
HOUSE BILL 1481

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Fisher, Foreman, Wang and Quall; by request of Department of Revenue

Read first time 01/29/93. Referred to Committee on Revenue.

1 AN ACT Relating to taxation of ships and vessels; amending RCW
2 82.49.060, 84.40.065, 84.40.150, 84.40.190, and 84.40.200; adding a new
3 section to chapter 84.56 RCW; making an appropriation; prescribing
4 penalties; and providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.49.060 and 1983 c 7 s 13 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) Any vessel owner disputing an appraised value under RCW
9 82.49.050 or disputing whether the vessel is taxable, may petition for
10 a conference with the department as provided under RCW 82.32.160, or
11 for reduction of the tax due as provided under RCW 82.32.170.

12 (2) Any vessel owner having received a notice of denial of a
13 petition or a notice of determination made for the owner's vessel under
14 RCW 82.32.160 or 82.32.170 may appeal to the board of tax appeals as
15 provided under RCW 82.03.190. In deciding a case appealed under this
16 section, the board of tax appeals may require an independent appraisal
17 of the vessel. The cost of the independent appraisal shall be
18 apportioned between the department and the vessel owner as provided by
19 the board.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 84.40.065 and 1986 c 229 s 3 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) Every individual, corporation, association, partnership, trust,
4 and estate shall list with the department of revenue all ships and
5 vessels which are subject to their ownership, possession, or control
6 and which are not entirely exempt from property taxation, and such
7 listing shall be subject to the same requirements(~~(7)~~) and penalties(~~(7~~
8 ~~and liens)~~) provided in this chapter (~~(and chapter 84.60 RCW)~~) for all
9 other personal property in the same manner as provided (~~(therein)~~) in
10 this chapter, except as may be specifically provided otherwise with
11 respect to ships and vessels.

12 (2) The listing of ships and vessels shall be accomplished in the
13 manner and upon forms prescribed by the department. Upon listing, the
14 department shall assign a tax identification number for each vessel
15 listed. The identification number shall be issued and affixed to the
16 vessel in a manner prescribed by the department. A tax identification
17 number affixed as prescribed by the department indicates compliance
18 with the listing requirements of this section. Failure to display a
19 valid tax identification number as required by this section shall
20 subject the vessel owner to the fines and enforcement provisions of RCW
21 88.02.110.

22 (3) The department shall assess all ships and vessels and shall
23 (~~certify to the respective county assessors the equalized values~~
24 ~~thereof, subject to the same rules as other state assessed properties~~
25 ~~in accordance with RCW 84.12.370 and 84.16.130 and chapter 84.48 RCW)),
26 on or before January 31st of each year, mail to the owner of a ship or
27 vessel, or to the person listing the ship or vessel if different from
28 the owner, a notice showing the valuation of the ship or vessel
29 assessed. Taxes due the following year shall be based upon the
30 valuation. On or after February 15, but no later than thirty days
31 before April 30, the department shall mail to the owner of a ship or
32 vessel, or to the person listing the ship or vessel if different from
33 the owner, a tax statement showing the valuation for the previous year
34 of the ship or vessel assessed and the amount of tax owed for the
35 current year.~~

36 (~~(3)~~) (4) Any ship or vessel owner, or person listing the ship or
37 vessel if different from the owner, disputing the assessment or
38 disputing whether the ship or vessel is subject to taxation under this
39 section shall have the same rights of review as any other ship or

1 vessel owner subject to the excise tax contained in chapter 82.49 RCW
2 in accordance with RCW 82.49.060.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 84.40.150 and 1961 c 15 s 84.40.150 are each amended
4 to read as follows:

5 If any person required to list property for taxation and provide
6 the assessor with the list, is prevented by sickness or absence from
7 giving to the assessor such statement, such person or his or her agent
8 having charge of such property, may, at any time before the close of
9 the session of the board of equalization, make out and deliver to said
10 board a statement of the same as required by this title, and the board
11 shall, in such case, make an entry thereof, and correct the
12 corresponding item or items in the return made by the assessor, as the
13 case may require; but no such statement shall be received by the said
14 board from any person who refused or neglected to make oath to his or
15 her statement when required by the assessor as provided herein; nor
16 from any person unless he or she makes and files with the said board an
17 affidavit that he or she was absent from his or her county, without
18 design to avoid the listing of his or her property, or was prevented by
19 sickness from giving the assessor the required statement when called on
20 for that purpose.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 84.40.190 and 1967 ex.s. c 149 s 39 are each amended
22 to read as follows:

23 Every person required by this title to list property shall make out
24 and deliver to the assessor, or to the department as required by RCW
25 84.40.065, either in person or by mail, a statement, verified under
26 penalty of perjury, of all the personal property in his or her
27 possession or under his or her control, and which, by the provisions of
28 this title, he or she is required to list for taxation, either as owner
29 or holder thereof. Each list, schedule or statement required by this
30 chapter shall be signed by the individual if the person required to
31 make the same is an individual; by the president, vice-president,
32 treasurer, assistant treasurer, chief accounting officer or any other
33 officer duly authorized to so act if the person required to make the
34 same is a corporation; by a responsible and duly authorized member or
35 officer having knowledge of its affairs, if the person required to make
36 the same is a partnership or other unincorporated organization; or by
37 the fiduciary, if the person required to make the same is a trust or

1 estate. The list, schedule, or statement may be made and signed for
2 the person required to make the same by an agent who is duly authorized
3 to do so by a power of attorney filed with and approved by the
4 assessor. When any list, schedule, or statement is made and signed by
5 such agent, the principal required to make out and deliver the same
6 shall be responsible for the contents and the filing thereof and shall
7 be liable for the penalties imposed pursuant to RCW 84.40.130. No
8 person shall be required to list for taxation in his statement to the
9 assessor any share or portion of the capital stock, or of any of the
10 property of any company, association or corporation, which such person
11 may hold in whole or in part, where such company, being required so to
12 do, has listed for assessment and taxation its capital stock and
13 property with the department of revenue, or as otherwise required by
14 law.

15 **Sec. 5.** RCW 84.40.200 and 1987 c 319 s 3 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) In all cases of failure to obtain a statement of personal
18 property, from any cause, it shall be the duty of the assessor to
19 ascertain the amount and value of such property and assess the same at
20 such amount as he or she believes to be the true value thereof.

21 (2) The assessor, in all cases of the assessment of personal
22 property, shall deliver or mail to the person assessed, or to the
23 person listing the property, a copy of the statement of property
24 hereinbefore required, showing the valuation of the property so listed.

25 (3) This section does not apply to the listing required under RCW
26 84.40.065.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 84.56 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) The department of revenue shall collect all ad valorem taxes
30 upon ships and vessels listed with the department in accordance with
31 RCW 84.40.065 and all applicable interest and penalties.

32 The taxes shall be due and payable to the department on or before
33 the thirtieth day of April and shall be delinquent after that date.

34 (2) If payment of the tax is not received by the department by the
35 due date, there shall be imposed a penalty of five percent of the
36 amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received within thirty days
37 after the due date, there shall be imposed a total penalty of ten

1 percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received within
2 sixty days after the due date, there shall be imposed a total penalty
3 of twenty percent of the amount of the tax. No penalty so added shall
4 be less than five dollars.

5 (3) Delinquent taxes under this section are subject to interest at
6 the rate set forth in RCW 82.32.050 from the date of delinquency until
7 paid. Interest or penalties collected on delinquent taxes under this
8 section shall be paid by the department into the general fund of the
9 state treasury.

10 (4) If upon information obtained by the department it appears that
11 any ship or vessel required to be listed according to the provisions of
12 RCW 84.40.065 is not so listed, the department shall value the ship or
13 vessel and assess against the owner of the vessel the taxes found to be
14 due and shall add thereto interest at the rate set forth in RCW
15 82.32.050 from the original due date of the tax until the date of
16 payment. The department shall notify the vessel owner by mail of the
17 amount and the same shall become due and shall be paid by the vessel
18 owner within thirty days of the date of the notice. If payment is not
19 received by the department by the due date specified in the notice, the
20 department shall add a penalty of ten percent of the tax found due. A
21 person who willfully gives a false listing or willfully fails to list
22 a ship or vessel as required by RCW 84.40.065 shall be subject to the
23 penalty imposed by RCW 84.40.130(2), which shall be assessed and
24 collected by the department.

25 (5) Delinquent taxes under this section, along with all penalties
26 and interest thereon, shall be collected by the department according to
27 the procedures set forth in chapter 82.32 RCW for the filing and
28 execution of tax warrants, including the imposition of warrant
29 interest. In the event a warrant is issued by the department for the
30 collection of taxes under this section, the department shall add a
31 penalty of five percent of the amount of the delinquent tax, but not
32 less than ten dollars.

33 (6) Upon payment of the tax owed, together with applicable interest
34 or penalties, the department shall issue to the owner of the ship or
35 vessel a decal to be affixed to the ship or vessel in a manner
36 prescribed by the department. A decal affixed as prescribed by the
37 department indicates that the tax has been paid. Failure to affix the
38 decal as prescribed by the department is a misdemeanor.

1 (7) The department shall also collect all delinquent taxes
2 pertaining to ships and vessels appearing on the records of the county
3 treasurers for each of the counties of this state as of December 31,
4 1993, including any applicable interest or penalties. The provisions
5 of subsection (5) of this section shall apply to the collection of such
6 delinquent taxes.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of one hundred thirty-seven thousand
8 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
9 the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the
10 department of revenue for the purposes of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1994.

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