

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6016**

66th Legislature  
2019 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 28, 2019  
Yeas 27 Nays 19

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 27, 2019  
Yeas 76 Nays 22

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6016** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6016**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2019 Regular Session

**State of Washington**                      **66th Legislature**                      **2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lias, Rolfes, and Hunt

Read first time 04/17/19. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to the taxation of international investment  
2 management companies; amending RCW 82.04.290, 82.04.293, 82.08.207,  
3 and 82.12.207; creating new sections; providing expiration dates;  
4 providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        In 1995, the legislature enacted a  
7 business and occupation tax rate for persons providing international  
8 investment management services. The legislature finds that the  
9 original intent of this tax rate was to reduce a competitive  
10 disadvantage for a limited number of firms providing international  
11 investment management services. The fiscal note for the bill stated  
12 that "only a very limited taxpayer group would benefit from the  
13 reduced rate." The legislature further finds that as a result of the  
14 adoption of economic nexus; a single factor, market-based  
15 apportionment methodology; and significant ambiguity in the statute  
16 governing the qualifications for the tax rate; a much larger number  
17 of businesses are claiming the tax rate than was contemplated in  
18 1995. Therefore, the legislature intends in sections 2 and 3 of this  
19 act to clarify the scope of activities and persons eligible for the  
20 tax rate to more closely align with the legislature's original  
21 intent.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.04.290 and 2014 c 97 s 404 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business  
4 of providing qualifying international investment management services,  
5 as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such business  
6 is equal to the gross income or gross proceeds of sales of the  
7 business multiplied by a rate of 0.275 percent.

8       (2)(a) Upon every person engaging within this state in any  
9 business activity other than or in addition to an activity taxed  
10 explicitly under another section in this chapter or subsection (1) or  
11 (3) of this section; as to such persons the amount of tax on account  
12 of such activities is equal to the gross income of the business  
13 multiplied by the rate of 1.5 percent.

14       (b) This subsection (2) includes, among others, and without  
15 limiting the scope hereof (whether or not title to materials used in  
16 the performance of such business passes to another by accession,  
17 confusion or other than by outright sale), persons engaged in the  
18 business of rendering any type of service which does not constitute a  
19 "sale at retail" or a "sale at wholesale." The value of advertising,  
20 demonstration, and promotional supplies and materials furnished to an  
21 agent by his or her principal or supplier to be used for  
22 informational, educational, and promotional purposes is not  
23 considered a part of the agent's remuneration or commission and is  
24 not subject to taxation under this section.

25       (3)(a) Until July 1, 2040, upon every person engaging within this  
26 state in the business of performing aerospace product development for  
27 others, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such  
28 business is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by a  
29 rate of 0.9 percent.

30       (b) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this  
31 subsection (3) must file a complete annual report with the department  
32 under RCW 82.32.534.

33       (c) "Aerospace product development" has the meaning as provided  
34 in RCW 82.04.4461.

35       **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.04.293 and 1997 c 7 s 3 are each amended to read  
36 as follows:

37       For purposes of RCW 82.04.290:

38       (1) A person is engaged in the business of providing qualifying  
39 international investment management services, if:

1 (a) Such person is engaged primarily in the business of providing  
2 investment management services; ~~((and))~~

3 (b) At least ten percent of the gross income of such person is  
4 derived from providing investment management services to any of the  
5 following:

6 (i) ~~((Persons—or))~~ Collective investment funds ((residing))  
7 commercially domiciled, as defined in RCW 82.56.010, outside the  
8 United States; or

9 (ii) ~~((persons—or))~~ Collective investment funds with at least ten  
10 percent of their investments located outside the United States((—

11 ~~(2) "Investment management services" means investment research,~~  
12 ~~investment consulting, portfolio management, fund administration,~~  
13 ~~fund distribution, investment transactions, or related investment~~  
14 ~~services.~~

15 ~~(3) "Collective investment fund" includes:~~

16 ~~(a))~~;

17 (c) More than twenty-five percent of such person's employees are  
18 located in this state; and

19 (d) Such person is a member of an affiliated group that  
20 collectively has:

21 (i) Ten or more offices located in at least eight foreign  
22 countries;

23 (ii) At least five hundred full-time employees worldwide;

24 (iii) Worldwide gross revenue of more than four hundred million  
25 dollars during the entire current or immediately preceding calendar  
26 year; and

27 (iv) Average assets under management of more than two hundred  
28 billion dollars during the entire current or immediately preceding  
29 calendar year.

30 (2) An affiliate of a person engaged in the business of providing  
31 qualifying international investment management services is deemed to  
32 also be engaged in the business of providing qualifying international  
33 investment management services if the affiliate:

34 (a) Is primarily engaged in providing portfolio management, fund  
35 administration, fund distribution, or transfer agent services, or any  
36 combination of these activities, to, either directly or indirectly  
37 through such affiliate's affiliated group, any of the following:

38 (i) Collective investment funds commercially domiciled, as  
39 defined in RCW 82.56.010, outside the United States; or

1 (ii) Collective investment funds with at least ten percent of  
2 their investments located outside the United States; and

3 (b) Satisfies the requirement under subsection (1)(c) of this  
4 section.

5 (3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
6 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (a)(i) "Affiliate" and "affiliated" mean a person that directly  
8 or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is  
9 controlled by, or is under common control with another person.

10 (ii) For purposes of this subsection (3)(a), "control" means the  
11 possession, directly or indirectly, of more than fifty percent of the  
12 power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies  
13 of a person, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by  
14 contract, or otherwise.

15 (b) "Affiliated group" means any group of two or more persons  
16 that are all affiliated with each other.

17 (c) "Collective investment fund" includes:

18 (i) A mutual fund or other regulated investment company, as  
19 defined in section 851(a) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as  
20 amended;

21 ~~((b))~~ (ii) An "investment company," as that term is used in  
22 section 3(a) of the investment company act of 1940, as well as any  
23 entity that would be an investment company for this purpose but for  
24 the exemptions contained in section 3(c) (1) or (11);

25 ~~((e))~~ (iii) An "employee benefit plan," which includes any  
26 plan, trust, commingled employee benefit trust, or custodial  
27 arrangement that is subject to the employee retirement income  
28 security act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq., or  
29 that is described in sections 125, 401, 403, 408, 457, and 501(c)(9)  
30 and (17) through (23) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as  
31 amended, or a similar plan maintained by a state or local government,  
32 or a plan, trust, or custodial arrangement established to self-insure  
33 benefits required by federal, state, or local law;

34 ~~((d))~~ (iv) A fund maintained by a tax-exempt organization, as  
35 defined in section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as  
36 amended, for operating, quasi-endowment, or endowment purposes;

37 ~~((e))~~ (v) Funds that are established for the benefit of such  
38 tax-exempt organizations, such as charitable remainder trusts,  
39 charitable lead trusts, charitable annuity trusts, or other similar  
40 trusts; or

1       (~~(f)~~) (vi) Collective investment funds similar to those  
2 described in (~~(a)~~) (c)(i) through (~~(e)~~) (v) of this subsection  
3 (3) created under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction.

4       (d) "Investment management services" means managing the  
5 collective assets of a collective investment fund by engaging, either  
6 directly or indirectly through such person's affiliated group, in all  
7 of the following activities: (i) Portfolio management; (ii) fund  
8 administration; (iii) fund distribution; and (iv) transfer agent  
9 services.

10       (4) Investments are located outside the United States if the  
11 underlying assets in which the investment constitutes a beneficial  
12 interest reside or are created, issued or held outside the United  
13 States.

14       (5) If a person engaged in the business of providing  
15 international investment management services no longer meets the  
16 Washington state employment eligibility requirements under subsection  
17 (1)(c) of this section, then an amount equal to the entire economic  
18 benefit accruing to the person in the current and immediately prior  
19 nine consecutive calendar years, or the consecutive years since the  
20 effective date of this act, whichever is less, as a result of the  
21 preferential tax rate under RCW 82.04.290(1) is immediately due and  
22 payable.

23       (6) The department must assess interest, but not penalties, on  
24 the amounts due under this section. The interest must be assessed at  
25 the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW  
26 and accrue until the taxes for which a tax preference has been used  
27 are repaid.

28       NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) The legislature finds that a strong  
29 financial cluster is critical to the economic health of Washington  
30 state. The legislature further finds that anchor institutions are key  
31 to growing a strong financial cluster, including international  
32 investment management firms. Therefore, the legislature finds that  
33 maintaining a competitive tax policy in Washington state enables the  
34 state to maintain its anchor investment management firms.

35       (2) The legislature finds that standard financial information has  
36 not historically been subject to sales tax. In 2007 the legislature  
37 clarified that sales tax does not apply to electronically delivered  
38 standard financial information purchased by investment management  
39 companies or financial institutions. In 2013, the legislature

1 provided clarification by passing a sales and use tax exemption for  
2 standard financial information purchased by investment management  
3 companies.

4 (3) The legislature further finds that taxation of such standard  
5 financial information would be uncompetitive and inconsistent with  
6 the fundamental structure of sales tax as a tax on retail  
7 transactions. Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to conform  
8 with a previously determined policy objective of exempting certain  
9 standard financial information purchased by investment management  
10 companies from sales and use tax in order to improve industry  
11 competitiveness.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) This section is the tax preference  
13 performance statement for the tax preferences contained in sections 6  
14 and 7, chapter . . ., Laws of 2019 (sections 6 and 7 of this act).  
15 This performance statement is only intended to be used for subsequent  
16 evaluation of the tax preferences. It is not intended to create a  
17 private right of action by any party or be used to determine  
18 eligibility for preferential tax treatment.

19 (2) The legislature categorizes these tax preferences as ones  
20 intended to improve industry competitiveness, as indicated in RCW  
21 82.32.808(2)(b) and to reduce structural inefficiencies in the tax  
22 structure as indicated in RCW 82.32.808(2)(d).

23 (3) It is the legislature's specific public policy objective to  
24 maintain a viable financial cluster. It is the legislature's intent  
25 to exempt sales and use taxes on sales of standard financial  
26 information to qualifying international investment management  
27 companies, in order to maintain the presence of at least one  
28 international investment management services firm headquartered in  
29 Washington state with at least two hundred billion dollars of assets  
30 under management.

31 (4) If a review finds that there is at least one international  
32 investment management services firm with at least two hundred billion  
33 dollars of assets under management headquartered in Washington state,  
34 then the legislature intends to extend the expiration date of the tax  
35 preferences.

36 **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.08.207 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 13 s 702 are each  
37 amended to read as follows:

1 (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of  
2 standard financial information to qualifying international investment  
3 management companies or persons affiliated with a qualifying  
4 international investment management company. The exemption provided  
5 in this section applies regardless of whether the standard financial  
6 information is provided to the buyer in a tangible format or on a  
7 tangible storage medium or as a digital product transferred  
8 electronically.

9 (2) Sellers making tax-exempt sales under this section must  
10 obtain an exemption certificate from the buyer in a form and manner  
11 prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the  
12 exemption certificate for the seller's files. In lieu of an exemption  
13 certificate, a seller may capture the relevant data elements as  
14 allowed under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement. For  
15 sellers who electronically file their taxes, the department must  
16 provide a separate tax reporting line for exemption amounts claimed  
17 under this section.

18 (3) A buyer may not continue to claim the exemption under this  
19 section once the buyer has purchased standard financial information  
20 during the current calendar year with an aggregate total selling  
21 price in excess of fifteen million dollars and an exemption has been  
22 claimed under this section or RCW 82.12.207 for such standard  
23 financial information. The fifteen million dollar limitation under  
24 this subsection does not apply to any other exemption under this  
25 chapter that applies to standard financial information. Sellers are  
26 not responsible for ensuring a buyer's compliance with the fifteen  
27 million dollar limitation under this subsection. Sellers may not be  
28 assessed for uncollected sales tax on a sale to a buyer claiming an  
29 exemption under this section after having exceeded the fifteen  
30 million dollar limitation under this subsection, except as provided  
31 in RCW 82.08.050 (4) and (5).

32 (4) The definitions in this subsection and RCW 82.04.293 apply  
33 throughout this section unless the context clearly requires  
34 otherwise.

35 (a) ~~((i))~~ "Qualifying international investment management  
36 company" means a person ~~(÷~~

37 ~~(A) Who is primarily engaged in the business of providing~~  
38 ~~investment management services; and~~

39 ~~(B) Who has gross income that is at least ten percent derived~~  
40 ~~from providing investment management services to;~~

1 ~~(I) Persons or collective investment funds residing outside the~~  
2 ~~United States; or~~

3 ~~(II) Collective investment funds with at least ten percent of~~  
4 ~~their investments located outside the United States.~~

5 ~~(ii) The definitions in RCW 82.04.293 apply to this subsection~~  
6 ~~(4)(a)) who is eligible for the tax rate in RCW 82.04.290(1).~~

7 (b) (i) "Standard financial information" means financial data,  
8 facts, or information, or financial information services, not  
9 generated, compiled, or developed only for a single customer.  
10 Standard financial information includes, but is not limited to,  
11 financial market data, bond ratings, credit ratings, and deposit,  
12 loan, or mortgage reports.

13 (ii) For purposes of this subsection (4)(b), "financial market  
14 data" means market pricing information, such as for securities,  
15 commodities, and derivatives; corporate actions for publicly and  
16 privately traded companies, such as dividend schedules and  
17 reorganizations; corporate attributes, such as domicile, currencies  
18 used, and exchanges where shares are traded; and currency  
19 information.

20 (5) This section expires July 1, ~~((2021))~~ 2031.

21 **Sec. 7.** RCW 82.12.207 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 13 s 703 are each  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 does not apply to the use of  
24 standard financial information by qualifying international investment  
25 management companies or persons affiliated, as defined in RCW  
26 82.04.293, with a qualifying international investment management  
27 company. The exemption provided in this section applies regardless of  
28 whether the standard financial information is in a tangible format or  
29 resides on a tangible storage medium or is a digital product  
30 transferred electronically to the qualifying international investment  
31 management company.

32 (2) The definitions, conditions, and requirements in RCW  
33 82.08.207 apply to this section.

34 (3) This section expires July 1, ~~((2021))~~ 2031.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its  
36 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
37 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
38 persons or circumstances is not affected.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    The provisions of RCW 82.32.805 and  
2    82.32.808 do not apply to sections 2 and 3 of this act.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    Sections 2 and 3 of this act are  
4    necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,  
5    or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public  
6    institutions, and take effect July 1, 2019.

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