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#### SENATE BILL 5911

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Ericksen and Schoesler

Read first time 04/15/13. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to telecommunications tax parity; amending RCW 82.14B.040, 82.14B.042, 82.14B.030, 82.14B.200, 80.36.430, 43.20A.725, 2. 80.36.610, and 82.08.020; reenacting and amending RCW 82.14B.020 and 3 82.08.0289; adding new sections to chapter 80.36 RCW; creating new 4 sections; repealing RCW 80.36.600, 82.72.010, 82.72.020, 82.72.030, 5 6 82.72.040, 82.72.050, 82.72.060, 82.72.070, and 82.72.080; prescribing 7 penalties; providing effective dates; providing an expiration date; and 8 declaring an emergency.
- 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 10 PART I
- 11 TAX PARITY
- 12 **Sec. 101.** RCW 82.14B.020 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 s 2 are each 13 reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 14 As used in this chapter:
- 15 (1) "Consumer" means a person who purchases a prepaid wireless
  16 telecommunications service in a retail transaction.
- 17 <u>(2)</u> "Emergency services communication system" means a multicounty 18 or countywide communications network, including an enhanced 911

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emergency communications system, which provides rapid public access for coordinated dispatching of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities for police, fire, medical, or other emergency services.

- $((\frac{(2)}{(2)}))$  (3) "Enhanced 911 emergency communications system" means a public communications system consisting of a network, database, and onpremises equipment that is accessed by dialing or accessing 911 and that enables reporting police, fire, medical, or other emergency situations to a public safety answering point. The system includes the capability to selectively route incoming 911 voice or data to the appropriate public safety answering point that operates in a defined 911 service area and the capability to automatically display the name, address, and telephone number of incoming 911 voice or data at the appropriate public safety answering point. "Enhanced 911 emergency communications system" includes the modernization to next generation 911 systems.
- ((+3)) (4) "Interconnected voice over internet protocol service" has the same meaning as provided by the federal communications commission in 47 C.F.R. Sec. 9.3 on January 1, 2009, or a subsequent date determined by the department.
- ((4))) (5) "Interconnected voice over internet protocol service line" means an interconnected voice over internet protocol service that offers an active telephone number or successor dialing protocol assigned by a voice over internet protocol provider to a voice over internet protocol service customer that has inbound and outbound calling capability, which can directly access a public safety answering point when such a voice over internet protocol service customer has a place of primary use in the state.
- $((\frac{(5)}{)})$  (6) "Local exchange company" has the meaning ascribed to it 29 in RCW 80.04.010.
- $((\frac{(6)}{(6)}))$  <u>(7)</u> "Place of primary use" means the street address representative of where the subscriber's use of the radio access line or interconnected voice over internet protocol service line occurs, which must be:
  - (a) The residential street address or primary business street address of the subscriber; and
- 36 (b) In the case of radio access lines, within the licensed service 37 area of the home service provider.

((<del>(1)</del>)) (8) "Prepaid wireless telecommunications service" means a telecommunications service that provides the right to use mobile wireless service as well as other nontelecommunications services including the download of digital products delivered electronically, content, and ancillary services, which must be paid for in full in advance and sold in predetermined units or dollars.

- (9) "Private telecommunications system" has the meaning ascribed to it in RCW 80.04.010.
- ((<del>(8)</del>)) (10) "Radio access line" means the telephone number assigned to or used by a subscriber for two-way local wireless voice service available to the public for hire from a radio communications service company. Radio access lines include, but are not limited to, radio-telephone communications lines used in cellular telephone service, personal communications services, and network radio access lines, or their functional and competitive equivalent. Radio access lines do not include lines that provide access to one-way signaling service, such as paging service, or to communications channels suitable only for data transmission, or to nonlocal radio access line service, such as wireless roaming service, or to a private telecommunications system.
- ((+9))) (11) "Radio communications service company" has the meaning ascribed to it in RCW 80.04.010, except that it does not include radio paging providers. It does include those persons or entities that provide commercial mobile radio services, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Sec. 332(d)(1), and both facilities-based and nonfacilities-based resellers.
- $((\frac{10}{10}))$  (12) "Retail transaction" means the purchase of prepaid wireless telecommunications service from a seller for any purpose other than resale.
- 29 <u>(13) "Seller" means a person who sells prepaid wireless</u> 30 telecommunications service to another person.
  - (14) "Subscriber" means the retail purchaser of telecommunications service, a competitive telephone service, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service. "Subscriber" does not include a consumer, as defined in this section.
- $((\frac{(11)}{(11)}))$  <u>(15)</u> "Switched access line" means the telephone service line which connects a subscriber's main telephone(s) or equivalent main telephone(s) to the local exchange company's switching office.

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Sec. 102. RCW 82.14B.040 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

Subject to the enactment into law of the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.08.0289 in section 202 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 80.36.430 in section 203 of this act, and the 2013 amendments to RCW 43.20A.725 in section 204 of this act:

- (1) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (2) of this section:
- (a) The state enhanced 911 excise tax and the county enhanced 911 excise tax on switched access lines must be collected from the subscriber by the local exchange company providing the switched access line.
- $((\frac{(2)}{2}))$  (b) The state enhanced 911 excise tax and the county enhanced 911 excise tax on radio access lines must be collected from the subscriber by the radio communications service company, including those companies that resell radio access lines, providing the radio access line to the subscriber, and the seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications service.
- ((+3)) (c) The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes on interconnected voice over internet protocol service lines must be collected from the subscriber by the interconnected voice over internet protocol service company providing the interconnected voice over internet protocol service line to the subscriber.
- (((4))) (d) The amount of the tax must be stated separately on the 24 billing statement which is sent to the subscriber.
  - (2)(a) The state and county enhanced 911 excise tax must be collected from the consumer by the seller of a prepaid wireless telecommunications service for each retail transaction occurring in this state.
- 29 <u>(b) The department must transfer all tax proceeds remitted by a</u>
  30 <u>seller under this subsection (2) as provided in RCW 82.14B.030 (2) and</u>
  31 <u>(6).</u>
- (c) The taxes required by this subsection to be collected by the seller must be separately stated in any sales invoice or instrument of sale.
- 35 (d) A retail seller of a prepaid wireless telecommunications 36 service may retain five cents of the excise tax specified in RCW 37 82.14B.030(6)(a)(ii) that is collected from each transaction.

(e) When practicable, the amount of the tax imposed under this subsection (2) must be separately stated on an invoice, receipt, or other similar document that is provided to the consumer by the seller. When a separate disclosure to the consumer is not practicable, the seller may prominently display a sign notifying consumers of the tax.

- 6 Sec. 103. RCW 82.14B.042 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 s 7 are each 7 amended to read as follows:
  - Subject to the enactment into law of the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.08.0289 in section 202 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 80.36.430 in section 203 of this act, and the 2013 amendments to RCW 43.20A.725 in section 204 of this act:
- 12 (1) The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed by this chapter must be paid:
  - (a) By the subscriber to the local exchange company providing the switched access line, the radio communications service company providing the radio access line, or the interconnected voice over internet protocol service company providing the interconnected voice over internet protocol service line( $(\cdot, \cdot)$ ); or
- 19 <u>(b) By the consumer to the seller of prepaid wireless</u> 20 <u>telecommunications service;</u>
  - (2) Each local exchange company, each radio communications service company, ((and)) each interconnected voice over internet protocol service company, and each seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications service must collect from the subscriber the full amount of the taxes payable. The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes required by this chapter to be collected by a company, or seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications service, are deemed to be held in trust by the company or seller until paid to the department. Any local exchange company, radio communications service company, seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications service, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company that appropriates or converts the tax collected to its own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax to the extent that the money collected is not available for payment on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor((-));
- 36 ((<del>(2)</del>)) <u>(3)</u> If any local exchange company, radio communications 37 service company, <u>seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications service</u>,

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or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company fails to collect the state or county enhanced 911 excise tax or, after collecting the tax, fails to pay it to the department in the manner prescribed by this chapter, whether such failure is the result of its own act or the result of acts or conditions beyond its control, the company or seller is personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax, unless the company or seller has taken from the buyer in good faith documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or consumer or is otherwise not liable for the state or county enhanced 911 excise  $tax((\cdot,))$ :

 $((\frac{3}{3}))$  <u>(4)</u> The amount of tax, until paid by the subscriber to the local exchange company, the radio communications service company, the interconnected voice over internet protocol service company, or to the department, or until paid by the consumer to the seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications service, or to the department, constitutes a debt from the subscriber to the company, or from the consumer to the seller. Any company or seller that fails or refuses to collect the tax as required with intent to violate the provisions of this chapter or to gain some advantage or benefit, either direct or indirect, and any subscriber or consumer who refuses to pay any tax due under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes required by this chapter to be collected by the local radio communications company, service company, interconnected voice over internet protocol service company must be stated separately on the billing statement that is sent to the subscriber((-)); and

((\(\frac{(++)}{4}\))) (5) If a subscriber has failed to pay to the local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company or a consumer has failed to pay the seller of prepaid wireless telecommunications service, the state or county enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed by this chapter and the company or seller has not paid the amount of the tax to the department, the department may, in its discretion, proceed directly against the subscriber or consumer for collection of the tax, in which case a penalty of ten percent may be added to the amount of the tax for failure of the subscriber or consumer to pay the tax to the company or seller, regardless of when the tax is collected by the department. Tax under this chapter is due as provided under RCW 82.14B.061.

Sec. 104. RCW 82.14B.030 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

Subject to the enactment into law of the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.08.0289 in section 202 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 80.36.430 in section 203 of this act, and the 2013 amendments to RCW 43.20A.725 in section 204 of this act:

- (1) The legislative authority of a county may impose a county enhanced 911 excise tax on the use of switched access lines in an amount not exceeding seventy cents per month for each switched access line. The amount of tax must be uniform for each switched access line. Each county must provide notice of the tax to all local exchange companies serving in the county at least sixty days in advance of the date on which the first payment is due. The tax imposed under this subsection must be remitted to the department by local exchange companies on a tax return provided by the department. The tax must be deposited in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account as provided in RCW 82.14B.063.
- (2)(a) The legislative authority of a county may also impose a county enhanced 911 excise tax on the use of radio access lines:
- (i) By subscribers whose place of primary use is located within the county in an amount not exceeding seventy cents per month for each radio access line <u>under this subsection (2)(a)(i); and</u>
- (ii) By consumers whose retail transaction occurs within the county in an amount not exceeding seventy cents per retail transaction. The amount of tax must be uniform for each ((radio access line)) retail transaction under this subsection (2)(a)(ii).
- (b) The county must provide notice of the tax to all radio communications service companies serving in the county at least sixty days in advance of the date on which the first payment is due. The tax imposed under this section must be remitted to the department by radio communications service companies, ((including those companies)) and sellers of prepaid wireless telecommunications services, including those companies and sellers that resell radio access lines, on a tax return provided by the department. The tax must be deposited in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account as provided in RCW 82.14B.063.
- (3)(a) The legislative authority of a county may impose a county enhanced 911 excise tax on the use of interconnected voice over internet protocol service lines in an amount not exceeding seventy

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cents per month for each interconnected voice over internet protocol service line. The amount of tax must be uniform for each line and must be levied on no more than the number of voice over internet protocol service lines on an account that are capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling to the public switched telephone network.

- (b) The interconnected voice over internet protocol service company must use the place of primary use of the subscriber to determine which county's enhanced 911 excise tax applies to the service provided to the subscriber.
- (c) The tax imposed under this section must be remitted to the department by interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies on a tax return provided by the department.
- (d) The tax must be deposited in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account as provided in RCW 82.14B.063.
- (e) To the extent that a local exchange carrier and an interconnected voice over internet protocol service company contractually jointly provide a single service line, only one service company is responsible for remitting the enhanced 911 excise taxes, and nothing in this section precludes service companies who jointly provide service from agreeing by contract which of them ((shall)) must remit the taxes collected.
- (4) Counties imposing a county enhanced 911 excise tax must provide an annual update to the enhanced 911 coordinator detailing the proportion of their county enhanced 911 excise tax that is being spent on:
  - (a) Efforts to modernize their existing enhanced 911 communications system; and
    - (b) Enhanced 911 operational costs.

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- (5) A state enhanced 911 excise tax is imposed on all switched access lines in the state. The amount of tax may not exceed twenty-five cents per month for each switched access line. The tax must be uniform for each switched access line. The tax imposed under this subsection must be remitted to the department by local exchange companies on a tax return provided by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer in the enhanced 911 account created in RCW 38.52.540.
- 37 (6)(a) A state enhanced 911 excise tax is imposed on the use of all radio access lines:

(i) By subscribers whose place of primary use is located within the state in an amount of twenty-five cents per month for each radio access line. The tax must be uniform for each radio access line under this subsection (6)(a)(i); and

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- (ii) By consumers whose retail transaction occurs within the state in an amount not exceeding thirty cents per retail transaction. The tax must be uniform for each ((radio access line)) retail transaction under this subsection (6)(a)(ii).
- (b) The tax imposed under this section must be remitted to the department by radio communications service companies, and sellers of prepaid wireless telecommunications service, including those companies and sellers that resell radio access lines, on a tax return provided by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer in the enhanced 911 account created in RCW 38.52.540. The tax imposed under this section is not subject to the state sales and use tax or any local tax.
- (7) For purposes of the state and county enhanced 911 excise tax imposed by subsections (2) and (6) of this section, the retail transaction is deemed to occur at the location where the transaction is sourced to under RCW 82.32.520(3)(c).
- (8) A state enhanced 911 excise tax is imposed on all interconnected voice over internet protocol service lines in the state. The amount of tax may not exceed twenty-five cents per month for each interconnected voice over internet protocol service line whose place of primary use is located in the state. The amount of tax must be uniform for each line and must be levied on no more than the number of voice over internet protocol service lines on an account that are capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling to the public switched telephone network. The tax imposed under this subsection must be remitted to the department by interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies on a tax return provided by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer in the enhanced 911 account created in RCW 38.52.540.
- ((+8)) (9) For calendar year 2011, the taxes imposed by subsections (5) and ((+7)) (8) of this section must be set at their maximum rate. By August 31, 2011, and by August 31st of each year thereafter, the state enhanced 911 coordinator must recommend the level for the next year of the state enhanced 911 excise tax imposed by

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subsections (5) and  $((\frac{7}{}))$  (8) of this section, based on a systematic cost and revenue analysis, to the utilities and transportation commission. The commission must by the following October 31st

determine the level of the state enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed by

5 subsections (5) and  $((\frac{7}{1}))$  of this section for the following year.

**Sec. 105.** RCW 82.14B.200 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 s 12 are each 7 amended to read as follows:

Subject to the enactment into law of the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.08.0289 in section 202 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 80.36.430 in section 203 of this act, and the 2013 amendments to RCW 43.20A.725 in section 204 of this act:

- (1) Unless a <u>seller</u>, local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company has taken from the buyer documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber, consumer, or is otherwise not liable for the tax, the burden of proving that a sale of the use of a switched access line, radio access line, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service line was not a sale to a subscriber, consumer, or was not otherwise subject to the tax is upon the person who made the sale.
- (2) If a <u>seller</u>, local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company does not receive documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber, consumer, or is otherwise not liable for the tax at the time of the sale, have such documentation on file at the time of the sale, or obtain such documentation from the buyer within a reasonable time after the sale, the <u>seller</u>, local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company remains liable for the tax as provided in RCW 82.14B.042, unless the <u>seller</u>, local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company can demonstrate facts and circumstances according to rules adopted by the department that show the sale was properly made without payment of the state or county enhanced 911 excise tax.
- (3) The penalty imposed by RCW 82.32.291 may not be assessed on state or county enhanced 911 excise taxes due but not paid as a result

of the improper use of documentation stating that the buyer is not a subscriber <u>or consumer</u> or is otherwise not liable for the state or county enhanced 911 excise tax. This subsection does not prohibit or restrict the application of other penalties authorized by law.

5 PART II

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### CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

Sec. 201. (1) The legislature finds that the NEW SECTION. department of revenue has consistently interpreted the phrase residential class of telephone service" as it would have been understood when the residential telephone service exemption was enacted in 1983. The legislature further finds that in 1983, all telephone service was divided into separate "local" and "toll" services for "residential" and "business" classifications, as defined by regulatory tariffs filed with the utilities and transportation commission. result, the department of revenue has consistently restricted the residential telephone service exemption in RCW 82.08.0289 to nontoll telephone service provided under a residential customer regulatory This includes traditional landline telephone service but tariff. excludes cellular telephone service and voice over internet protocol telephone service, which are not subject to regulatory tariffs.

- (2) The legislature further finds that:
- (a) The department of revenue's interpretation of the residential telephone service exemption has been upheld by the board of tax appeals but was rejected by the Thurston county superior court in a 2011 decision. In Sprint Spectrum LP v. State of Washington Department of Revenue, Cause No. 10-2-02276-4, the Thurston county superior court ruled that the taxpayer's sales of cellular telephone services to nonbusiness customers qualified for the residential telephone service exemption in RCW 82.08.0289. That decision was subsequently vacated by agreement of the parties.
- (b) Although this litigation did not result in any binding court decision, and the department of revenue continues to interpret the exemption as applying only to nontoll telephone service provided under a regulatory tariff filed with the utilities and transportation commission, the residential telephone service exemption will continue

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to be the subject of litigation as other taxpayers claim entitlement to the exemption for other services.

- (c) Further litigation would be costly and could result in the unintended expansion of the exemption to all telephone services that a carrier treats as residential, such as cellular and voice over internet protocol telephone service provided to nonbusiness customers, and to long-distance service provided to residential customers for a flat rate. This could result in extremely large and devastating revenue impacts for the state and local governments.
- (d) The mobile telecommunications sourcing provisions in RCW 82.32.520 render the sales tax exemption in RCW 82.08.0289 for mobile telecommunications services provided to a customer whose place of primary use is outside this state redundant.
- (3) The legislature intends by this act to (a) reduce litigation risk and associated costs, (b) prevent unexpected adverse fiscal impacts that would result if a court were to broadly construe the residential telephone service exemption, and (c) improve equity in the sales taxation of telecommunications services.
  - (4) Therefore, this act is intended to:

- (a) Clarify retroactively that, prior to this act, the residential telephone service exemption in RCW 82.08.0289 has always applied only to residential nontoll telephone service offered under a tariff filed with the utilities and transportation commission, consistent with the department of revenue's long-standing interpretation of the exemption;
- (b) Allow fixed interconnected voice over internet protocol telecommunications service as identified in this act to qualify for the residential telephone service exemption for periods prior to the effective date of this section; and
- (c) Prospectively eliminate the exemptions in RCW 82.08.0289 for residential telephone service, coin-operated telephone service, and mobile telecommunications services provided to a customer whose place of primary use is outside this state.
- **Sec. 202.** RCW 82.08.0289 and 2007 c 6 s 1006 and 2007 c 6 s 1005 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- Subject to the enactment into law of the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.040 in section 102 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.042 in section 103 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW

- 1 82.14B.030 in section 104 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW
- 2 82.14B.200 in section 105 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW
- 3 80.36.430 in section 203 of this act, and the 2013 amendments to RCW
- 4 43.20A.725 in section 204 of this act:
- 5 (1) <u>Until the effective date of this section</u>, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 ((shall)) <u>does</u> not apply to sales of:
  - (a) Local service;

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- 8 (b) Coin-operated telephone service; and
- 9 (c) Mobile telecommunications services, including any toll service, 10 provided to a customer whose place of primary use is outside this 11 state.
- 12 (2) The definitions in RCW 82.04.065, as well as the definitions in this subsection, apply to this section.
  - (a) "Local service" means:
  - (i) Ancillary services and telecommunications service, as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, other than toll service, provided to an individual subscribing to a residential class of telephone service offered under a tariff required to be filed with the Washington utilities and transportation commission under Title 80 RCW; and
  - (ii) Fixed interconnected voice over internet protocol service, other than the nonlocal service allocation attributable to that service, sold by a provider to an individual classified as residential by that provider.
  - (b) "Toll service" <u>means long distance service regardless of the method of billing for such service but</u> does not include customer access line charges for access to a toll calling network.
  - (c) "Coin-operated telephone service" means a telecommunications service paid for by inserting money into a telephone accepting direct deposits of money to operate.
  - (d) "Fixed interconnected voice over internet protocol service" means a service that meets the definition of interconnected voice over internet protocol service in 47 C.F.R. Sec. 9.3 on January 1, 2009, and that offers an active telephone number or successor dialing protocol assigned by a provider; provides inbound and outbound calling capability; and can be used for transmission of telephone calls only from a fixed location.
- 37 <u>(e) "Nonlocal service allocation" means the portion of the</u> 38 provider's fixed interconnected voice over internet protocol service

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- 1 attributable to the provider's nationwide nonlocal service activity as determined using a method sanctioned by the federal communications 2 commission in FCC 06-94 and reported to the federal communications 3 commission for the same calendar quarter. If the provider does not 4 report any nonlocal service activity to the federal communications 5 6 commission, the full revenue derived from the fixed interconnected 7 voice over internet protocol service is deemed part of the nonlocal service allocation. 8
- 9 (f) "Provider" means provider of a fixed interconnected voice over 10 internet protocol service that is subject to a franchise fee in this 11 state under the authority of 47 U.S.C. Sec. 542(a).
- 12 **Sec. 203.** RCW 80.36.430 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 s 968 are each 13 amended to read as follows:
  - Subject to the enactment into law of the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.040 in section 102 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.042 in section 103 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.030 in section 104 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.200 in section 105 of this act, and the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.08.0289 in section 202 of this act:
  - (1) The Washington telephone assistance program ((shall)) must be funded by ((a telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines)) the legislature by means of a biennial general fund appropriation to the department and by funds from any federal government or other programs for this purpose. ((Switched access lines are defined in RCW 82.14B.020. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be applied equally to all residential and business access lines not to exceed fourteen cents per month. The department shall submit an approved annual budget for the Washington telephone assistance program to the department of revenue no later than March 1st prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The department of revenue shall then determine the amount of telephone assistance excise tax to be placed on each switched access line and shall inform local exchange companies and the utilities and transportation commission of this amount no later than May 1st. The department of revenue shall determine the amount of telephone assistance excise tax by dividing the total of the program budget funded by the telephone assistance excise tax, as submitted by the department, by the total number of switched access lines in the

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prior calendar year. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as the "Washington telephone assistance program." All money collected from the telephone assistance excise tax shall be transferred to a telephone assistance fund administered by the department.))

- (2) Local exchange companies ((shall)) must bill the fund for their expenses incurred in offering the telephone assistance program, including administrative and program expenses. The department ((shall)) must disburse the money to the local exchange companies. The department is exempted from having to conclude a contract with local exchange companies in order to effect this reimbursement. The department ((shall)) must recover its administrative costs from the fund. The department may specify by rule the range and extent of administrative and program expenses that will be reimbursed to local exchange companies.
- (3) The department ((shall)) <u>must</u> enter into an agreement with the department of commerce for an amount not to exceed eight percent of the prior fiscal year's total revenue for the administrative and program expenses of providing community service voice mail services. The community service voice mail service may include toll-free lines in community action agencies through which recipients can access their community service voice mailboxes at no charge.
- ((4) During the 2009-2011 and 2011-2013 biennia, the department shall enter into an agreement with the WIN 211 organization for operational support. During the 2011-2013 biennium, the department shall provide five hundred thousand dollars per fiscal year for this purpose.
- 28 (5) During the 2009-2011 biennium, the telephone assistance fund 29 shall also be used in support of the economic services administration 30 call centers and related operations.))
- **Sec. 204.** RCW 43.20A.725 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 s 944 are each 32 amended to read as follows:
- Subject to the enactment into law of the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.040 in section 102 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.042 in section 103 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW 82.14B.030 in section 104 of this act, the 2013 amendments to RCW

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# 82.14B.200 in section 105 of this act, and the 2013 amendments to RCW 2 82.08.0289 in section 202 of this act:

- (1) The department, through the sole authority of the office or its successor organization, ((shall)) must maintain a program whereby an individual of school age or older who possesses a hearing or speech impairment is provided with telecommunications equipment, software, and/or peripheral devices, digital or otherwise, that is determined by the office to be necessary for such a person to access and use telecommunications transmission services effectively.
- (2) The department, through the sole authority of the office or its successor organization, ((shall)) must maintain a program where telecommunications relay services of a human or electronic nature will be provided to connect hearing impaired, deaf-blind, or speech impaired persons with persons who do not have a hearing or speech impairment. Such telecommunications relay services ((shall)) must provide the ability for an individual who has a hearing or speech impairment to engage in voice, tactile, or visual communication by wire or radio with a hearing individual in a manner that is functionally equivalent to the ability of an individual who does not have a hearing or speech impairment to communicate using voice or visual communication services by wire or radio subject to subsection (4)(b) of this section.
- (3) The telecommunications relay service and equipment distribution program may operate in such a manner as to provide communications transmission opportunities that are capable of incorporating new technologies that have demonstrated benefits consistent with the intent of this chapter and are in the best interests of the citizens of this state.
- (4) The office ((shall)) must administer and control the award of money to all parties incurring costs in implementing and maintaining telecommunications services, programs, equipment, and technical support services according to this section. The relay service contract ((shall)) must be awarded to an individual company registered as a telecommunications company by the utilities and transportation commission, to a group of registered telecommunications companies, or to any other company or organization determined by the office as qualified to provide relay services, contingent upon that company or organization being approved as a registered telecommunications company prior to final contract approval. The relay system providers and

telecommunications equipment vendors ((shall)) <u>must</u> be selected on the basis of cost-effectiveness and utility to the greatest extent possible under the program and technical specifications established by the office.

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- (a) To the extent funds are available under the then-current rate and not otherwise held in reserve or required for other purposes authorized by this chapter, the office may award contracts for communications and related services and equipment for hearing impaired or speech impaired individuals accessing or receiving services provided by, or contracted for, the department to meet access obligations under Title 2 of the federal Americans with disabilities act or related federal regulations.
- (b) The office ((shall)) <u>must</u> perform its duties under this section with the goal of achieving functional equivalency of access to and use of telecommunications services similar to the enjoyment of access to and use of such services experienced by an individual who does not have a hearing or speech impairment only to the extent that funds are available under the then-current rate and not otherwise held in reserve or required for other purposes authorized by this chapter.
- (5) The program ((shall)) <u>must</u> be funded by ((a telecommunications relay service (TRS) excise tax applied to each switched access line provided by the local exchange companies. The office shall determine, in consultation with the office's program advisory committee, the budget needed to fund the program on an annual basis, including both operational costs and a reasonable amount for capital improvements such as equipment upgrade and replacement. The budget proposed by the office, together with documentation and supporting materials, shall be submitted to the office of financial management for review and approval. The approved budget shall be given by the department in an annual budget to the department of revenue no later than March 1st prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. The department of revenue shall then determine the amount of telecommunications relay service excise tax to be placed on each switched access line and shall inform local exchange companies and the utilities and transportation commission of this amount no later than May 1st. The department of revenue shall determine the amount of telecommunications relay service excise tax to be collected in the following fiscal year by dividing the total of the program budget, as submitted by the office, by the total

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1 number of switched access lines in the prior calendar year, as reported 2 to the department of revenue under chapter 82.14B RCW, and shall not exercise any further oversight of the program under this subsection 3 4 other than administering the collection of the telecommunications relay service excise tax as provided in RCW 82.72.010 through 82.72.090. The 5 6 telecommunications relay service excise tax shall not exceed nineteen cents per month per access line. The telecommunications relay service 7 8 excise tax shall be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill with the following statement: "Funds federal ADA requirement." All 9 proceeds from the telecommunications relay service excise tax shall be 10 11 put into a fund to be administered by the office through the 12 department. During the 2009-2011 and 2011-2013 fiscal biennia, the 13 funds may also be used to provide individualized employment services and employment-related counseling to people with disabilities, and 14 15 technical assistance to employers about the employment of people with disabilities. "Switched access line" has the meaning provided in RCW 16 82.14B.020)) the legislature by means of a biennial general fund 17 appropriation to the department for the purposes of the program. 18

- (6) The telecommunications relay service program and equipment vendors ((shall)) must provide services and equipment consistent with the requirements of federal law for the operation of both interstate and intrastate telecommunications services for the hearing impaired or speech impaired. The department and the utilities and transportation commission ((shall be)) are responsible for ensuring compliance with federal requirements and ((shall)) must provide timely notice to the legislature of any legislation that may be required to accomplish compliance.
- (7) The department ((shall)) <u>must</u> adopt rules establishing eligibility criteria, ownership obligations, financial contributions, and a program for distribution to individuals requesting and receiving such telecommunications devices distributed by the office, and other rules necessary to administer programs and services consistent with this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 205. The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:
- 36 (1) RCW 80.36.600 (Universal service program--Planning and

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- preparation--Commission's duties--Approval of legislature required--Definitions) and 1999 c 372 s 16 & 1998 c 337 s 1;
- 3 (2) RCW 82.72.010 (Definitions) and 2007 c 6 s 1010 & 2004 c 254 s 4 3;
- 5 (3) RCW 82.72.020 (Authorization to administer telephone program 6 excise taxes) and 2004 c 254 s 4;
- 7 (4) RCW 82.72.030 (Collection of tax by local exchange company) and 8 2004 c 254 s 5;
- 9 (5) RCW 82.72.040 (Tax payment and collection requirements) and 10 2009 c 563 s 214 & 2004 c 254 s 6;
- 11 (6) RCW 82.72.050 (Administration of telephone program excise taxes) and 2004 c 254 s 7;
  - (7) RCW 82.72.060 (Tax returns) and 2004 c 254 s 8;
- 14 (8) RCW 82.72.070 (Liability for payment of taxes) and 2009 c 563 15 s 215 & 2004 c 254 s 9; and
- 16 (9) RCW 82.72.080 (Liability for payment of taxes upon termination, 17 dissolution, or abandonment of business) and 2004 c 254 s 10.

### 18 PART III

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## UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROGRAM

NEW SECTION. Sec. 301. (1) The legislature finds that the state and the public receive an important public benefit from communications systems that enable as many consumers as possible to be connected to the public network. Stable and ubiquitous communications services play a crucial role in the protection of the public's physical and economic safety and welfare.

(2) In legislation adopted in 1999, the legislature declared a policy of support for universal communications services, subject to legislative implementation. Recent changes in the communications marketplace, including changes in access to federal universal services funds, may expose the public to risk of disruption or cessation of communications services and unstable rates for some customers, particularly those in rural areas of the state, with resulting risks to public safety and welfare. The legislature finds that the state has a role in solving this problem under its authority to regulate communications services providers as common carriers under Article XII, section 19 of the state Constitution.

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- 1 (3) For these reasons, the legislature intends to establish a 2 temporary program of assistance for universal communications services. 3 The purpose of the program is to protect safety and welfare by 4 supporting continued provision of basic telecommunications services at 5 stable rates under agreements subject to the supervision of the 6 utilities and transportation commission.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 302. A new section is added to chapter 80.36 RCW to read as follows:
- 9 The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and 10 sections 303 through 309 of this act unless the context clearly 11 requires otherwise.
- 12 (1) "Basic residential service" means those services set out in 47 13 C.F.R. Sec. 54.101(a)(2011) and mandatory extended area service 14 approved by the commission.
- 15 (2) "Basic telecommunications services" means the following 16 services:
- 17 (a) Single-party service;

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- (b) Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- 19 (c) Support for local usage;
- 20 (d) Dual tone multifrequency signaling (touch-tone);
- 21 (e) Access to emergency services (911);
- 22 (f) Access to operator services;
  - (g) Access to interexchange services;
- 24 (h) Access to directory assistance; and
- 25 (i) Toll limitation services.
  - (3) "Communications provider" means a provider that provides a working telephone number to a final consumer for intrastate wireline or wireless communications services or interconnected voice over internet protocol service, and includes local exchange carriers.
- 30 (4) "Communications services" includes telecommunications services 31 and information services and any combination thereof.
- 32 (5) "Incumbent local exchange carrier" has the same meaning as set 33 forth in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 251(h).
- 34 (6) "Incumbent public network" means the network established by 35 incumbent local exchange carriers for the delivery of communications 36 services to customers that is used by communications providers for

origination or termination of communications services by or to customers.

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- (7) "Interconnected voice over internet protocol service" means an interconnected voice over internet protocol service that: (a) Enables real-time, two-way voice communications; (b) requires a broadband connection from the user's location; (c) requires internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment; and (d) permits users generally to receive calls that originate on the public network and to terminate calls to the public network.
- 10 (8) "Program" means the state universal communications services 11 program created in section 303 of this act.
- 12 (9) "Telecommunications" has the same meaning as defined in 47 13 U.S.C. Sec. 153(43).
- 14 (10) "Telecommunications act of 1996" means the telecommunications 15 act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56).
- 16 (11) "Working telephone number" means a north American numbering 17 plan telephone number, or successor dialing protocol, that is developed 18 for use in placing calls to or from the public network, that enables a 19 consumer to make or receive calls.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 303. A new section is added to chapter 80.36 21 RCW to read as follows:
  - A state universal communications (1)services program established. The program is established to protect public safety and welfare under the authority of the state to regulate telecommunications under Article XII, section 19 of the state Constitution. The purpose of the program is to support continued provision of telecommunications services under rates established by the commission during the time in which communications providers in the state are adapting to changes in federal universal service fund and intercarrier compensation support.
  - (2) Under the program, eligible communications providers may receive distributions from the universal communications services account created in section 308 of this act in exchange for the affirmative agreement to provide continued services under the rates, terms, and conditions established by the commission under this chapter for the period covered by the distribution. Disbursements from the account may not exceed the following amounts: Five million dollars in

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fiscal year one, four million dollars in fiscal year two, three million dollars in fiscal year three, two million dollars in fiscal year four, and one million dollars in fiscal year five. The commission must implement and administer the program under terms and conditions established in sections 302 through 308 of this act.

- (3) A communications provider is eligible to receive distributions from the account if:
- (a) The communications provider is: (i) An incumbent local exchange carrier serving fewer than forty thousand access lines in the state; or (ii) a radio communications service company providing wireless two-way voice communications service to less than the equivalent of forty thousand access lines in the state. For purposes of determining the access line threshold, the access lines or equivalents of all affiliates must be counted as one threshold;
- (b) The customers of the communications provider are at risk of rate instability or service interruptions or cessations absent a distribution to the provider that will allow the provider to maintain rates reasonably close to the benchmark; and
- (c) The communications provider meets any other criteria established by the commission.
- (4)(a) Distributions to eligible communications providers are based on a benchmark established by the commission. The benchmark is the rate the commission determines to be a reasonable amount customers should pay for basic residential service provided over the incumbent public network. However, if an incumbent local exchange carrier is charging rates above the benchmark for the basic residential service, that provider may not seek distributions from the fund for the purpose of reducing those rates to the benchmark.
- (b) To receive a distribution under the program, the recipient provider must affirmatively consent to continue providing communications services to its customers under rates, terms, and conditions established by the commission pursuant to this chapter for the period covered by the distribution.
- (5) The program is funded from amounts deposited by the legislature in the universal communications services account established in section 308 of this act. The commission must operate the program within amounts appropriated for this purpose and deposited in the account.

(6) The commission must implement the program through a contract with a neutral third-party administrator. The administrator must be selected through a competitive process and its activities are subject to oversight by the commission. The commission establishes and approves the budget and program expenses. The commission may authorize disbursements to the administrator from the universal communications services account established in section 308 of this act.

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- (7) The commission, directly or through the administrator, must periodically review the accounts and records of any communications provider that receives distributions under the program to ensure compliance with the program and monitor the providers' use of the funds.
- 13 (8) The commission may establish an advisory board, consisting of 14 a reasonable balance of representatives from different types of 15 communications providers and consumers, to advise the commission on 16 selecting and overseeing the administrator of the program.
- 17 (9) The program terminates on June 30, 2019, and no distributions 18 may be made after that date.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 304. A new section is added to chapter 80.36 RCW to read as follows:
- 21 To implement the program, the commission must adopt rules for the 22 following purposes:
- 23 (1) Operation of the program, including criteria for eligibility 24 for distributions and identification of any reports or data that must 25 be filed with the commission;
- 26 (2) Operation of the universal communications services account 27 established in section 308 of this act;
- 28 (3) Criteria for election of the independent third-party 29 administrator;
  - (4) Establishment of the benchmark used to calculate distributions;
- 31 (5) Readoption, amendment, or repeal of any existing rules adopted 32 pursuant to RCW 80.36.610 and 80.36.620 as necessary to be consistent 33 with sections 302 through 309 of this act.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 305. A new section is added to chapter 80.36 RCW to read as follows:
- 36 (1) In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, the

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- 1 commission may impose penalties for failure to make or delays in making
- 2 or filing any reports required by the commission for administration of
- 3 the program. In addition, the commission may recover amounts
- 4 determined to have been improperly distributed under section 303 of
- 5 this act. For the purposes of this section, the provisions of RCW
- 6 80.04.380 through 80.04.405, inclusive, apply to all companies that
- 7 receive support from the universal communications services account
- 8 created in section 308 of this act.
- 9 (2) Any action taken under this section must be taken only after 10 providing the affected communications provider with notice and an
- 11 opportunity for a hearing, unless otherwise provided by law.
- 12 (3) Any amounts recovered under this section must be deposited in
- 13 the universal communications services account created in section 308 of
- 14 this act.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 306. A new section is added to chapter 80.36
- 16 RCW to read as follows:
- 17 The commission may delegate to the commission secretary or other
- 18 staff the authority to resolve disputes, approve expenses of the
- 19 administrator, and make other administrative decisions necessary to the
- 20 administration and supervision of the program consistent with the
- 21 relevant statutes and commission rules.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 307. A new section is added to chapter 80.36
- 23 RCW to read as follows:
- 24 The commission must adopt rules to implement this act prior to July
- 25 1, 2014, to ensure that this act is implemented in a timely manner.
- 26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 308. A new section is added to chapter 80.36
- 27 RCW to read as follows:
- 28 The universal communications services account is created in the
- 29 custody of the state treasurer. Revenues to the account consist of
- 30 moneys deposited in the account by the legislature and any penalties or
- 31 other recoveries received pursuant to section 305 of this act.
- 32 Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of the
- 33 universal communications services program established in section 303 of
- 34 this act. Only the secretary of the commission or the secretary's

designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

Sec. 309. RCW 80.36.610 and 1998 c 337 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

- (((1))) The commission is authorized to take actions, conduct proceedings, and enter orders as permitted or contemplated for a state commission under the ((federal)) telecommunications act of 1996((, P.L. 104-104 (110 Stat. 56), but the commission's authority to either establish a new state program or to adopt new rules to preserve and advance universal service under section 254(f) of the federal act is limited to the actions expressly authorized by RCW 80.36.600)). commission may establish by rule fees to be paid by persons seeking commission action under the ((federal)) telecommunications act of 1996, and by parties to proceedings under that act, to offset in whole or part the commission's expenses that are not otherwise recovered through fees in implementing the act((, but new fees or assessments charged telecommunications carriers to either establish a state program or to adopt rules to preserve and advance universal service under section 254(f) of the federal act do not take effect until the legislature has approved a state universal service program.
- (2) The legislature intends that under the future universal service program established in this state:
- (a) Every telecommunications carrier that provides intrastate telecommunications services shall contribute, on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis, to the preservation and advancement of universal service in the state;
- 28 (b) The contributions shall be competitively and technologically
  29 neutral; and
- 30 (c) The universal service program to be established in accordance 31 with RCW 80.36.600 shall not be inconsistent with the requirements of 32 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254)).

33 PART IV

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34 SALES TAX PROVISIONS

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- **Sec. 401.** RCW 82.08.020 and 2011 c 171 s 120 are each amended to read as follows:
  - (1) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, there is levied and collected a tax equal to six and five-tenths percent of the selling price on each retail sale in this state of:
  - (a) Tangible personal property, unless the sale is specifically excluded from the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;
- 8 (b) Digital goods, digital codes, and digital automated services, 9 if the sale is included within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail 10 sale;
  - (c) Services, other than digital automated services, included within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;
    - (d) Extended warranties to consumers; and

- (e) Anything else, the sale of which is included within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale.
  - (2) There is levied and collected an additional tax on each retail car rental, regardless of whether the vehicle is licensed in this state, equal to five and nine-tenths percent of the selling price. The revenue collected under this subsection must be deposited in the multimodal transportation account created in RCW 47.66.070.
  - (3) Beginning July 1, 2003, there is levied and collected an additional tax of three-tenths of one percent of the selling price on each retail sale of a motor vehicle in this state, other than retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section. The revenue collected under this subsection must be deposited in the multimodal transportation account created in RCW 47.66.070.
  - (4) For purposes of subsection (3) of this section, "motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.320, but does not include farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181, off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365, nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310, and snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546.
  - (5) Beginning on December 8, 2005, 0.16 percent of the taxes collected under subsection (1) of this section must be dedicated to funding comprehensive performance audits required under RCW 43.09.470. The revenue identified in this subsection must be deposited in the performance audits of government account created in RCW 43.09.475.
- 37 (6)(a) Beginning July 1, 2013, the rate of tax for persons 38 providing "competitive telephone services," "telecommunication

services, or "ancillary services" as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, must be the rate of tax determined by the department as prescribed in (b) of this subsection.

- (b) Beginning with the rate of tax in subsection (1) of this section, the department must make adjustments to that rate based upon the effects of this act, including the provisions in Part I of this act, as they apply to competitive telephone services, telecommunication services, or ancillary services, so that the overall effect to the general fund of the state will result in revenue neutrality. In making this calculation the department must consider all increases or decreases in revenues as well as required expenditures. The department must make this determination by October 1, 2013.
- 13 <u>(7)</u> The taxes imposed under this chapter apply to successive retail sales of the same property.
- 15  $((\frac{7}{}))$  (8) The rates provided in this section apply to taxes 16 imposed under chapter 82.12 RCW as provided in RCW 82.12.020.

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## MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 501. The repeals in section 205 of this act do not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the statutes repealed or under any rule or order adopted under them nor does it affect any proceedings instituted under them.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 502. For services affected by the expiration of the exemption for local service under RCW 82.08.0289(1) that cover a billing period starting before and ending after the effective date of section 202 of this act, RCW 82.08.064(3)(a) is deemed to apply, and retail sales tax will apply to the first billing period starting on or after the effective date of section 202 of this act.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 503. Section 202 of this act applies prospectively as well as retroactively to tax periods open for assessment or refund of taxes under RCW 82.32.050 or 82.32.060, including any refund claims or disputed assessments pending before the department of revenue, board of tax appeals, or any court of law.

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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 504. In accordance with Article VIII, section 5 of the state Constitution, section 202 of this act does not authorize refunds of sales tax validly collected.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 505. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 506. (1) Except as provided otherwise in this section, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2013.
  - (2) Part I of this act takes effect January 1, 2014.

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- 13 (3) Except for section 307 of this act, Part III of this act takes 14 effect July 1, 2014.
- 15 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 507.** Part III of this act expires July 1, 2020.

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