
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2592

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By House Committee on Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives B. Thomas, Morris and Boldt; by request of Department of Revenue)

Read first time 02/06/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to penalty and interest administration of the
2 department of revenue; amending RCW 82.32.050, 82.32.190, 82.32.200,
3 82.32.210, 82.45.100, 82.45.150, 82.24.120, 82.24.180, 82.24.270,
4 82.24.280, 63.29.340, 54.28.060, 83.100.070, 83.100.130, 82.32.090,
5 54.28.040, 82.32.105, and 82.12.045; adding a new section to chapter
6 83.100 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a consistent
9 application of interest and penalties is in the best interest of the
10 residents of the state of Washington. The legislature also finds that
11 the goal of the department of revenue's interest and penalty system
12 should be to encourage taxpayers to voluntarily comply with
13 Washington's tax code in a timely manner. The administration of tax
14 programs requires that there be consequences for those taxpayers who do
15 not timely satisfy their reporting and tax obligations, but these
16 consequences should not be so severe as to discourage taxpayers from
17 voluntarily satisfying their tax obligations.

1 It is the intent of the legislature that, to the extent possible,
2 a single interest and penalty system apply to all tax programs
3 administered by the department of revenue.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.32.050 and 1992 c 169 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) If upon examination of any returns or from other information
7 obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been
8 paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against
9 the taxpayer such additional amount found to be due and shall add
10 thereto interest at the rate of nine percent per annum from the last
11 day of the year in which the deficiency is incurred until the date of
12 payment for tax liabilities arising before January 1, 1992. For tax
13 liabilities arising after December 31, 1991, until the date of payment,
14 the rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in
15 subsection (2) of this section. The rate so computed shall be adjusted
16 on the first day of January of each year. The department shall notify
17 the taxpayer by mail of the additional amount and the same shall become
18 due and shall be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice,
19 or within such further time as the department may provide.

20 (2) For the purposes of this section, the rate of interest to be
21 charged to the taxpayer shall be an average of the federal short-term
22 rate as defined in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1274(d) plus two percentage points.
23 The rate shall be computed by taking an arithmetical average to the
24 nearest percentage point of the federal short-term rate, compounded
25 annually, for the months of January, April, July, and October of the
26 immediately preceding calendar year as published by the United States
27 secretary of the treasury.

28 (3) No assessment or correction of an assessment for additional
29 taxes, penalties, or interest due may be made by the department more
30 than four years after the close of the tax year, except (a) against a
31 taxpayer who has not registered as required by this chapter, (b) upon
32 a showing of fraud or of misrepresentation of a material fact by the
33 taxpayer, or (c) where a taxpayer has executed a written waiver of such
34 limitation. The execution of a written waiver shall also extend the
35 period for making a refund or credit as provided in RCW 82.32.060(2).

36 (4) For the purposes of this section, "return" means any document
37 a person is required by the state of Washington to file to satisfy or

1 establish a tax or fee obligation that is administered or collected by
2 the department of revenue and that has a statutorily defined due date.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.32.190 and 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 21 are each amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The department, by its order, may hold in abeyance the
6 collection of tax from any taxpayer or any group of taxpayers when a
7 question bearing on their liability for tax hereunder is pending before
8 the courts(~~(:—PROVIDED, That)~~). The department may impose such
9 conditions as may be deemed just and equitable and shall require the
10 payment of interest at the rate of three-quarters of one percent of the
11 amount of the tax for each thirty days or portion thereof from the date
12 upon which such tax became due until the date of payment.

13 (2) Interest imposed under this section for periods after the
14 effective date of this act shall be computed on a daily basis at the
15 rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed shall be
16 adjusted on the first day of January of each year. Interest for taxes
17 held in abeyance under this section before the effective date of this
18 act but outstanding after the effective date of this act shall not be
19 recalculated but shall remain at three-quarters of one percent per each
20 thirty days or portion thereof.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.32.200 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 s 83 are each
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) When any assessment or additional assessment has been made, the
24 taxpayer may obtain a stay of collection, under such circumstances and
25 for such periods as the department of revenue may by general regulation
26 provide, of the whole or any part thereof, by filing with the
27 department a bond in an amount, not exceeding twice the amount on which
28 stay is desired, and with sureties as the department deems necessary,
29 conditioned for the payment of the amount of the assessments,
30 collection of which is stayed by the bond, together with the interest
31 thereon at the rate of one percent of the amount of such assessment for
32 each thirty days or portion thereof from the (~~due date thereof until~~
33 ~~paid~~) date the bond is filed until the date of payment.

34 (2) Interest imposed under this section after the effective date of
35 this act shall be computed on a daily basis on the amount of tax at the
36 rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed shall be
37 adjusted on the first day of January of each year. Interest for bonds

1 filed before the effective date of this act but outstanding after the
2 effective date of this act shall not be recalculated but shall remain
3 at one percent per each thirty days or portion thereof.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 82.32.210 and 1987 c 405 s 15 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) If any fee, tax, increase, or penalty or any portion thereof is
7 not paid within fifteen days after it becomes due, the department of
8 revenue may issue a warrant under its official seal in the amount of
9 such unpaid sums, together with interest thereon at the rate of one
10 percent of the amount of such warrant for each thirty days or portion
11 thereof (~~after the date of such warrant~~) from the date the warrant is
12 issued until the date of payment. If, however, the department of
13 revenue believes that a taxpayer is about to cease business, leave the
14 state, or remove or dissipate the assets out of which fees, taxes or
15 penalties might be satisfied and that any tax or penalty will not be
16 paid when due, it may declare the fee, tax or penalty to be immediately
17 due and payable and may issue a warrant immediately.

18 (2) Interest imposed under this section after the effective date of
19 this act shall be computed on a daily basis on the amount of
20 outstanding tax or fee at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2).
21 The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of
22 each year. As used in this subsection, "fee" does not include
23 administrative filing fees such as court filing fees and warrant fees.
24 Interest for warrants issued before the effective date of this act but
25 outstanding after the effective date of this act shall not be
26 recalculated but shall remain at one percent per each thirty days or
27 portion thereof.

28 (3) The department shall file a copy of the warrant with the clerk
29 of the superior court of any county of the state in which real and/or
30 personal property of the taxpayer may be found. Upon filing, the clerk
31 shall enter in the judgment docket, the name of the taxpayer mentioned
32 in the warrant and in appropriate columns the amount of the fee, tax or
33 portion thereof and any increases and penalties for which the warrant
34 is issued and the date when the copy is filed, and thereupon the amount
35 of the warrant so docketed shall become a specific lien upon all goods,
36 wares, merchandise, fixtures, equipment, or other personal property
37 used in the conduct of the business of the taxpayer against whom the
38 warrant is issued, including property owned by third persons who have

1 a beneficial interest, direct or indirect, in the operation of the
2 business, and no sale or transfer of the personal property in any way
3 affects the lien.

4 (4) The lien shall not be superior, however, to bona fide interests
5 of third persons which had vested prior to the filing of the warrant
6 when the third persons do not have a beneficial interest, direct or
7 indirect, in the operation of the business, other than the securing of
8 the payment of a debt or the receiving of a regular rental on
9 equipment(~~(:— PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That)~~). The phrase "bona fide
10 interests of third persons" does not include any mortgage of real or
11 personal property or any other credit transaction that results in the
12 mortgagee or the holder of the security acting as trustee for unsecured
13 creditors of the taxpayer mentioned in the warrant who executed the
14 chattel or real property mortgage or the document evidencing the credit
15 transaction.

16 (5) The amount of the warrant so docketed shall thereupon also
17 become a lien upon the title to and interest in all other real and
18 personal property of the taxpayer against whom it is issued the same as
19 a judgment in a civil case duly docketed in the office of the clerk.
20 The warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of
21 writs of garnishment in favor of the state in the manner provided by
22 law in the case of judgments wholly or partially unsatisfied.

23 **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.45.100 and 1993 sp.s. c 25 s 507 are each amended
24 to read as follows:

25 (1) Payment of the tax imposed under this chapter is due and
26 payable immediately at the time of sale, and if not paid within
27 (~~(thirty days)~~) one month thereafter shall bear interest at the rate of
28 one percent per month from the time of sale until the date of payment.

29 (2) In addition to the interest described in subsection (1) of this
30 section, if the payment of any tax is not received by the county
31 treasurer or the department of revenue, as the case may be, within
32 (~~(thirty days)~~) one month of the date due, there shall be assessed a
33 penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax; if the tax is not
34 received within (~~(sixty days)~~) two months of the date due, there shall
35 be assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax;
36 and if the tax is not received within (~~(ninety days)~~) three months of
37 the date due, there shall be assessed a total penalty of twenty percent
38 of the amount of the tax. The payment of the penalty described in this

1 subsection shall be collectible from the seller only, and RCW 82.45.070
2 does not apply to the penalties described in this subsection.

3 (3) If the tax imposed under this chapter is not received by the
4 due date, the transferee shall be personally liable for the tax, along
5 with any interest as provided in subsection (1) of this section,
6 unless:

7 (a) An instrument evidencing the sale is recorded in the official
8 real property records of the county in which the property conveyed is
9 located; or

10 (b) Either the transferor or transferee notifies the department of
11 revenue in writing of the occurrence of the sale within thirty days
12 following the date of the sale.

13 (4) If upon examination of any affidavits or from other information
14 obtained by the department or its agents it appears that all or a
15 portion of the tax is unpaid, the department shall assess against the
16 taxpayer the additional amount found to be due plus interest and
17 penalties as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. (~~If~~
18 ~~the department finds that all or any part of the deficiency resulted~~
19 ~~from an intent to evade the tax payable under this chapter, an~~
20 ~~additional penalty of fifty percent of the additional tax found to be~~
21 ~~due shall be added.)) The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail
22 of the additional amount and the same shall become due and shall be
23 paid within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such
24 further time as the department may provide.~~

25 (5) No assessment or refund may be made by the department more than
26 four years after the date of sale except upon a showing of:

27 (a) Fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact by the taxpayer;

28 (b) A failure by the taxpayer to record documentation of a sale or
29 otherwise report the sale to the county treasurer; or

30 (c) A failure of the transferor or transferee to report the sale
31 under RCW 82.45.090(2).

32 (6) Penalties collected (~~pursuant to~~) under subsection (2) of
33 this section and RCW 82.32.090 (2) through (6) shall be deposited in
34 the housing trust fund as described in chapter 43.185 RCW.

35 **Sec. 7.** RCW 82.45.150 and 1994 c 137 s 1 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 All of chapter 82.32 RCW, except RCW 82.32.030, 82.32.050,
38 82.32.140, (~~and~~) 82.32.270, and (~~except for the penalties and the~~

1 ~~limitations thereon imposed by RCW~~) 82.32.090(1) and (8), applies to
2 the tax imposed by this chapter, in addition to any other provisions of
3 law for the payment and enforcement of the tax imposed by this chapter.
4 The department of revenue shall by rule provide for the effective
5 administration of this chapter. The rules shall prescribe and furnish
6 a real estate excise tax affidavit form verified by both the seller and
7 the buyer, or agents of each, to be used by each county, or the
8 department, as the case may be, in the collection of the tax imposed by
9 this chapter, except that an affidavit given in connection with grant
10 of an easement or right of way to a gas, electrical, or
11 telecommunications company, as defined in RCW 80.04.010, or to a public
12 utility district or cooperative that distributes electricity, need be
13 verified only on behalf of the company, district, or cooperative. The
14 department of revenue shall annually conduct audits of transactions and
15 affidavits filed under this chapter.

16 **Sec. 8.** RCW 82.24.120 and 1995 c 278 s 8 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) If any person, subject to the provisions of this chapter or any
19 rules adopted by the department of revenue under authority hereof, is
20 found to have failed to affix the stamps required, or to have them
21 affixed as herein provided, or to pay any tax due hereunder, or to have
22 violated any of the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by the
23 department of revenue in the administration hereof, there shall be
24 assessed and collected from such person, in addition to any tax that
25 may be found due, a remedial penalty equal to the greater of ten
26 dollars per package of unstamped cigarettes or two hundred fifty
27 dollars, plus interest (~~thereon~~) on the amount of the tax at the rate
28 as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the tax became due
29 until the date of payment, and upon notice mailed to the last known
30 address of the person. The amount shall become due and payable in
31 thirty days from the date of the notice. If the amount remains unpaid,
32 the department or its duly authorized agent may make immediate demand
33 upon such person for the payment of all such taxes, penalties, and
34 interest.

35 (2) The department, for good reason shown, may (~~remit~~) waive or
36 cancel all or any part of penalties imposed, but the taxpayer must pay
37 all taxes due and interest thereon, at the rate as computed under RCW

1 82.32.050(2) from the date the tax became due until the date of
2 payment.

3 (3) The keeping of any unstamped articles coming within the
4 provisions of this chapter shall be prima facie evidence of intent to
5 violate the provisions of this chapter.

6 (4) This section does not apply to taxes or tax increases due under
7 RCW 82.24.270 and 82.24.280.

8 **Sec. 9.** RCW 82.24.180 and 1990 c 267 s 2 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) The department of revenue may return any property seized under
11 the provisions of this chapter when it is shown that there was no
12 intention to violate the provisions thereof.

13 (2) When any property is returned under this section, the
14 department may return such goods to the parties from whom they were
15 seized if and when such parties affix the proper amount of stamps
16 thereto, and pay to the department as penalty an amount equal to the
17 greater of ten dollars per package of unstamped cigarettes or two
18 hundred fifty dollars, and interest (~~thereon at the rate of one~~
19 ~~percent for each thirty days or portion thereof~~) on the amount of the
20 tax at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the
21 tax became due until the date of payment, and in such cases, no
22 advertisement shall be made or notices posted in connection with said
23 seizure.

24 **Sec. 10.** RCW 82.24.270 and 1995 c 278 s 12 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) All cigarettes taxed under this chapter that are given away for
27 advertising or other purposes are not required to have the state tax
28 stamp affixed. Instead, the manufacturer of the cigarettes shall pay
29 the tax on a monthly tax return to be supplied by the department.

30 (2) The tax is due on or before the twenty-fifth day of the month
31 following the month in which the taxable activities, that is the
32 providing of cigarette samples, occur. If not paid by the due date,
33 interest applies to any unpaid tax (~~or penalty~~). Interest shall be
34 calculated at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date
35 the tax became due until the date of payment.

36 (3) If upon examination of any returns or from other information
37 obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been

1 paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against
2 the taxpayer the additional amount found to be due. The department
3 shall notify the taxpayer by mail of the additional amount due,
4 including any applicable penalties and interest. The taxpayer shall
5 pay the additional amount within thirty days from the date of the
6 notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

7 (4) All the cigarettes must evidence the payment of the tax by
8 having printed on their packages wording to the following effect:
9 "Complimentary, not for sale, all applicable state taxes paid by
10 manufacturer."

11 (5) All of chapter 82.32 RCW applies to taxes due under this
12 section except: RCW 82.32.050(1) and 82.32.270.

13 **Sec. 11.** RCW 82.24.280 and 1995 c 278 s 13 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Any additional tax liability arising from a tax rate increase
16 under this chapter shall be paid, along with reports and returns
17 prescribed by the department, on or before the last day of the month in
18 which the increase becomes effective.

19 (2) If not paid by the due date, interest shall apply to any unpaid
20 tax (~~(or penalty)~~). Interest shall be calculated at the rate as
21 computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the tax became due until
22 the date of payment.

23 (3) If upon examination of any returns or from other information
24 obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been
25 paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against
26 the taxpayer such additional amount found to be due. The department
27 shall notify the taxpayer by mail of the additional amount due,
28 including any applicable penalties and interest. The taxpayer shall
29 pay the additional amount within thirty days from the date of the
30 notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

31 (4) All of chapter 82.32 RCW applies to tax rate increases except:
32 RCW 82.32.050(1) and 82.32.270.

33 **Sec. 12.** RCW 63.29.340 and 1983 c 179 s 34 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) A person who fails to pay or deliver property within the time
36 prescribed by this chapter shall be required to pay to the department
37 interest at the (~~(maximum rate permitted under RCW 19.52.020)~~) rate as

1 computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the property should have
2 been paid or delivered until the property is paid or delivered.

3 (2) A person who willfully fails to render any report, to pay or
4 deliver property, or to perform other duties required under this
5 chapter shall pay a civil penalty of one hundred dollars for each day
6 the report is withheld or the duty is not performed, but not more than
7 five thousand dollars, plus one hundred percent of the value of the
8 property which should have been reported, paid or delivered.

9 (3) A person who willfully refuses after written demand by the
10 department to pay or deliver property to the department as required
11 under this chapter or who enters into a contract to avoid the duties of
12 this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon conviction may
13 be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or
14 imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

15 **Sec. 13.** RCW 54.28.060 and 1957 c 278 s 6 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 Interest at the rate (~~(of six percent per annum)~~) as computed under
18 RCW 82.32.050(2) shall be added to the tax hereby imposed (~~(after)~~)
19 from the due date until the date of payment. The tax shall constitute
20 a debt to the state and may be collected as such.

21 **Sec. 14.** RCW 83.100.070 and 1988 c 64 s 8 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 (1) Any tax due under this chapter which is not paid by the due
24 date under RCW 83.100.060(1) shall bear interest at the rate of twelve
25 percent per annum from the date the tax is due until (~~(paid)~~) the date
26 of payment.

27 (2) Interest imposed under this section for periods after the
28 effective date of this act shall be computed at the rate as computed
29 under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the
30 first day of January of each year.

31 (3) If the Washington return is not filed when due under RCW
32 83.100.050, then the person required to file the federal return shall
33 pay, in addition to interest, a penalty equal to five percent of the
34 tax due for each month after the date the return is due until filed.
35 No penalty may exceed twenty-five percent of the tax.

1 **Sec. 15.** RCW 83.100.130 and 1988 c 64 s 12 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Whenever the department determines that a person required to
4 file the federal return has overpaid the tax due under this chapter,
5 the department shall refund the amount of the overpayment, together
6 with interest at the then existing rate under RCW 83.100.070(1). If
7 the application for refund, with supporting documents, is filed within
8 four months after an adjustment or final determination of federal tax
9 liability, the department shall pay interest until the date the refund
10 is mailed. If the application for refund, with supporting documents,
11 is filed after four months after the adjustment or final determination,
12 the department shall pay interest only until the end of the four-month
13 period.

14 (2) Interest refunded under this section for periods after the
15 effective date of this act shall be computed on a daily basis at the
16 rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) less one percentage point, and
17 shall be refunded from the date of overpayment until the date the
18 refund is mailed. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first
19 day of January of each year.

20 **Sec. 16.** RCW 82.32.090 and 1992 c 206 s 3 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 (1) If payment of any tax due on a return to be filed by a taxpayer
23 is not received by the department of revenue by the due date, there
24 shall be assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax;
25 and if the tax is not received (~~within thirty days after~~) on or
26 before the last day of the month following the due date, there shall be
27 assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax; and
28 if the tax is not received (~~within sixty days after~~) on or before the
29 last day of the second month following the due date, there shall be
30 assessed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the tax.
31 No penalty so added shall be less than five dollars.

32 (2) If payment of any tax assessed by the department of revenue is
33 not received by the department by the due date specified in the notice,
34 or any extension thereof, the department shall add a penalty of ten
35 percent of the amount of the additional tax found due. No penalty so
36 added shall be less than five dollars.

37 (3) If a warrant be issued by the department of revenue for the
38 collection of taxes, increases, and penalties, there shall be added

1 thereto a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax, but not
2 less than ten dollars.

3 (4) If the department finds that all or any part of a deficiency
4 resulted from the disregard of specific written instructions as to
5 reporting or tax liabilities, the department shall add a penalty of ten
6 percent of the amount of the additional tax found due because of the
7 failure to follow the instructions. A taxpayer disregards specific
8 written instructions when the department of revenue has informed the
9 taxpayer in writing of the taxpayer's tax obligations and the taxpayer
10 fails to act in accordance with those instructions unless the
11 department has not issued final instructions because the matter is
12 under appeal pursuant to this chapter or departmental regulations. The
13 department shall not assess the penalty under this section upon any
14 taxpayer who has made a good faith effort to comply with the specific
15 written instructions provided by the department to that taxpayer.
16 Specific written instructions may be given as a part of a tax
17 assessment, audit, determination, or closing agreement, provided that
18 such specific written instructions shall apply only to the taxpayer
19 addressed or referenced on such documents. Any specific written
20 instructions by the department of revenue shall be clearly identified
21 as such and shall inform the taxpayer that failure to follow the
22 instructions may subject the taxpayer to the penalties imposed by this
23 subsection.

24 (5) If the department finds that all or any part of the deficiency
25 resulted from an intent to evade the tax payable hereunder, a further
26 penalty of fifty percent of the additional tax found to be due shall be
27 added.

28 (6) The aggregate of penalties imposed under subsections (1), (2),
29 and (3) of this section (~~for failure to pay a tax due on a return by~~
30 ~~the due date, late payment of any tax, increase, or penalty, or~~
31 ~~issuance of a warrant~~)) shall not exceed thirty-five percent of the tax
32 due, or twenty dollars, whichever is greater. This subsection does not
33 prohibit or restrict the application of other penalties authorized by
34 law.

35 (7) The department of revenue may not impose both the evasion
36 penalty and the penalty for disregarding specific written instructions
37 on the same tax found to be due.

38 (8) For the purposes of this section, "return" means any document
39 a person is required by the state of Washington to file to satisfy or

1 establish a tax or fee obligation that is administered or collected by
2 the department of revenue, and that has a statutorily defined due date.

3 **Sec. 17.** RCW 54.28.040 and 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 s 20 are each
4 amended to read as follows:

5 ~~((Prior to))~~ (1) Before May 1st, the department of revenue shall
6 compute the tax imposed by this chapter for the last preceding calendar
7 year and notify the district of the amount thereof, which shall be
8 payable on or before the following June 1st.

9 (2) If payment of any tax is not received by the department on or
10 before the due date, there shall be assessed a penalty of five percent
11 of the amount of the tax; if the tax is not received within one month
12 of the due date, there shall be assessed a total penalty of ten percent
13 of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received within two
14 months of the due date, there shall be assessed a total penalty of
15 twenty percent of the amount of the tax.

16 (3) Upon receipt of the amount of each tax imposed the department
17 of revenue shall deposit the same with the state treasurer, who shall
18 deposit four percent of the revenues received under RCW 54.28.020(1)
19 and 54.28.025(1) and all revenues received under RCW 54.28.020(2) and
20 54.28.025(2) in the general fund of the state and shall distribute the
21 remainder in the manner hereinafter set forth. The state treasurer
22 shall send a duplicate copy of each transmittal to the department of
23 revenue.

24 **Sec. 18.** RCW 82.32.105 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 s 78 are each
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (1) If the department of revenue finds that the payment by a
27 taxpayer of a tax less than that properly due or the failure of a
28 taxpayer to pay any tax by the due date was the result of circumstances
29 beyond the control of the taxpayer, the department of revenue shall
30 waive or cancel any ~~((interest or))~~ penalties imposed under this
31 chapter with respect to such tax. ~~((The department of revenue shall~~
32 prescribe rules for the waiver or cancellation of interest or penalties
33 imposed by this chapter. Notwithstanding the foregoing the amount of
34 any interest which has been waived, canceled or refunded prior to May
35 1, 1965 shall not be reassessed according to the provisions of this
36 chapter.))

1 (2) The department shall waive or cancel the penalty imposed under
2 RCW 82.32.090(1) when the circumstances under which the delinquency
3 occurred do not qualify for waiver or cancellation under subsection (1)
4 of this section if:

5 (a) The taxpayer requests the waiver for a tax return required to
6 be filed under RCW 82.32.045, 82.23B.020, 82.27.060, 82.29A.050, or
7 84.33.086; and

8 (b) The taxpayer has timely filed and remitted payment on all tax
9 returns due for that tax program for a period of twenty-four months
10 immediately preceding the period covered by the return for which the
11 waiver is being requested.

12 (3) The department shall waive or cancel interest imposed under
13 this chapter if:

14 (a) The failure to timely pay the tax was the direct result of
15 written instructions given the taxpayer by the department; or

16 (b) The extension of a due date for payment of an assessment of
17 deficiency was not at the request of the taxpayer and was for the sole
18 convenience of the department.

19 (4) The department of revenue shall adopt rules for the waiver or
20 cancellation of penalties and interest imposed by this chapter.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. A new section is added to chapter 83.100
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 The department may enter into closing agreements as provided in RCW
24 82.32.350 and 82.32.360.

25 **Sec. 20.** RCW 82.12.045 and 1983 c 77 s 2 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 (1) In the collection of the use tax on motor vehicles, the
28 department of revenue may designate the county auditors of the several
29 counties of the state as its collecting agents. Upon such designation,
30 it shall be the duty of each county auditor to collect the tax at the
31 time an applicant applies for the registration of, and transfer of
32 title to, the motor vehicle, except in the following instances:

33 ~~((1+))~~ (a) Where the applicant exhibits a dealer's report of sale
34 showing that the retail sales tax has been collected by the dealer;

35 ~~((2+))~~ (b) Where the application is for the renewal of
36 registration;

1 ~~((3))~~ (c) Where the applicant presents a written statement signed
2 by the department of revenue, or its duly authorized agent showing that
3 no use tax is legally due; or

4 ~~((4))~~ (d) Where the applicant presents satisfactory evidence
5 showing that the retail sales tax or the use tax has been paid by him
6 on the vehicle in question.

7 (2) The term "motor vehicle," as used in this section means and
8 includes all motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers used, or of a
9 type designed primarily to be used, upon the public streets and
10 highways, for the convenience or pleasure of the owner, or for the
11 conveyance, for hire or otherwise, of persons or property, including
12 fixed loads, facilities for human habitation, and vehicles carrying
13 exempt licenses.

14 (3) It shall be the duty of every applicant for registration and
15 transfer of certificate of title who is subject to payment of tax under
16 this section to declare upon his application the value of the vehicle
17 for which application is made, which shall consist of the consideration
18 paid or contracted to be paid therefor. ~~((Any person wilfully
19 misrepresenting, or failing or refusing to declare upon his
20 application, such value shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.))~~

21 (4) Each county auditor who acts as agent of the department of
22 revenue shall at the time of remitting license fee receipts on motor
23 vehicles subject to the provisions of this section pay over and account
24 to the state treasurer for all use tax revenue collected under this
25 section, after first deducting as his collection fee the sum of two
26 dollars for each motor vehicle upon which the tax has been collected.
27 All revenue received by the state treasurer under this section shall be
28 credited to the general fund. The auditor's collection fee shall be
29 deposited in the county current expense fund. A duplicate of the
30 county auditor's transmittal report to the state treasurer shall be
31 forwarded forthwith to the department of revenue.

32 (5) Any applicant who has paid use tax to a county auditor under
33 this section may apply to the department of revenue for refund thereof
34 if he has reason to believe that such tax was not legally due and
35 owing. No refund shall be allowed unless application therefor is
36 received by the department of revenue within ~~((two years after payment
37 of the tax))~~ the statutory period for assessment of taxes, penalties,
38 or interest prescribed by RCW 82.32.050(3). Upon receipt of an
39 application for refund the department of revenue shall consider the

1 same and issue its order either granting or denying it and if refund is
2 denied the taxpayer shall have the right of appeal as provided in RCW
3 82.32.170, 82.32.180 and 82.32.190.

4 (6) The provisions of this section shall be construed as cumulative
5 of other methods prescribed in chapters 82.04 to 82.32 RCW, inclusive,
6 for the collection of the tax imposed by this chapter. The department
7 of revenue shall have power to promulgate such rules ((and
8 regulations)) as may be necessary to administer the provisions of this
9 section. Any duties required by this section to be performed by the
10 county auditor may be performed by the director of licensing but no
11 collection fee shall be deductible by said director in remitting use
12 tax revenue to the state treasurer.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1997.

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