tax does not apply to purchases of food or beverage products that are ingredients of meals being sold at retail or wholesale.

(d) Purchases of food products and prepared meals by persons who are not in the business of selling meals at retail or wholesale are subject to the retail sales tax. However, certain food products are exempt from retail sales or use tax. See WAC 458-20-244.

OTS-5023.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-14-014, filed 6/23/22, effective 7/24/22)

WAC 458-20-124 Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses. (1) **Introduction.** This rule explains how Washington's business and occupation (B&O) tax and retail sales tax apply to sales by restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns, and similar businesses. It discusses sales of meals, beverages, and foods at prices that include retail sales tax. This rule also explains how discounted and promotional meals are taxed. Caterers and persons who merely manage the operations of a restaurant or similar business should refer to WAC 458-20-119 Sales by caterers and food service contractors, to determine their tax liability.

(a) **Definition. Restaurants, cocktail bars, and taverns.** The term "restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns, and similar businesses" means every place where prepared foods and beverages are sold and served to individuals, generally for consumption on the premises where sold.

(b) **Examples.** This rule contains examples that identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. These examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all facts and circumstances.

(c) **Other rules that may apply.** The following rules may contain other relevant information:

(i) WAC 458-20-107 Requirement to separately state sales tax—Advertised prices including sales tax.

(ii) WAC 458-20-119 Sales by caterers and food service contractors.

(iii) WAC 458-20-131 Gambling activities.

(iv) WAC 458-20-168 Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family homes and similar health care facilities.

(v) WAC 458-20-183 Recreational services and activities.

~~((v))~~ (vi) WAC 458-20-187 Tax responsibility of vending machine owners and operators.

~~((vi))~~ (vii) WAC 458-20-189 Sales to and by the state of Washington and municipal corporations, including counties, cities, towns, school districts, and fire districts.

~~((vii))~~ (viii) WAC 458-20-190 Sales to and by the United States and certain entities created by the United States—Doing business on federal reservations—Sales to foreign governments.

~~((viii))~~ (ix) WAC 458-20-243 Litter tax.

~~((ix))~~ (x) WAC 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients.

(2) **Retailing B&O and retail sales taxes.** Sales of meals and prepared foods to consumers by restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns, and similar businesses are subject to retailing B&O tax and generally sub-

ject to retail sales tax. Retail sales tax exemptions are available for the following sales of meals:

(a) Prepared meals sold under a state-administered nutrition program for the aged as provided for in the Older Americans Act (Public Law 95-478 Title III) and RCW 74.38.040(6);

(b) Prepared meals sold to or for senior citizens, disabled persons, or low-income persons by a nonprofit organization organized under chapter 24.03A or 24.12 RCW;

(c) Food, drink, or meals furnished by a senior living community, as defined in RCW 82.04.040, to tenants as part of a rental or residency agreement for which no separate charge is made, regardless of whether the tenant is a resident for purposes of chapter 18.20 or 18.390 RCW. RCW 82.04.040. However, senior living communities must still report the value of such meals under the service and other activities B&O tax classification or under the classification which otherwise applies to that community;

(d) Prepared meals sold to the federal government. WAC 458-20-190. However, meals sold to federal employees are taxable, even if the federal employee will be reimbursed for the cost of the meals by the federal government; and

~~((d))~~ (e) Meals provided without specific charge by a restaurant to its employees. RCW 82.08.9995. These meals are also exempt from B&O tax and use tax. RCW 82.04.750 and 82.12.9995. However, if any charge is made for meals to employees, retailing B&O tax and retail sales tax apply.

For purposes of ~~((d))~~ (e) of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Meal" means one or more items of prepared food or beverages other than alcoholic beverages. For the purposes of ~~((d))~~ (e) of this subsection, "alcoholic beverage" and "prepared food" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.08.0293.

(ii) "Restaurant" means any establishment having special space and accommodation where food and beverages are regularly sold to the public for immediate, but not necessarily on-site, consumption, but excluding grocery stores, mini-markets, and convenience stores. Restaurant includes, but is not limited to, lunch counters, diners, coffee shops, espresso shops or bars, concession stands or counters, delicatessens, and cafeterias. It also includes space and accommodations where food and beverages are sold to the public for immediate consumption, if a separate charge is made for such food and beverages, and are located within:

- Hotels, motels, lodges, boarding houses, bed and breakfast facilities;

- Hospitals, office buildings, movie theaters; and

- Schools, colleges, or universities.

Restaurants also include:

- Mobile sales units that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption within a place, the entrance to which is subject to an admission charge; and

- Public and private carriers, such as trains and vessels, that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption if a separate charge is made for such food or beverages.

A restaurant is open to the public for purposes of this subsection (2) ~~((d))~~ (e) if members of the public can be served as guests. "Restaurant" does not include businesses making sales through vending machines or through mobile sales units such as catering trucks or sidewalk vendors of food or beverage items.

(3) **Wholesaling B&O tax.** Persons making sales of prepared meals to persons who will be reselling the meals are subject to the wholesaling B&O tax classification. Sellers must obtain a copy of the purchaser's reseller permit to document the wholesale nature of any sale as provided in WAC 458-20-102 Reseller permits.

(4) **Service and other business activities B&O tax.** Compensation received from owners of vending machines for allowing the placement of those machines at the restaurant, cocktail bar, tavern, or similar business is subject to the service and other business activities tax. WAC 458-20-187. Persons operating contests of chance should refer to WAC 458-20-131.

(5) **Deferred sales or use tax.** If the seller fails to collect the appropriate retail sales tax, the purchaser is required to pay the deferred sales or use tax directly to the department.

(a) Retail sales tax or use tax applies to purchases of dishes, kitchen utensils, linens, and items that do not become an ingredient of the meal.

(b) Retail sales tax or use tax applies to purchases of equipment, repairs, appliances, and construction.

(c) Retail sales tax or use tax does not apply to purchases of food or beverage products that are ingredients of the meals being sold.

(d) Retail sales tax or use tax does not apply to purchases of paper plates, paper cups, paper napkins, toothpicks, or any other articles that are furnished to customers, the first actual use of which renders such articles unfit for further use, when purchased by restaurants and similar businesses making actual sales of meals.

(6) **Combination business.** Persons operating a combination of two kinds of food sales, of which one is the sale of prepared food (i.e., an establishment, such as a deli, selling food products ready for consumption and in bulk quantities), should refer to WAC 458-20-244 for taxability information.

(7) **Discounted meals, promotional meals, and meals given away.** Persons who sell meals on a "two for one" or similar basis are not giving away a free meal, but rather are selling two meals at a discounted price. Both the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes are calculated on the reduced price actually received by the seller.

Persons who provide meals free of charge to persons other than their employees are consumers of those meals. Persons operating restaurants or similar businesses are not required to report use tax on food and food ingredients given away, even if the food or food ingredients are part of prepared meals. For example, a restaurant providing meals to the homeless or hot dogs free of charge to a little league team will not incur a retail sales or use tax liability with respect to these items given away. A sale has not occurred, and the food and food ingredients exemption applies. Should the restaurant provide the little league team with soft drinks free of charge, the restaurant will incur a deferred retail sales or use tax liability with respect to those soft drinks. Soft drinks are excluded from the exemption for food and food ingredients. WAC 458-20-244.

(8) **Sales of meals, beverages and food at prices that include retail sales tax.** Persons may advertise and/or sell meals, beverages, or any kind of food product at prices including retail sales tax. Any person electing to advertise and/or make sales in this manner must clearly indicate this pricing method on the menus and other price information. WAC 458-20-107.

(9) **Spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensees.** Restaurants operating under the authority of a license from the liquor and cannabis board to sell spirits, beer, and wine by the glass for on-premises consumption generally have both dining and cocktail lounge areas. Customers purchasing beverages or food in lounge areas may not be given sales invoices, sales slips, or dinner checks, nor are they generally provided with menus.

(a) Many spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensees elect to sell beverages or food at prices inclusive of the retail sales tax in the cocktail lounge area. If this pricing method is used, notification that retail sales tax is included in the price of the beverages or foods must be posted in the lounge area in a manner and location so that customers can see the notice without entering employee work areas. The department presumes that no retail sales tax has been collected or is included in the gross receipts when a notice is not posted and the customer does not receive a sales slip or sales invoice separately stating the retail sales tax.

(b) The election to include retail sales tax in the selling price in one area of a location does not preclude the restaurant operator from selling beverages or food at a price exclusive of retail sales tax in another. For example, a spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensee may elect to include the retail sales tax in the price charged for beverages in the lounge area, while the price charged in the dining area is exclusive of the retail sales tax.

(c) Spirits, beer, and wine restaurant licensees are not required to post actual drink prices in the cocktail lounge areas. However, if actual prices are posted, the advertising requirements expressed in WAC 458-20-107 must be met.

(d) **Examples.**

(i) Example 1. XYZ Restaurant operates both a cocktail bar and a dining area. XYZ has elected to sell drinks and appetizers in the bar at prices including the retail sales tax while selling drinks and meals served in the dining area at prices exclusive of the retail sales tax. There is a sign posted in the bar area advising customers that all prices include retail sales tax. Customers in the dining area are given sales invoices that separately state the retail sales tax. As an example, a typical well drink purchased in the bar for \$7.00 inclusive of the retail sales tax, is sold for \$7.00 plus retail sales tax in the dining area. The pricing requirements have been satisfied and the drink and food totals are correctly reflected on the customers' dinner checks. XYZ may factor the retail sales tax out of the cocktail bar gross receipts when determining its retailing B&O and retail sales tax liability.

(ii) Example 2. RBS Restaurant operates both a cocktail bar and a dining area. RBS has elected to sell drinks at prices inclusive of retail sales tax for all areas where drinks are served. It has a sign posted to inform customers in the bar area of this fact and a statement is also on the dinner menu indicating that any charges for drinks includes retail sales tax. Dinner checks are given to customers served in the dining area that state the price of the meal exclusive of retail sales tax, the retail sales tax on the meal, and the drink price including retail sales tax. Because the business has met the sign posting requirement in the bar area and has indicated on the menu that retail sales tax is included in the price of the drinks, RBS may factor the retail sales tax out of the gross receipts received from its drink sales when determining its taxable retail sales.

(iii) Example 3. Z Tavern sells all foods and drinks at a price that includes the retail sales tax. However, there is no mention of this pricing structure on its menus or reader boards. The gross receipts from Z Tavern's food and drink sales are subject to the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes. Z Tavern has failed to meet the conditions for selling foods and drinks at prices including retail sales tax. Z Tavern may not assume the gross receipts include any retail sales tax and may not factor the retail sales tax out of the gross receipts.

(10) **Gratuities.** Tips or gratuities representing donations or gifts by customers under circumstances which are clearly voluntary are not part of the selling price and not subject to tax. However, mandatory additions to the price by the seller, whether labeled service charges, tips, gratuities or otherwise are part of the selling price and are subject to both the retailing B&O and retail sales taxes.

WSR 23-22-017

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

[Filed October 19, 2023, 3:48 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 458-18-220 Refunds—Rate of interest, 458-30-262 Agricultural land valuation—Interest rate—Property tax component, and 458-30-590 Rates of inflation—Publication—Interest rate—Calculation.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The department of revenue (department) proposes to amend:

WAC 458-18-220 to provide the rate of interest for treasury bill auction year 2023, which is used when refunding property taxes paid in 2024, as required by RCW 84.69.100.

WAC 458-30-262 to provide the interest rate and property tax component used when valuing classified farm and agricultural land during the 2024 assessment year, as required by RCW 84.34.065.

WAC 458-30-590 to provide the rate of inflation published in 2023, which is used in calculating interest for deferred special benefit assessments of land removed or withdrawn from classification during 2024, as required by RCW 84.34.310.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: The department is specifically and explicitly required by statute to annually update these rules to provide the information identified above.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 84.34.065, 84.34.141, 84.34.360, and 84.69.100.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 84.34.055, 84.34.065, 84.34.141, 84.34.310, 84.34.360, 84.68.030, and 84.69.100.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Leslie Mullin, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1589; Implementation and Enforcement: John Ryser, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1605.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Adopts or incorporates by reference without material change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes, rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule.

Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The department is required by Washington state statutes to annually update these rules.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU

OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Leslie Mullin, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 47453, Olympia, WA 98504-7453, phone 360-534-1589, fax 360-534-1606, email LeslieMu@dor.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

October 19, 2023
 Atif Aziz
 Rules Coordinator

OTS-4990.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-007, filed 12/7/22, effective 1/1/23)

WAC 458-18-220 Refunds—Rate of interest. (1) **Introduction.** Interest applies to refunds of taxes made pursuant to RCW 84.69.010 through 84.69.090 in accordance with RCW 84.69.100. Interest also applies to judgments entered in favor of the plaintiff pursuant to RCW 84.68.030.

(2) **Calculation of interest rate.** The interest rate is calculated from the equivalent coupon issue yield of the average bill rate for 26-week treasury bills as determined at the first bill market auction conducted after June 30th of the calendar year preceding the date the taxes were paid.

(3) **Interest rates.** The following rates are applied to the amount of the judgment or the amount of the refund, until paid:

Year tax paid	Auction Year	Rate
1984	1983	9.29%
1985	1984	11.27%
1986	1985	7.36%
1987	1986	6.11%
1988	1987	5.95%
1989	1988	7.04%
1990	1989	8.05%
1991	1990	8.01%
1992	1991	5.98%
1993	1992	3.42%
1994	1993	3.19%
1995	1994	4.92%
1996	1995	5.71%
1997	1996	5.22%
1998	1997	5.14%
1999	1998	5.06%
2000	1999	4.96%
2001	2000	5.98%
2002	2001	3.50%
2003	2002	1.73%

Year tax paid	Auction Year	Rate
2004	2003	0.95%
2005	2004	1.73%
2006	2005	3.33%
2007	2006	5.09%
2008	2007	4.81%
2009	2008	2.14%
2010	2009	0.29%
2011	2010	0.21%
2012	2011	0.08%
2013	2012	0.15%
2014	2013	0.085%
2015	2014	0.060%
2016	2015	0.085%
2017	2016	0.340%
2018	2017	1.130%
2019	2018	2.085%
2020	2019	2.040%
2021	2020	0.165%
2022	2021	0.050%
2023	2022	2.50%
<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>5.26%</u>

OTS-4991.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-007, filed 12/7/22, effective 1/1/23)

WAC 458-30-262 Agricultural land valuation—Interest rate—Property tax component. For assessment year ((2023)) 2024, the interest rate and the property tax component that are used to value classified farm and agricultural lands are as follows:

- (1) The interest rate is ((5.53)) 6.03 percent; and
- (2) The property tax component for each county is:

COUNTY	PERCENT	COUNTY	PERCENT
Adams	((1.19)) <u>1.05</u>	Lewis	((0.93)) <u>0.78</u>
Asotin	1.12	Lincoln	((1.10)) <u>1.03</u>
Benton	((1.06)) <u>0.88</u>	Mason	((0.98)) <u>0.87</u>
Chelan	((0.93)) <u>0.81</u>	Okanogan	((1.13)) <u>0.93</u>
Clallam	((0.98)) <u>0.82</u>	Pacific	((1.03)) <u>0.77</u>
Clark	((1.02)) <u>0.92</u>	Pend Oreille	((0.94)) <u>0.86</u>

COUNTY	PERCENT	COUNTY	PERCENT
Columbia	((1.15)) <u>1.11</u>	Pierce	((1.11)) <u>0.98</u>
Cowlitz	((0.99)) <u>0.89</u>	San Juan	((0.71)) <u>0.59</u>
Douglas	((1.03)) <u>0.95</u>	Skagit	((0.99)) <u>0.88</u>
Ferry	((0.96)) <u>0.88</u>	Skamania	((1.01)) <u>0.89</u>
Franklin	((0.89)) <u>0.84</u>	Snohomish	((0.93)) <u>0.76</u>
Garfield	((1.05)) <u>1.09</u>	Spokane	((1.13)) <u>0.93</u>
Grant	((1.03)) <u>0.98</u>	Stevens	((0.91)) <u>0.81</u>
Grays Harbor	((1.08)) <u>0.89</u>	Thurston	((1.14)) <u>0.95</u>
Island	((0.91)) <u>0.74</u>	Wahkiakum	((0.74)) <u>0.60</u>
Jefferson	((0.94)) <u>0.80</u>	Walla Walla	((1.16)) <u>1.00</u>
King	((0.95)) <u>0.83</u>	Whatcom	((0.94)) <u>0.85</u>
Kitsap	((0.96)) <u>0.85</u>	Whitman	((1.41)) <u>1.42</u>
Kittitas	((0.86)) <u>0.77</u>	Yakima	((1.09)) <u>0.96</u>
Klickitat	((0.98)) <u>0.87</u>		

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-01-007, filed 12/7/22, effective 1/1/23)

WAC 458-30-590 Rate of inflation—Publication—Interest rate—Calculation. (1) **Introduction.** This rule provides the rates of inflation discussed in RCW 84.34.330 and WAC 458-30-550 Exemption—Removal or withdrawal. It also explains the department of revenue's (department) obligation to annually publish a rate of inflation and the manner in which this rate is determined.

(2) **General duty of department - Basis for inflation rate.** Each year the department determines and publishes a rule establishing an annual rate of inflation. This rate of inflation is used in computing the interest that is assessed when farm and agricultural or timber land, which are exempt from special benefit assessments, is withdrawn or removed from current use classification.

(a) The rate of inflation is based on the implicit price deflator for personal consumption expenditures calculated by the United States Department of Commerce. This rate is used to calculate the rate of interest collected on exempt special benefit assessments.

(b) The rate is published by December 31st of each year and applies to all withdrawals or removals from the farm and agricultural or timber land classifications that occur the following year.

(3) **Assessment of rate of interest.** An owner of classified farm and agricultural or timber land is liable for interest on the exempt

special benefit assessment. Interest accrues from the date the local improvement district is created until the land is withdrawn or removed from classification. Interest accrues and is assessed in accordance with WAC 458-30-550.

(a) Interest is assessed only for the time (years and months) the land remains classified under RCW 84.34.020 (2) or (3).

(b) If the classified land is exempt from the special benefit assessment for more than one year, the annual inflation rates are used to calculate an average rate of interest. This average is determined by adding the inflation rate for each year the classified land was exempt from the special benefit assessment after the local improvement district was created. The sum of the inflation rates is then divided by the number of years involved to determine the applicable rate of interest.

(c) Example. A local improvement district for a domestic water supply system was created in January 2010 and the owner used the statutory exemption provided in RCW 84.34.320. On July 1, 2017, the land was removed from the farm and agricultural classification. An average interest rate was calculated using the inflation rates for 2010 through 2017. The owner was then notified of the amount of previously exempt special benefit assessment, plus the average interest rate.

(4) **Rates of inflation.** The rates of inflation used to calculate the interest as required by WAC 458-30-550 are as follows:

YEAR	PERCENT	YEAR	PERCENT
1976	5.6	1977	6.5
1978	7.6	1979	11.3
1980	13.5	1981	10.3
1982	6.2	1983	3.2
1984	4.3	1985	3.5
1986	1.9	1987	3.7
1988	4.1	1989	4.8
1990	5.4	1991	4.2
1992	3.3	1993	2.7
1994	2.2	1995	2.3
1996	2.2	1997	2.1
1998	0.85	1999	1.42
2000	2.61	2001	1.89
2002	1.16	2003	1.84
2004	2.39	2005	2.54
2006	3.42	2007	2.08
2008	4.527	2009	-0.85 (negative)
2010	1.539	2011	2.755
2012	1.295	2013	1.314
2014	1.591	2015	0.251
2016	0.953	2017	1.553
2018	2.169	2019	1.396
2020	0.602	2021	3.860
2022	6.457	<u>2023</u>	<u>3.67</u>

WSR 23-22-035

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission)

[Filed October 23, 2023, 1:49 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Updating reference to United States Pharmacopeia (USP) General Chapters 795 and 797. The pharmacy quality assurance commission (commission) is proposing a revision to WAC 246-945-100 Compounding minimum standards, to update the rule to the most recent version of the USP - National Formulary <795> and <797>.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The proposed rule amends WAC 246-945-100 to update the rule to the most recent versions of the USP <795> and <797>. USP <795> and <797> were adopted into rule by reference effective on July 1, 2020. Since then, USP <795> and <797> have been updated.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: The existing reference in WAC 246-945-100 does not account for changes made to USP <795> and <797> that are official as of November 1, 2023, by USP. The proposed rule updates the references to the most recent versions. The proposed rule language qualifies for expedited rule making under RCW 34.05.353 (1)(b) as the language incorporates by reference national standards without material change.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 18.64.005.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 18.64.005 and 18.64.270.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting and Implementation: Haleigh Mauldin, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501, 360-890-0720; Enforcement: Marlee O'Neill, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501, 360-480-9180.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Adopts or incorporates by reference without material change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes, rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The proposed amendments adopt by reference, without material change, the most recent version of the national standard, USP <795> and <797>. The national standard is adopted by reference in existing rule. The proposed amendments update the rule to the most recent version of the national standard.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU

OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Haleigh Mauldin, Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission, P.O. Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852, phone 360-890-0720, email PharmacyRules@doh.wa.gov, <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/policyreview>, AND RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

October 23, 2023
Kenneth Kenyon, PharmD, BCPS
Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission

OTS-4925.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-12-072, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/1/20)

WAC 246-945-100 Compounding minimum standards. (1) All licensees of the commission must comply, at a minimum, with the following chapters of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) when engaged in compounding nonsterile and sterile products for patient administration or distribution to a licensed practitioner for patient use or administration:

- (a) USP General Chapter <795> Pharmaceutical Compounding - Nonsterile Preparations, official as of November 1, 2023;
- (b) USP General Chapter <797> Pharmaceutical Compounding - Sterile Preparations, official as of November 1, 2023;
- (c) USP General Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs - Handling in Healthcare Settings; and
- (d) USP General Chapter <825> Radiopharmaceuticals - Preparation, Compounding, Dispensing, and Repackaging.

(2) Copies of the USP General Chapters listed in subsection (1) of this section are available for public inspection at the commission's office at Department of Health, Town Center 2, 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501. Requestors may also contact USP directly to obtain copies.

WSR 23-22-044
EXPEDITED RULES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
TRAINING COMMISSION

[Filed October 24, 2023, 2:37 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 139-27-060
Recertification process.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: This is to correct an administrative error in the original filing to match the intended changes, as seen in WAC 139-27-050, that was also reduced from 45 hours to 30 hours in relation to the reduced time frame requiring recertification.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: This is to correct an administrative error in the original filing to match the intended changes, as seen in WAC 139-27-050, that was also reduced from 45 hours to 30 hours in relation to the reduced time frame requiring recertification.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 43.101.080.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 43.101.480.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Jennifer Pendray, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting, Implementation, and Enforcement: Jennifer Pendray, 19010 1st Avenue South, Burien, WA 98148, 206-571-2190.

Agency Comments or Recommendations, if any, as to Statutory Language, Implementation, Enforcement, and Fiscal Matters: This is to correct an administrative error in the original filing to match the intended changes, as seen in WAC 139-27-050, that was also reduced from 45 hours to 30 hours in relation to the reduced time frame requiring recertification.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Relates only to internal governmental operations that are not subject to violation by a person.

Corrects typographical errors, makes address or name changes, or clarifies language of a rule without changing its effect.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The proposed change is administrative only and the change from 45 hours to 30 hours was accidentally omitted from the prior filing. As this change impacts only recertification of these individuals, which is three years from now, the potential impact to any individuals has not yet happened.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Lacey Ledford, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, 19010 1st Avenue South, Burien, WA 98148, phone 206-670-5813, email Lacey.Ledford@cjtc.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

October 24, 2023
Lacey Ledford
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5038.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-19-039, filed 9/13/23, effective 10/14/23)

WAC 139-27-060 Recertification process. (1) Requests for recertification must be submitted by the employing agency designee for any coroner, medical examiner, or medicolegal investigative personnel directly affected by the regulation.

(2) Requests shall be submitted in writing, with appropriate documentation, to the commission. Requests shall be accepted up to six months prior to the expiration date and due by or before the expiration date.

(3) Request for recertification:

(a) For a medical examiner:

(i) Proof of continued board certification as a forensic pathologist by the American Board of Pathology or proof of ((45)) 30 hours of continuing education, for which documentation shall include:

(A) Certificate of completion or other documentation showing completion;

(B) Course description;

(C) Agenda/syllabus/program;

(D) Number of education hours.

(ii) Proof of continued licensure by the Washington state medical commission.

(iii) Proof of good standing by the employing agency on agency letterhead.

(b) For a coroner or medicolegal investigation personnel:

(i) Proof of 30 hours of continuing education. Documentation shall include:

(A) Certificate of completion or other documentation showing completion;

(B) Course description;

(C) Agenda/syllabus/program;

(D) Number of education hours.

(ii) Proof of good standing by the employing agency on agency letterhead.

(4) Upon submission of the appropriate documentation, the commission shall review and evaluate relevant materials and issue recertification, if applicable, within 60 days.

(5) If the applicant has not met the qualifications to receive recertification, the commission shall:

(a) Issue recertification upon satisfactory completion of acceptable continuing education to be completed within six months from time application for recertification is deemed not to have met the qualifications, or submission of needed materials; or

(b) Require attendance of the core medicolegal forensic investigation training regardless of previous attendance if certification has lapsed by one year or more.

(6) During the six-month period to complete or rectify missing eligibility requirements for recertification required by the commission as provided in subsection (5)(a) of this section, expiration of the current certificate will be delayed until the end of this six-month period or upon the issuance of a new certificate.

WSR 23-22-045
EXPEDITED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
[Filed October 24, 2023, 2:46 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Chapter 16-240 WAC, WSDA grain inspection program—Definitions, standards and fees. In response to a requirement set by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) under Directive 9100.07 issued on July 19, 2023, the Washington state department of agriculture (department) is proposing to amend WAC 16-240-039 by adding clarifying language which identifies Commodity Cooperative Service Agreement Fees and Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA), Rice Cooperative Service Agreement Fees as separate line items from the unit fees charged for each service.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The new language will provide transparency to the program's customers related to federal fees the program collects and how they will appear on invoices for applicable services.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: The department's grain inspection program facilitates trade in domestic and international markets by providing unbiased, third-party sampling, weighing, quality testing, grade inspection, and phytosanitary services under an official delegation by the USDA-AMS-FGIS. As an official delegate, the department must comply with USDA requirements in order to provide these services.

USDA-AMS-FGIS has notified all delegates that they need to update their rule language to reflect required language pertaining to federal administrative and supervision fees. The department is required to collect these federal oversight fees when providing services and provide them to USDA-AMS-FGIS. Previously, these fees were included in the unit fee rate. With the rule change, these fees will be identified as a separate line item on invoices. Updated rule language has to be provided to USDA-AMS-FGIS by January 2, 2024.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 22.09.020, 22.09.790.

Statute Being Implemented: Chapter 22.09 RCW.

Rule is necessary because of federal law, 7 C.F.R. § 800.70(e), 7 C.F.R. § 800.0(b), 7 C.F.R. § 800.195(f), FGIS Directive 9100.7.

Name of Proponent: Washington state department of agriculture, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Elisha Chambers, 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98504, 360-902-1931; Implementation and Enforcement: Philip Garcia, 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98504, 360-902-1921.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Relates only to internal governmental operations that are not subject to violation by a person.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The amendment relates only to internal governmental operations, specifically how the department shows fees charged by FGIS on invoices and is not subject to violation by a person. This proposed amendment, therefore, meets the criteria for expedited adoption under RCW 34.05.353 (1)(a).

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEAR-

INGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Gloriann Robinson, Rules Coordinator, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560, phone 360-902-1802, fax 360-902-2092, email wsdarulescomments@agr.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

Jessica Allenton
Assistant Director

OTS-5048.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-05-011, filed 2/4/22, effective 3/7/22)

WAC 16-240-039 USDA, AMS, FGIS administrative and supervision fees. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) charges a per metric ton administrative and supervision fee for export and other grain handled by facilities in the Washington state department of agriculture service area.

(1) FGIS administrative tonnage fees. In addition to all other applicable fees, FGIS administrative tonnage fees for export grain shipments inspected and/or weighed, excluding land carrier shipments to Canada and Mexico, will be assessed at the current per metric ton rate identified in FGIS Directive 9180.74 Service Fees and Billing Codes, Attachment 1. Invoices will identify assessed administrative tonnage fees as separate line items per applicable carrier/unit type.

(2) FGIS supervision fees. In addition to all other applicable fees, FGIS supervision fees for domestic U.S. grain shipments inspected and/or weighed, including land carrier shipments to Canada and Mexico, will be assessed at the current per metric ton rate identified in FGIS Directive 9180.74 Service Fees and Billing Codes, Attachment 2. Invoices will identify assessed supervision fees as separate line items per applicable carrier/unit type.

(3) Commodity cooperative service agreement fees. In addition to all other applicable fees, commodity cooperative service agreement fees for commodity inspection services (pulses, hops, and miscellaneous processed commodities), excluding rice, will be assessed at the current percentage rate identified in FGIS Directive 9180.74 (Service Fees and Billing Codes, Attachment 4.) The assessed fees must exclude travel, mailing expenses, and state and local taxes. Invoices will identify assessed commodity cooperative service agreement fees as separate line items.

(4) AMA rice cooperative service agreement fees. In addition to all other applicable fees, AMA rice cooperative service agreement fees for rice inspection services will be assessed at the current percentage rate identified in FGIS Directive 9180.74 (Service Fees and Billing Codes, Attachment 3.) The assessed fees must exclude travel, mailing expenses, and state and local taxes. Invoices will identify assessed AMA rice cooperative service agreement fees as separate line items.

WSR 23-22-051

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

[Filed October 25, 2023, 9:10 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 458-18-010
Deferral of special assessments and/or property taxes—Definitions.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The department is amending this rule to incorporate the language in SHB 1355 (2023), which updates the income thresholds used in determining deferment eligibility.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: Updating these rules will provide accurate deferment requirements for applicants and individuals currently receiving the deferment.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 84.38.180.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 84.38.020.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Leslie Mullin, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1589; Implementation and Enforcement: John Ryser, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1605.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Adopts or incorporates by reference without material change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes, rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule.

Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The expedited rule-making process is appropriate for this rule update because the department is incorporating legislative changes.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Leslie Mullin, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 47467, Olympia, WA 98504-7467, phone 360-534-1589, fax 360-534-1606, email LeslieMu@dor.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

October 25, 2023
Atif Aziz
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5041.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-04-025, filed 1/24/22, effective 2/24/22)

WAC 458-18-010 Deferral of special assessments and/or property taxes—Definitions. (1) **Introduction.** This rule provides definitions of the terms used to administer the deferral program in chapter 84.38 RCW and this section through WAC 458-18-100 for special assessments and/or property taxes on residential housing.

(2) **"Boarding house"** means a residence in which lodging and meals are provided. Each resident of a boarding house is charged a lump sum to cover the costs of lodging and meals with no separate accounting for the fair selling price of the meals.

(3) **"Claimant"** means a person who either elects under chapter 84.38 RCW or is required under RCW 84.64.050, to defer payment of special assessments and/or real property taxes accrued on their residence by filing a declaration to defer as allowed under chapter 84.38 RCW. Only one individual per household may file a declaration to defer.

(4) **"Cooperative housing"** means any existing structure, including surrounding land and improvements, which contains one or more dwelling units and is owned by:

(a) An association with resident shareholders who are granted renewable leasehold interests in dwelling units in the building. Unlike owners of a condominium, the resident shareholders who hold a renewable leasehold interest do not own their dwelling units; or

(b) An association organized under the Cooperative Association Act (chapter 23.86 RCW).

(5) **"Department"** means the state department of revenue.

(6) **"Devisee"** has the same meaning as provided in RCW 21.35.005: Any person designated in a will to receive a disposition of real or personal property.

(7) **"Domestic partner"** means a person registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a partner in a legal union of two persons, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

(8) **"Domestic partnership"** means a partnership registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a legal union of two persons, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

(9) **"Equity value"** means the amount by which the true and fair value of a residence exceeds the total amount of all liens, obligations, and encumbrances against the property, excluding deferral liens. As used in this context, the "true and fair value" of a residence is the value shown on the county tax rolls maintained by the assessor for the assessment year in which the deferral claim is made.

(10) **"Fire and casualty insurance"** means a policy with an insurer that is authorized by the state insurance commission to insure property in this state.

(11) **"Heir"** has the same meaning as provided in RCW 21.35.005: Any person, including the surviving spouse, who is entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to the property of a decedent.

(12) **"Income threshold"** means:

(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to 2020, a combined disposable income equal to \$45,000; and

(b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2020 and thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of the income threshold for the previous year, or 75 percent of the county median household income, adjusted every ~~((five))~~ three years beginning August 1, ~~((2019, and by March 1st every fifth year thereafter))~~ 2023, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).

(i) Beginning with the adjustment made by ~~((March 1, 2024, and every second adjustment thereafter))~~ August 1, 2023, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8), if the income threshold in a county is not adjusted based on percentage of county median income, then the income threshold must be adjusted based on the growth of the ~~((seasonally adjusted))~~ consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the prior 12-month period as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(ii) In no case may the adjustment be greater than one percent and if the income threshold adjustment is negative, the income threshold for the prior year continues to apply. The adjusted threshold must be rounded to the nearest one dollar.

(13) "**Irrevocable trust**" means a trust that may not be revoked after its creation by the trustor.

(14) "**Lease for life**" means a lease that terminates upon the death of the lessee.

(15) "**Lien**" means any interest in property given to secure payment of a debt or performance of an obligation, including a deed of trust. A lien includes the total amount of special assessments and/or property taxes deferred and the interest. It also may include any other outstanding balances owed to local governments for special assessments.

(16) "**Life estate**" means an estate that consists of total rights to use, occupy, and control real property but is limited to the lifetime of a designated party; this party is often called a "life tenant."

(17) "**Local government**" means any city, town, county, water-sewer district, public utility district, port district, irrigation district, flood control district, or any other municipal corporation, quasi municipal corporation, or other political subdivision authorized to levy special assessments.

(18) "**Perjury**" means the willful assertion as to a matter of fact, opinion, belief, or knowledge made by a claimant upon the declaration to defer that the claimant knows to be false.

(19) "**Real property taxes**" means ad valorem property taxes levied on a residence in this state. The term includes foreclosure costs, interest, and penalties accrued as of the date the declaration to defer is filed.

(20) "**Residence**" has the same definition in RCW 84.36.383 and is defined as:

(a) A single-family dwelling unit whether the unit is separate or part of a multiunit dwelling and includes up to one acre of the parcel of land on which the dwelling stands. Residence also includes any additional property up to a total of five acres that comprises the residential parcel if local land use regulations require this larger parcel size; ~~((or))~~

(b) A share ownership in a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership if the person claiming exemption can estab-

lish that their share represents the specific unit or portion of such structure in which they reside; or

(c) A single-family dwelling situated upon lands the fee of which is vested in the United States or any instrumentality of the United States, including an Indian tribe, or in the state of Washington, notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.04.080 and 84.04.090, such a residence is deemed real property.

(21) "**Revocable trust**" means an agreement that entitles the trustor to have the full right to use the real property and to revoke the trust and retake complete ownership of the property at any time during their lifetime. The trustee of a revocable trust holds only bare legal title to the real property. Full equitable title to the property remains with the trustor; the original property owner.

(22) "**Rooming house**" means a residence where persons may rent rooms.

(23) "**Special assessment**" means the charge or obligation imposed by a local government upon real property specially benefited by improvements.

WSR 23-22-069

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

[Filed October 25, 2023, 11:59 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 458-16A-100 Senior citizen, disabled person, and disabled veteran exemption—Definitions, 458-16A-120 Senior citizen, disabled person, and disabled veteran exemption—Determining combined disposable income, 458-16A-130 Senior citizen, disabled person, and disabled veteran exemption—Qualifications for exemption, and 458-16A-135 Senior citizen, disabled person, and disabled veteran exemption—Application procedures.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The department is amending these rules to incorporate SHB 1438 (2021), which allows certain common health care-related expenses to be deducted in determining exemption eligibility, and SHB 1355 (2023), which updates the income thresholds used in determining exemption eligibility. This rule is also being updated to removed outdated information regarding federal income tax filing forms.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: Updating these rules will provide accurate exemption requirements for applicants and individuals currently receiving the exemption.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 84.36.389.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 84.36.381, 84.36.383, 84.36.385.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Leslie Mullin, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1589; Implementation and Enforcement: John Ryser, 6400 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA, 360-534-1605.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Adopts or incorporates by reference without material change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes, rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule.

Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The expedited rule-making process is appropriate for these rule updates because the department is incorporating legislative changes.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Leslie Mullin, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 47467, Olympia, WA 98504-7467,

phone 360-534-1589, fax 360-534-1606, email LeslieMu@dor.wa.gov, AND
RECEIVED BY January 2, 2024.

October 25, 2023
Atif Aziz
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5042.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-066, filed 11/24/20, effective 12/25/20)

WAC 458-16A-100 Senior citizen, ~~((disabled person, and disabled veteran))~~ persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities exemption—Definitions. (1) **Introduction.** This rule contains definitions of the terms used for the senior citizen, ~~((disabled person, and disabled veteran))~~ persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities property tax exemption described in RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389.

(2) **Annuity.** "Annuity" means a series of long-term periodic payments, under a contract or agreement. It does not include payments for the care of dependent children. For purposes of this ~~((subsection))~~ rule, "long-term" means a period of more than one full year from the annuity starting date.

Annuity distributions must be included in "disposable income," as that term is defined in subsection ~~((13))~~ (12) of this rule, regardless of whether the distributions are taxable under federal law. A one-time, lump sum, total distribution is not an "annuity" for purposes of this rule, and only the taxable portion that would be included in federal adjusted gross income should be included in disposable income.

(3) **Assessment year.** "Assessment year" means the year the assessor lists and values the principal residence for property taxes. The assessment year is the calendar year prior to the year the taxes are due and payable. The assessment year is the year before the claimant receives the reduction in their property taxes because of the senior citizen, ~~((disabled person, and disabled veteran))~~ persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities exemption.

(4) **Capital gain.** "Capital gain" means the amount the seller receives for property, other than inventory, over that seller's adjusted basis in the property. The seller's initial basis in the property is the property's cost plus taxes, freight charges, and installation fees. In determining the capital gain, the seller's costs of transferring the property to a new owner are also added onto the adjusted basis of the property. If the property is acquired in some other manner than by purchase, the seller's initial basis in the property is determined by the way the seller received the property (e.g., property exchange, payment for services, gift, or inheritance). The seller increases and decreases the initial basis of the property for events occurring between the time the property is acquired and when it is sold (e.g., increased by the cost of improvements made later to the property).

(5) **Claimant.** "Claimant" means a person claiming the senior citizen, ~~((disabled person, and disabled veteran))~~ persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities exemption by filing an application with the assessor in the county where the property is located.

(6) **Combined disposable income.** "Combined disposable income" means the annual disposable income of the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, and any cotenant occupying the residence for the assessment year, reduced by amounts paid by the claimant or the claimant's spouse or domestic partner for their:

- (a) Legally prescribed drugs;
- (b) Home health care as defined in subsection (18) of this rule;
- (c) Nursing home, boarding home, assisted living facility, or adult family home expenses; ~~((and))~~
- (d) Health care insurance premiums for medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act;
- (e) Costs related to medicare supplemental policies as defined in Title 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395ss;
- (f) Durable medical equipment, mobility enhancing equipment, medically prescribed oxygen, and prosthetic devices as defined in RCW 82.08.0283 (see also WAC 458-20-18801);
- (g) Long-term care insurance as defined in RCW 48.84.020;
- (h) Cost-sharing amounts as defined in RCW 48.43.005;
- (i) Nebulizers as defined in RCW 82.08.803;
- (j) Medicines of mineral, animal, and botanical origin prescribed, administered, dispensed, or used in the treatment of an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW;
- (k) Ostomic items as defined in RCW 82.08.804;
- (l) Insulin for human use;
- (m) Kidney dialysis devices; and
- (n) Disposable devices used to deliver drugs for human use, as defined in RCW 82.08.935.

Disposable income is not reduced by ~~((these))~~ any of the amounts in this subsection (6) if payments are reimbursed by insurance or a government program (e.g., medicare or medicaid). When the application is made, the combined disposable income is calculated for the assessment year.

(7) **Cotenant.** "Cotenant" means a person who resides with the claimant and who has an ownership interest in the residence.

(8) **County median household income.** "County median household income" means the median household income estimates for the state of Washington by county of the legal address of the principal place of residence, as published by the office of financial management.

(9) **Department.** "Department" means the state department of revenue.

(10) **Depreciation.** "Depreciation" means the annual deduction allowed to recover the cost of business or investment property having a useful life of more than one year. In limited circumstances, this cost, or a part of this cost, may be taken as a section 179 expense on the federal income tax return in the year business property is purchased.

(11) **Disability.** "Disability" means the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than ~~((twelve))~~ 12 months. RCW 84.36.383; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 423 (d) (1) (A).

(12) (~~(Disabled veteran.~~ "Disabled veteran" means a veteran of the armed forces of the United States entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at:

~~(a) A combined service-connected evaluation rating of eighty percent or higher; or~~

~~(b) A total disability rating for a service-connected disability without regard to evaluation percent.~~

~~(13))~~ **Disposable income.** "Disposable income" means the adjusted gross income as defined in the Federal Internal Revenue Code of 2001, and as amended after that date, plus all (~~the other~~) items described below to the extent they are not included in or have been deducted from adjusted gross income:

(a) Capital gains, other than gain excluded from the sale of a principal residence that is reinvested prior to the sale or within the same calendar year in a different principal residence;

(b) Amounts deducted for loss;

(c) Amounts deducted for depreciation;

(d) Pension and annuity receipts;

(e) Military pay and benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid payments. Attendant-care and medical-aid payments are any payments for medical care, home health care, health insurance coverage, hospital benefits, or nursing home benefits provided by the military;

(f) Veterans benefits other than:

(i) Attendant-care payments and medical-aid payments, defined as any payments for medical care, home health care, health insurance coverage, hospital benefits, or nursing home benefits provided by the VA;

(ii) Disability compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a veteran because of a service-connected disability; and

(iii) Dependency and indemnity compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a surviving spouse, child, or parent because of a service-connected death;

(g) Federal Social Security Act and railroad retirement benefits;

(h) Dividend receipts; and

(i) Interest received on state and municipal bonds.

~~((14))~~ **(13) Domestic partner.** "Domestic partner" means a person registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a partner in a legal union of two persons, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

~~((15))~~ **(14) Domestic partnership.** "Domestic partnership" means a partnership registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a legal union of two persons, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

~~((16))~~ **(15) Excess levies.** "Excess levies" has the same meaning as provided in WAC 458-19-005 for "excess property tax levy."

~~((17))~~ **(16) Excluded military pay or benefits.** "Excluded military pay or benefits" means military pay or benefits excluded from a person's federal gross income, other than those amounts excluded from that person's federal gross income for attendant-care and medical-aid payments. Members of the armed forces receive many different types of pay and allowances. Some payments or allowances are included in their gross income for federal income tax purposes while others are excluded. Excluded military pay or benefits include:

(a) Compensation for active service while in a combat zone or a qualified hazardous duty area;

(b) Death allowances for burial services, gratuity payment to a survivor, or travel of dependents to the burial site;

(c) Moving allowances;

(d) Travel allowances;

(e) Uniform allowances;

(f) Group term life insurance payments made by the military on behalf of the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or the cotenant; and

(g) Survivor and retirement protection plan premiums paid by the military on behalf of the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or the cotenant.

~~((18))~~ (17) **Family dwelling unit.** "Family dwelling unit" means the dwelling unit occupied by a single person, any number of related persons, or a group not exceeding a total of eight related and unrelated nontransient persons living as a single noncommercial housekeeping unit. The term does not include a boarding or rooming house.

~~((19))~~ (18) **Home health care.** "Home health care" means the treatment or care of either the claimant or the claimant's spouse or domestic partner received in the home. It must be similar to the type of care provided in the normal course of treatment or care in a nursing home, although the person providing the home health care services need not be specially licensed. The treatment and care must meet at least one of the following criteria. It must be for:

(a) Medical treatment or care received in the home;

(b) Physical therapy received in the home;

(c) Food, oxygen, lawful substances taken internally or applied externally, necessary medical supplies, or special needs furniture or equipment (such as wheel chairs, hospital beds, or therapy equipment), brought into the home as part of a necessary or appropriate in-home service that is being rendered (such as a meals on wheels type program); or

(d) Attendant care to assist the claimant, or the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, with household tasks, and such personal care tasks as meal preparation, eating, dressing, personal hygiene, specialized body care, transfer, positioning, ambulation, bathing, toileting, self-medication a person provides for himself or herself, or such other tasks as may be necessary to maintain a person in their own home, but does not include improvements or repair of the home itself.

~~((20))~~ (19) **Income threshold 1.** "Income threshold 1" means:

(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to 2020, a combined disposable income equal to ~~((thirty thousand dollars))~~ \$30,000; ~~((and))~~

(b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar ~~((year 2020 and thereafter))~~ years 2020 through 2023, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of "income threshold 1" for the previous year or ~~((forty five))~~ 45 percent of the county median household income ~~((, adjusted every five years beginning August 1, 2019, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8)))~~; and

(c) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2024 and thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of "income threshold 1" for the previous year or 50 percent of the county median household income, adjusted every three years beginning August 1, 2023, and by March 1st every third year thereafter, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).

~~((21))~~ (20) **Income threshold 2.** "Income threshold 2" means:

(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to 2020, a combined disposable income equal to ~~((thirty five thousand dollars))~~ \$35,000; ~~((and))~~

(b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar ~~((year 2020 and thereafter))~~ years 2020 through 2023, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of "income threshold 2" for the previous year or ~~((fifty five))~~ 55 percent of the county median household income ~~((, adjusted every five years beginning August 1, 2019, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8)))~~; and

(c) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2024 and thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of "income threshold 2" for the previous year or 60 percent of the county median household income, adjusted every three years beginning August 1, 2023, and by March 1st every third year thereafter, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).

~~((+22))~~ (21) **Income threshold 3.** "Income threshold 3" means:

(a) For taxes levied for collection in calendar years prior to 2020, a combined disposable income equal to ~~((forty thousand dollars))~~ \$40,000; ~~((and))~~

(b) For taxes levied for collection in calendar ~~((year 2020 and thereafter))~~ years 2020 through 2023, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of "income threshold 3" for the previous year or ~~((sixty five))~~ 65 percent of the county median household income ~~((, adjusted every five years beginning August 1, 2019, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8)))~~; and

(c) For taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2024 and thereafter, a combined disposable income equal to the greater of "income threshold 3" for the previous year or 70 percent of the county median household income, adjusted every three years beginning August 1, 2023, and by March 1st every third year thereafter, as provided in RCW 84.36.385(8).

~~((+23))~~ (22) **Lease for life.** "Lease for life" means a lease that terminates upon the death of the lessee.

~~((+24))~~ (23) **Legally prescribed drugs.** "Legally prescribed drugs" means drugs supplied by prescription of a medical practitioner authorized to issue prescriptions by the laws of this state or another jurisdiction.

~~((+25))~~ (24) **Life estate.** "Life estate" means an estate whose duration is limited to the life of the party holding it or of some other person.

(a) Reservation of a life estate upon a principal residence placed in trust or transferred to another is a life estate.

(b) Beneficial interest in a trust is considered a life estate for the settlor of a revocable or irrevocable trust who grants to themselves the beneficial interest directly in their principal residence, or the part of the trust containing their personal residence, for at least the period of their life.

(c) Beneficial interest in an irrevocable trust is considered a life estate, or a lease for life, for the beneficiary who is granted the beneficial interest representing their principal residence held in an irrevocable trust, if the beneficial interest is granted under the trust instrument for a period that is not less than the beneficiary's life.

~~((+26))~~ (25) **Owned.** "Owned" includes "contract purchase" as well as "in fee," a "life estate," and any "lease for life." A residence owned by a marital community or domestic partnership or owned by co-

tenants is deemed to be owned by each spouse or each domestic partner or each cotenant.

~~((27))~~ **(26) Ownership by a marital community or domestic partnership.** "Ownership by a marital community or domestic partnership" means property owned in common by both spouses or domestic partners. Property held in separate ownership by one spouse or domestic partner is not owned by the marital community or domestic partnership. The person claiming the exemption must own the property for which the exemption is claimed. For example, a person qualifying for the exemption by virtue of age, disability, or disabled veteran status may not claim this exemption on a residence owned by the person's spouse or domestic partner as a separate estate outside the marital community or domestic partnership unless the claimant has a life estate in that separate estate.

~~((28))~~ **(27) Pension.** "Pension" generally means an arrangement providing for payments, not wages, to a person or to that person's family, who has fulfilled certain conditions of service or reached a certain age. Pension distributions may be triggered by separation from service, attainment of a specific age, disability, death, or other events. A pension may allow payment of all or a part of the entire pension benefit, in lieu of regular periodic payments.

~~((29))~~ **(28) Principal residence.** "Principal residence" means the claimant owns and occupies the residence as their principal or main residence. It does not include a residence used merely as a vacation home. For purposes of this exemption:

(a) Principal or main residence means the claimant occupies the residence for more than six months each calendar year.

(b) Confinement of the claimant to a hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility, adult family home, or home of a relative for the purpose of long-term care, does not disqualify the claim for exemption if:

(i) The residence is temporarily unoccupied;

(ii) The residence is occupied by the claimant's spouse or domestic partner or a person financially dependent on the claimant for support;

(iii) The residence is occupied by a caretaker who is not paid for watching the house;

(iv) The residence is rented for the purpose of paying nursing home, hospital, boarding home, or adult family home costs.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, "relative" means any individual related to the claimant by blood, marriage, or adoption.

~~((30))~~ **(29) Regular gainful employment.** "Regular gainful employment" means consistent or habitual labor or service which results in an increase in wealth or earnings.

~~((31))~~ **(30) Regular property tax levies.** "Regular property tax levies" has the same meaning as provided in WAC 458-19-005 for "regular property tax levy."

~~((32))~~ **(31) Replacement residence.** "Replacement residence" means a residence that qualifies for the senior citizen, ~~((disabled person, and disabled veteran))~~ persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities exemption and replaces the prior residence of the person receiving the exemption.

~~((33))~~ **(32) Residence.** "Residence" means a single-family dwelling unit whether the unit is separate or part of a multiunit dwelling and includes up to one acre of the parcel of land on which the dwelling stands. A residence also includes any additional property up to a

total of five acres that comprises the residential parcel if land use regulations require this larger parcel size. The term also includes:

(a) A share ownership in a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership if the person claiming exemption can establish that his or her share represents the specific unit or portion of the structure in which they reside.

(b) A single-family dwelling situated on leased lands and on lands the fee of which is vested in the United States, any instrumentality thereof including an Indian tribe, the state of Washington, or its political subdivisions.

(c) A mobile home which has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by being fixed in location on land owned or rented by the owner of the mobile home and placed on a foundation, posts, or blocks with fixed pipe connections for sewer, water or other utilities even though it may be listed and assessed by the county assessor as personal property. It includes up to one acre of the parcel of land on which the mobile home is located if both the land and mobile home are owned by the same qualified claimant. It also includes any additional property up to a total of five acres that comprises the residential parcel if land use regulations require this larger parcel size.

~~((34))~~ (33) Veteran. "Veteran" means a veteran of the armed forces of the United States.

(34) Veteran with disabilities. "Veteran with disabilities" means a veteran of the armed forces of the United States entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at:

(a) A combined service-connected evaluation rating of 80 percent or higher; or

(b) A total disability rating for a service-connected disability without regard to evaluation percent.

(35) **Veterans benefits.** "Veterans benefits" means benefits paid or provided under any law, regulation, or administrative practice administered by the VA. Federal law excludes from gross income any veterans' benefits payments, paid under any law, regulation, or administrative practice administered by the VA.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-04-017, filed 1/24/20, effective 2/24/20)

WAC 458-16A-120 Senior citizen, ~~((disabled person, and disabled veteran)) persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities exemption—Determining combined disposable income.~~ (1) **Introduction.** This rule describes how an assessor determines a claimant's combined disposable income.

Examples. This rule includes examples that identify a set of facts and then state a conclusion. These examples should only be used as a general guide.

(2) **Begin by calculating disposable income.** The assessor must determine the disposable income of the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, and all cotenants. The assessor begins by obtaining a copy of the claimant's, the claimant's spouse's or domestic partner's, and any cotenant's federal income tax return. If the federal income tax returns are not provided, the assessor must calculate disposable income from copies of other income documents (e.g., W-2,

1099-R, 1099-INT, etc.). If the federal income tax returns are provided, adjusted gross income is found on the front pages of Form 1040 (~~Form 1040A, and Form 1040EZ~~). Even if a federal income tax return is provided, an assessor may request copies of supporting documents to verify the amount of the claimant's combined disposable income.

(a) **Absent spouse or domestic partner.** When a spouse or domestic partner has been absent for over a year and the claimant has no knowledge of their spouse's or domestic partner's location or whether the spouse or domestic partner has income, and the claimant has not received anything of value from the spouse or domestic partner or anyone acting on behalf of the spouse or domestic partner, the disposable income of the spouse or domestic partner is deemed to be zero for purposes of this exemption. The claimant must submit with the application a dated statement signed under the penalty of perjury. This statement must state that more than one year prior to filing the exemption application:

- (i) The claimant's spouse or domestic partner was absent;
- (ii) The claimant has not and does not know the location of their spouse or domestic partner;
- (iii) The claimant has not had any communication with their spouse or domestic partner; and
- (iv) The claimant has not received anything of value from their spouse or domestic partner or anyone acting on behalf of their spouse or domestic partner.

The statement must also agree to provide this income information if the claimant is able to obtain it anytime within the next six years.

(b) (~~Form 1040EZ.~~ Generally, the adjusted gross income on Form 1040EZ represents the disposable income for the person or couple filing the return. However, the adjusted gross income as shown on the Form 1040EZ must be increased by the following amounts which are excluded from adjusted gross income.

(i) **Gain from a sold residence.** Under certain circumstances, gain from a sold residence is added onto the seller's adjusted gross income. Since excluded capital gains from the sale of a principal residence are generally not reported on the federal income tax return, the exemption application asks if a home has been sold, whether the sale proceeds were reinvested in a new principal residence, and the amount of capital gain from the sale.

(A) If the proceeds were reinvested in a new principal residence, the excluded capital gain reinvested in the new residence is ignored. The adjusted gross income on Form 1040EZ is not adjusted for any part of the excluded capital gain reinvested in the new residence.

(B) If the proceeds were not reinvested in a new principal residence or if only a part of the proceeds were reinvested in a new principal residence, the amount of excluded capital gain that is not reinvested in a new principal residence is added onto the seller's adjusted gross income to determine the seller's disposable income. The assessor may accept the excluded capital gain amount claimed on the application or request a copy of documents demonstrating the seller's basis in the property and the capital gain earned on the sale.

(ii) **Interest received on state and municipal bonds.** Interest received on state or local government bonds is generally not subject to federal income tax. This tax exempt interest is marked "TEI" and reported on the Form 1040EZ. The tax-exempt interest is added to the bond owner's federal adjusted gross income to determine the bond owner's disposable income.

~~(A) The assessor may ask a claimant whether the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or any cotenants own state or local government bonds. If the federal income tax return does not show the tax exempt amount from the bond, the assessor may ask to see a copy of the Form 1099-INT (Interest Income).~~

~~(B) If the claimant does not have Form 1099-INT, the bond issuer should be able to determine whether the interest is taxable. The bond issuer should also provide the owner with a periodic, or year-end, statement showing the tax treatment of the bond. If the recipient of the bond income invested in the bond through a trust, a fund, or other organization, that organization should provide the recipient with this information.~~

~~(iii) **Excluded military pay and benefits.** Military pay and benefits excluded from federal adjusted gross income, other than attendant-care and medical-aid payments, are added to the adjusted gross income of the military personnel receiving the excluded military pay or benefits to determine that person's disposable income. Excluded military pay and benefits are discussed in more detail in (d) (vii) of this subsection.~~

~~(iv) **Veterans benefits.** Veterans benefits are added to the veteran's adjusted gross income to determine the veteran's disposable income. The following veterans benefits are not added to a veteran's adjusted gross income:~~

~~(A) Attendant-care payments and medical-aid payments, defined as any payments for medical care, home health care, health insurance coverage, hospital benefits, or nursing home benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);~~

~~(B) Disability compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a veteran because of a service-connected disability; and~~

~~(C) Dependency and indemnity compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a surviving spouse, child, or parent.~~

~~Veterans benefits are discussed in more detail in (d) (viii) of this subsection.~~

~~(c) **Form 1040A.** If a claimant provides a copy of a Form 1040A, the assessor calculates the disposable income for the person or couple filing the return by adding to the adjusted gross income, the items described below, but only to the extent these items were excluded or deducted from gross income.~~

~~(i) **Gain from a sold residence.** The excluded capital gain from selling a principal residence to the extent the excluded gain was not reinvested in a new principal residence is added onto the seller's adjusted gross income to determine the seller's disposable income. Refer to (b) (i) of this subsection for a more complete discussion of excluded capital gain on a sold residence.~~

~~(ii) **Interest received on state and municipal bonds.** Interest received on state or local government bonds is generally not subject to federal income tax. The tax-exempt interest reported on Form 1040A is added back to the bond owner's adjusted gross income to determine the bond owner's disposable income. Refer to (b) (ii) of this subsection for a more complete discussion of tax-exempt interest on state and municipal bonds.~~

~~(iii) **Pension and annuity receipts.** Any nontaxable pension and annuity amounts are added onto the recipient's adjusted gross income amount to determine the recipient's disposable income. The nontaxable pension and annuity amounts are the difference between the total pension and annuity amounts reported and the taxable amounts reported. If the total amount of the pension and annuity amounts are not reported~~

on the return, the assessor may use a copy of the Form 1099-R (Distributions from Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.) issued to the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or the cotenant to determine the total amount of pension and annuity amounts received. Pension and annuity amounts do not include distributions made from a traditional individual retirement account.

~~(iv) **Federal Social Security Act and railroad retirement benefits.** Any nontaxable Social Security benefit or equivalent railroad retirement amount reported on the Form 1040A federal income tax return is added to the adjusted gross income of the person receiving these benefits to determine that person's disposable income. The nontaxable Social Security benefit or equivalent railroad retirement amount is the difference between the total Social Security benefits or equivalent railroad retirement amounts reported and the taxable amount reported. If the total amount of the Social Security benefit or equivalent railroad retirement amount is not reported on the federal income tax return, the assessor may use a copy of the Form SSA-1099 or Form RRB-1099 issued to the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or the cotenant, to determine the Social Security benefits or the railroad retirement benefits received.~~

~~(v) **Excluded military pay and benefits.** Military pay and benefits excluded from federal adjusted gross income, other than attendant care and medical aid payments, are added to the adjusted gross income of the military personnel receiving the excluded military pay or benefits to determine that person's disposable income. Excluded military pay and benefits are discussed in (d) (vii) of this subsection.~~

~~(vi) **Veterans benefits.** Veterans benefits are added to the veteran's adjusted gross income to determine the veteran's disposable income. The following veterans benefits are not added to a veteran's adjusted gross income:~~

~~(A) Attendant care payments and medical aid payments, defined as any payments for medical care, home health care, health insurance coverage, hospital benefits, or nursing home benefits provided by the VA;~~

~~(B) Disability compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a veteran because of a service-connected disability; and~~

~~(C) Dependency and indemnity compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a surviving spouse, child, or parent.~~

~~Veterans benefits are discussed in (d) (viii) of this subsection.~~

~~(d-)) **Form 1040.** If a claimant provides a copy of the Form 1040, the assessor will calculate the disposable income for the person or couple filing the return by adding to the reported adjusted gross income all of the items described below, but only to the extent these items were excluded or deducted from gross income.~~

~~(i) **Gain from a sold residence.** The excluded capital gain from selling a principal residence to the extent that excluded gain was not reinvested in a new principal residence is added onto the seller's adjusted gross income to determine the seller's disposable income.~~

~~(ii) **Capital gains.** If the federal income tax return shows capital gains or losses, the assessor examines a copy of the schedule or forms, if any, that were filed with the return. The assessor should examine the capital gains reported on Schedule D (Capital Gains and Losses) and on Forms 4684 (Casualty and Thefts), 4797 (Sales of Business Property), and 8829 (Business Use of Home).~~

~~The assessor adds to adjusted gross income, any amount of capital gains reduced by losses or deductions on the schedules or forms listed above to determine the total capital gains. The amount of capital~~

gains that were excluded or deducted from adjusted gross income must be added to the adjusted gross income to determine disposable income.

(iii) **Losses.** Amounts deducted for losses are added to adjusted gross income to determine disposable income. Most losses are reported on the federal income tax return in parentheses to reflect that these loss amounts are to be deducted. Net losses are reported on Form 1040 as business losses, capital losses, other losses, rental or partnership-type losses, or as farm losses. The assessor adds these amounts to the adjusted gross income. Additionally, the assessor adds to adjusted gross income the amount reported as a penalty on early withdrawal of savings because the amount represents a loss under section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(A) The claimant only reports the net amount of these losses on the front page of the Form 1040 federal income tax return. A loss may be used on other schedules or forms to reduce income before being transferred to the front page of the tax return to calculate adjusted gross income. The assessor adds to the adjusted gross income the amount of losses used to reduce income on these other schedules and forms. The amount of losses that were used to reduce adjusted gross income must be added to the adjusted gross income to determine disposable income.

For example, a claimant reports a (~~five thousand dollar~~) \$5,000 capital loss on the front page of the 1040. On the Schedule D, the claimant reports (~~two thousand dollars~~) \$2,000 in long-term capital gains from the sale of Company X stock and (~~seven thousand dollars~~) \$7,000 in long-term capital losses from the sale of an interest in the Y limited partnership. The assessor has already added the (~~five thousand dollar~~) \$5,000 loss from the net capital loss reported on the front page of the tax return. The assessor would add onto adjusted gross income only the additional (~~two thousand dollars~~) \$2,000 in losses from the Schedule D that was used to offset the capital gain the claimant earned from the sale of Company X stock.

(B) The assessor should examine losses reported on Schedules C (Profit or Loss from Business), D (Capital Gains and Losses), E (Supplemental Income and Loss), F (Profit or Loss from Farming), and K-1 (Shareholder's Share of Income, Credits, Deductions, etc.), and on Forms 4684 (Casualty and Thefts), 4797 (Sales of Business Property), 8582 (Passive Activity Loss Limitations), and 8829 (Business Use of Home) to determine the total amount of losses claimed.

(iv) **Depreciation.** Amounts deducted for the depreciation, depletion, or amortization of an asset's costs are added onto the adjusted gross income to determine the disposable income. This includes section 179 expenses, as an expense in lieu of depreciation. Amounts deducted for depreciation, depletion, amortization, and 179 expenses may be found on Schedules C, C-EZ, E, F, K and K-1, and on Form 4835 (Farm Rental Income and Expenses). If the schedule or form results in a loss transferred to the front of the Form 1040 federal income tax return, the depreciation deduction to the extent it is represented in that loss amount should not be added onto the adjusted gross income, as this would result in it being added back twice;

(v) **Pension and annuity receipts.** Any nontaxable pension and annuity amounts are added to the recipient's adjusted gross income amount to determine the recipient's disposable income. The nontaxable pension and annuity amounts are the difference between the total pension and annuity amounts reported and the taxable amounts reported. If the total pension and annuity amounts are not reported on the tax return, the assessor may use a copy of the Form 1099-R (Distributions

from Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.) issued to the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or the cotenant to determine the total pension and annuity amounts received. Pension and annuity amounts do not include distributions made from a traditional individual retirement account.

(vi) **Federal Social Security Act and railroad retirement benefits.** Any nontaxable Social Security benefit or equivalent railroad retirement amount reported on the Form 1040 federal income tax return is added to the adjusted gross income of the person receiving these benefits to determine that person's disposable income. The nontaxable Social Security benefit or equivalent railroad retirement amount is the difference between the total Social Security benefits or equivalent railroad retirement amounts reported and the taxable amounts reported. If the total amount of the Social Security benefit or equivalent railroad retirement amount is not reported on the tax return, the assessor may use a copy of the Form SSA-1099 or Form RRB-1099 issued to the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or the cotenant to determine the Social Security benefits or the railroad retirement benefits received.

(vii) **Excluded military pay and benefits.** Military pay and benefits excluded from federal adjusted gross income, other than military pay (~~(or)~~) and benefits for attendant care or medical aid, are added to the adjusted gross income of the military personnel receiving the military pay or benefits to determine that person's disposable income. Excluded military pay and benefits are not reported on the Form 1040. Excluded military pay and benefits such as pay earned in a combat zone, basic allowance for subsistence (BAS), basic allowance for housing (BAH), and certain in-kind allowances, are reported on Form W-2. The claimant should disclose when excluded military pay and benefits were received and provide copies of the Form W-2 or other documents that verify the amounts received.

(viii) **Veterans benefits.** Federal law excludes from gross income any veterans benefit payments paid under any law, regulation, or administrative practice administered by the VA. The following veterans benefits are not added to a veteran's adjusted gross income:

(A) Attendant-care payments and medical-aid payments, defined as any payments for medical care, home health care, health insurance coverage, hospital benefits, or nursing home benefits provided by the VA;

(B) Disability compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a veteran because of a service-connected disability; and

(C) Dependency and indemnity compensation, defined as payments made by the VA to a surviving spouse, child, or parent.

VA benefits are not reported on the Form 1040. The claimant should disclose when excluded veterans benefits were received and provide copies of documents that verify the amount received.

(ix) **Dividend receipts.** Exempt-interest dividends received from a regulated investment company (mutual fund) are reported on the tax-exempt interest line of the Form 1040 and added to the recipient's adjusted gross income to determine that recipient's disposable income.

(A) The assessor may ask a claimant whether the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or any cotenants have received exempt-interest dividends.

(B) Generally, the mutual fund owner will receive a notice from the mutual fund telling them the amount of the exempt-interest dividends received. These exempt-interest dividends are not shown on Form 1099-DIV or Form 1099-INT. Although exempt-interest dividends are not

taxable, the owner must report them on the Form 1040 tax return if they have to file; and

(x) **Interest received on state and municipal bonds.** Interest received on state or local government bonds is generally not subject to federal income tax. The tax-exempt interest is reported on the Form 1040 and added to the bond owner's adjusted gross income to determine the bond owner's disposable income.

(3) **Calculate the combined disposable income.** Once the assessor has calculated the disposable income for the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, and any cotenants, the assessor will add the disposable incomes together. To calculate the combined disposable income for the claimant, the assessor will subtract from the sum of the disposable income, the amounts paid by the claimant or the claimant's spouse or domestic partner during that calendar year for

(~~their:~~

~~(a) Legally prescribed drugs;~~

~~(b) Home health care;~~

~~(c) Nursing home, assisted living facility, or adult family home expenses; and~~

~~(d) Health care insurance premiums for medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act)) the deductible amounts listed in WAC 458-16A-100(6).~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-24-066, filed 11/24/20, effective 12/25/20)

WAC 458-16A-130 Senior citizen, (~~disabled person, and disabled veteran~~) persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities exemption—Qualifications for exemption. (1) **Introduction.** This rule (~~describes~~) provides the qualifications a claimant must meet for the (~~senior citizen, disabled person, and disabled veteran property tax~~) exemption on a principal residence as described in RCW 84.36.381. To qualify for the exemption, the claimant must:

(a) Meet the age or disability requirements as described in subsection (2) of this rule;

(b) Have a combined disposable income below the prescribed amounts in subsection (3) of this rule; and

(c) Own the property and occupy it as their principal residence for more than six months each calendar year as described in subsection (4) of this rule.

(2) **Age, retirement, and disability requirements.** To qualify for the exemption:

(a) The senior citizen claiming the exemption must be age (~~sixty-one~~) 61 or older on December 31st of the year in which the claim is filed. No proof is required concerning a senior citizen's employment status to claim the exemption.

(b) The (~~disabled~~) person with disabilities claiming the exemption must be at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment and unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than (~~twelve~~) 12 months.

(c) The veteran with disabilities claiming the exemption must be at the time of filing, a veteran of the armed forces of the United States entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at:

- (i) A combined service-connected evaluation rating of ~~((eighty))~~ 80 percent or higher; or
- (ii) A total disability rating for a service-connected disability without regard to evaluation percent.

(d) The surviving spouse or domestic partner of a claimant, who applies to continue their spouse's or domestic partner's exemption, must be age ~~((fifty-seven))~~ 57 or older in the calendar year the claimant dies.

(3) **Income requirements.** To qualify for the exemption, the claimant's combined disposable income must be equal to or less than one of the three income thresholds described in RCW 84.36.383. The income thresholds, which are published by the department beginning August 1, ~~((2019))~~ 2023, and by March 1st every ~~((fifth))~~ third year thereafter, will determine the amount of property tax the claimant is exempt from on their principal residence, as follows:

(a) Income threshold 3. A claimant's combined total disposable income that is equal to or less than income threshold 3 is exempt on their principal residence from the following:

- (i) All excess property taxes;
- (ii) The additional state property tax imposed under RCW 84.52.065(2); and

(iii) The portion of the regular property taxes authorized pursuant to RCW 84.55.050 to remove the property tax levy limit (lid lift) approved by the voters, if the legislative authority of the county or city imposing the additional regular property taxes identified this exemption in the ordinance placing the lid lift measure on the ballot.

(b) Income threshold 2. A claimant's combined total disposable income that is equal to or less than income threshold 2, but greater than income threshold 1, is exempt on their principal residence from the following:

- (i) All property taxes listed under income threshold 3; and
- (ii) All regular property taxes on the greater of ~~((fifty thousand dollars or thirty-five))~~ \$50,000 or 35 percent of the valuation of their residence, but not to exceed ~~((seventy thousand dollars))~~ \$70,000 of the valuation of their residence.

(c) Income threshold 1. A claimant's combined total disposable income that is equal to or less than income threshold 1, is exempt on their principal residence from the following:

- (i) All property taxes listed under income threshold 3; and
- (ii) All regular property taxes on the greater of ~~((sixty thousand dollars or sixty))~~ \$60,000 or 60 percent of the valuation of their residence.

(d) Subsequent adjustments. Beginning with the adjustment made by August 1, 2023, as provided in this subsection (3), and every adjustment thereafter, if an income threshold in a county is not adjusted based on percentage of county median income, then the income threshold must be adjusted based on the growth of the seasonally adjusted consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for the prior 12-month period as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. In no case may the adjustment be greater than one percent. The adjusted thresholds must be rounded to the nearest one dollar. If the

income threshold adjustment is negative, the income threshold for the prior year continues to apply.

(e) Changes in combined disposable income. The amount that the claimant is exempt from is calculated based on combined disposable income, as defined in RCW 84.36.383.

(i) If the claimant was retired for two months or more of the assessment year, the combined disposable income of the claimant must be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of the claimant during the months they were retired by 12.

(ii) If the income of the claimant is reduced for two or more months of the assessment year by reason of the death of the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or when other substantial changes occur in disposable income that are likely to continue for an indefinite period of time, the combined disposable income of the claimant must be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of the claimant after the occurrences by 12.

(iii) If the income of the claimant increases as a result of a cost-of-living adjustment to Social Security benefits or supplemental security income in an amount that would disqualify the applicant from eligibility, the applicant is not disqualified but instead maintains eligibility. The continued eligibility under this subsection (e)(iii) applies to applications for property taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2024.

(iv) If it is necessary to estimate income to comply with this subsection (e), the assessor may require confirming documentation of the income prior to May 31st of the year following application.

(4) Principal residence requirements.

(a) General qualifications. To qualify for the exemption, the claimant must own the property and occupy it as their principal residence for more than six months each calendar year (~~(. The claimant)~~) and must occupy the principal residence at the time of filing for each year the exemption is claimed.

(b) Valuation of residence. If a claimant qualifies for the exemption and has a combined disposable income equal to or less than income threshold 3, the valuation of the residence is the assessed value of the residence on the later of January 1, 1995, or January 1st of the assessment year the claimant first qualifies for the exemption.

(i) If the claimant subsequently fails to qualify only for one year because of high income, this same valuation must be used upon re-qualification. If the claimant fails to qualify for more than one year in succession because of high income or fails to qualify for any other reason, the valuation upon requalification is the assessed value on January 1st of the assessment year in which the claimant requalifies.

(ii) If a claimant transfers the exemption to a different residence, the valuation of the different residence is the assessed value of the different residence on January 1st of the assessment year in which the claimant transfers the exemption.

(iii) Valuation for the residence under this subsection (4)(b) may not be greater than the true and fair value of the residence on January 1st of the assessment year.

(iv) This subsection (4)(b) does not apply to subsequent improvements to the property in the year in which the improvements are made. Subsequent improvements to the property must be added to the value otherwise determined under this subsection at their true and fair value in the year in which they are made.

WAC 458-16A-100 and 458-16A-135 provide additional information regarding the definitions of principal residence and residence, and

the supporting documents required to demonstrate the property is owned and occupied as a claimant's principal residence.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-04-017, filed 1/24/20, effective 2/24/20)

WAC 458-16A-135 Senior citizen, ~~((disabled person, and disabled veteran))~~ persons with disabilities, and veterans with disabilities exemption—Application procedures. (1) **Introduction.** This rule explains ~~((when and how a senior citizen, disabled person, or disabled veteran may apply for a property tax exemption on their principal residence))~~ the application procedures for the exemption on a principal residence as described in RCW 84.36.385.

(2) **When to apply for the exemption.** A claimant may first apply for the exemption in the calendar year that they meet the age, disability, or ~~((disabled veteran))~~ veterans with disabilities requirements for exemption of taxes due in the following year. If the claimant does not apply when they meet the age, disability, or ~~((disabled veteran))~~ veterans with disabilities requirements, then they may apply for the exemption in any subsequent year. The exemption may be claimed on their principal residence for previous years by applying with separate applications for each year. However, refunds based on an exemption made in previous years may be refunded for only up to three years after the taxes were due as provided in RCW 84.69.030.

(3) **Application required.** A claimant must submit to the county assessor's office an application for exemption with supporting documents. When an application is first made, if the claimant applies for more than one year, an application must be made for each year the claimant seeks the exemption.

(4) **Where to obtain the application form.** A claimant may obtain the application form and the list of required supporting documents from the county assessor's office where their principal residence is located.

(5) **How to apply for the exemption.** Applications and supporting documents are filed in person ~~((or)),~~ by mail ((at)), or by electronic means to the county assessor's office where the principal residence is located. ~~((As an alternative, the county assessor may provide an electronic means for filing if authorized by the department.))~~

(a) **The application form.** The county assessor ~~((designs))~~ may create the paper or electronic application ((form or adapts a master paper form obtained from)) or may adapt the application created by the department. ((The county is also authorized to design an electronic form for applying.)) The county must obtain approval of the final ~~((form))~~ application, paper or electronic, from the department before it may be distributed and used. The claimant must use the application form from the county where the principal residence is located and provide true and accurate information in the application. Additional information regarding approval of forms by the department can be found in WAC 458-12-035 Department approved forms.

(b) **Signatures.** The signature must certify that under penalty of perjury under the laws of Washington the application is true and correct. The application must be signed, dated, and state the place (city, county, or address) where it was signed. The application must be signed by:

(i) The claimant;
(ii) The claimant's designated agent;
(iii) The legal guardian for the claimant (if applicable); or
(iv) If the property is subject to a deed of trust, mortgage, or purchase contract requiring an accumulation of reserves to pay property taxes, the lien holder; and
(v) If the claimant resides in a cooperative housing unit or portion of a cooperative structure representing the claimant's ownership share in that cooperative, the authorized agent of the cooperative must also sign the application.

(c) **Perjury statement.** The perjury statement certifying under the penalty of perjury that the application is true and correct must be placed on the application immediately above the line for the signature. Any person signing a false claim with the intent to defraud or evade the payment of any tax is guilty of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW. If a person receives an exemption based on erroneous information, the assessor assesses any unpaid taxes with interest for up to five years. If a person receives an exemption based on erroneous information, and the person either provided that information with the intent to defraud or intentionally failed to correct that information, the assessor will assess any unpaid taxes with interest for up to five years, and will assess the ((one hundred)) 100 percent penalty as provided in RCW 84.40.130.

(d) **Cooperative agreement to reduce rent.** A cooperative must also agree, in a statement attached to the application, to reduce amounts owed by the claimant to the cooperative by the amount of the property tax exemption. The agreement must also state that when the exemption exceeds the amount owed to the cooperative, the cooperative must pay the claimant any amount of the tax exemption remaining after this offsetting reduction.

(e) **Supporting documents.** Unless the assessor determines that all or some of the supporting documents are not necessary, a claimant must present the documents listed in this subsection with their application. Except for affidavits, the assessor's office should not accept original documents from the claimant. If the assessor's office is presented with original documents, they must make copies or note the information provided in the documents on a separate sheet and return these original documents to the claimant. The claimant must submit the following documents with the application:

(i) If the county records do not reflect the claimant as the property owner, copies of any legal instruments demonstrating the claimant's interest held in the property;

(ii) Documents demonstrating that the property is the claimant's principal residence (i.e., copy of a driver's license and voter's registration card);

(iii) Copies of legal identification showing the claimant's age (i.e., copy of a driver's license or birth certificate);

(iv) If the claim is based on a disability, either:

(A) An affidavit from a licensed physician or certified physician's assistant (medical or osteopath doctor), a licensed or certified psychologist for disabling mental impairments, or a licensed podiatrist for disabling impairments of the foot, that states the claimant is unable to enter into regular gainful employment because of their disability and the expected term of the disability; or

(B) Copies of a written acknowledgment or decision by the Social Security Administration or Veterans Administration that the claimant is permanently disabled;

(v) If the claim is based upon the claimant's veteran status, copies of legal documents showing that the claimant is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at a combined service-connected evaluation rating of (~~(eighty)~~) 80 percent or higher or at a total disability rating for a service-connected disability without regard to evaluation percent;

(vi) Copies of documents showing income earned or reported by the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner and any cotenants, even when the income is estimated (income information should be provided to the degree possible and then confirmed with supporting documents in the follow-up period), such proof must include to the extent it is relevant:

(A) If the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or any cotenants receive Social Security payments, a federal statement showing Social Security paid (generally, Form SSA-1099);

(B) If the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or any cotenants receive railroad retirement benefits, a federal statement showing railroad retirement benefits paid (generally, Forms RRC-1099 and RRC 1099-R);

(C) If the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or any cotenants file federal income tax returns, those returns with supporting forms, schedules, and, if specifically requested, worksheets for the deductions taken from gross income (generally, Form 1040 with its supporting forms and schedules);

(D) If the claimant or the claimant's spouse or domestic partner has been in a nursing home, assisted living facility, adult family home, or has been receiving in-home care in either their home or in the home of a relative for purposes of long-term care, copies of invoices (or an equivalent billing statement or payment statement) for nonreimbursed care or documentation to verify the claimant or claimant's spouse or domestic partner have been receiving care at the home of a relative;

(E) If the claimant indicates that the nonreimbursed prescription drug expenses for the claimant and the claimant's spouse or domestic partner for the period under review exceeds (~~(five hundred dollars)~~) \$500, copies of checks or other payment statements (i.e., pharmacy printout of payments for purchases) showing amounts paid for nonreimbursed prescription drug expenses;

(F) Copies of documents showing premiums paid if the claimant or the claimant's spouse or domestic partner pays health care insurance premiums for medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (i.e., 1099, or medicare plan policy declaration);

(G) If no federal returns were filed or received, the claimant must still provide copies of documents to demonstrate their income and the income of their spouse or domestic partner and any cotenants (i.e., federal income statements such as Form W-2 (wages), Form 1099-INT (interest), Form 1099-DIV (dividends), Form 1099-R (pension amounts), Form 1099-G (unemployment), or Form 1099-Misc. (contract income)). Even claimants who claim they have no federal income (or an inordinately small amount of federal income) must have income to maintain themselves and their residences. In these situations, the claimant must produce copies of documents demonstrating the source of the funds they are living on (i.e., checking account registers and bank statements) and the bills for maintaining the claimant and the residence (i.e., public assistance check stubs, utility invoices, cable TV invoices, check registers, bank statements, etc.); and

(vii) Any other copies of documents the assessor requires in their discretion for the claimant to produce in order to demonstrate the claimant qualifies for the exemption.

(f) Public disclosure of the application. The application ((~~form~~)) may not be disclosed. A copy of the application may be disclosed only if all income information on the ((~~form~~)) application is redacted so that it cannot be read. Except as required by law, no public disclosure may be made of the checklist of supporting documents or any supporting documents retained that concern the income of the claimant, the claimant's spouse or domestic partner, or any cotenant.