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## SENATE BILL 5068

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By Senators MacEwen, Gildon, Mullet, Warnick, and L. Wilson Prefiled 12/19/22. Read first time 01/09/23. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

- AN ACT Relating to dedicating the state sales tax on motor vehicles for transportation; amending RCW 82.08.020, 82.12.020, and 43.84.092; adding a new section to chapter 46.68 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. It is the intent of the legislature to 7 ensure Washington's transportation infrastructure can support the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Primary funding for 8 transportation infrastructure efforts comes from the state portion of 9 10 the fuel tax and fees for registering motor vehicles, which have 11 and political vulnerabilities that can limit 12 reliability. The legislature intends to establish an additional 13 funding source that would not be subject to bonding, and therefore 14 offer greater flexibility and efficiency in addressing transportation 15 infrastructure needs. The legislature finds that dedicating the sales 16 tax revenue on vehicle sales to the transportation budget would 17 reinforce the state's ability to provide the 21st 18 transportation system that the people of Washington can and should 19 expect.

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- 1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.08.020 and 2022 c 16 s 145 are each amended to 2 read as follows:
  - (1) There is levied and collected a tax equal to six and fivetenths percent of the selling price on each retail sale in this state of:
- 6 (a) Tangible personal property, unless the sale is specifically 7 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;
- 11 (c) Services, other than digital automated services, included 12 within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;
  - (d) Extended warranties to consumers; and

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- 14 (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) (a) 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.
  - (b) For purposes of this subsection (3), "motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.320, but does not include:
- (i) Farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181, unless the farm tractor or farm vehicle is for use in the production of marijuana;
  - (ii) Off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365;
- 33 (iii) Nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310; and
- (iv) Snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546.
- 35 (4)((—For purposes of subsection (3) of this section, "motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.320, but does not include:
- 38 (a) Farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180
  39 and 46.04.181, unless the farm tractor or farm vehicle is for use in
  40 the production of cannabis;

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- 1 (b) Off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365;
- 2 (c) Nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310; and
- (d) Snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546.)) (a) Beginning July 1, 2025, and every year thereafter, 10 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation
- 9 <u>and maintenance account.</u>

- (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 20 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (c) Beginning July 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 30 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (d) Beginning July 1, 2028, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 40 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (e) Beginning July 1, 2029, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 50 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (f) Beginning July 1, 2030, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 60 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used

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- retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party
  sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of
  this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation
  and maintenance account.
- 5 (g) Beginning July 1, 2031, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 70 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
  - (h) Beginning July 1, 2032, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 80 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.

- (i) Beginning July 1, 2033, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 90 percent of all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (j) Beginning July 1, 2034, and each fiscal year thereafter, all revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on each new and used retail sale of a vehicle in this state, including private party sales, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (k) For purposes of this subsection (4), "vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.670 including, but not limited to, passenger vehicles, light trucks, commercial vehicles, travel trailers, recreational vehicles, intermittent use trailers, motorcycles, and campers, but "vehicle" does not include:
- (i) Farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181, unless the farm tractor or farm vehicle is for use in the production of marijuana;
  - (ii) Off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365;

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- 1 (iii) Nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310;
- 2 (iv) Bicycles as defined in RCW 46.04.071; and

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- (v) 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.
- 10 (6) The taxes imposed under this chapter apply to successive 11 retail sales of the same property.
- 12 (7) The rates provided in this section apply to taxes imposed 13 under chapter 82.12 RCW as provided in RCW 82.12.020.
- 14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.12.020 and 2017 c 323 s 520 are each amended to 15 read as follows:
- 16 (1) There is levied and collected from every person in this state 17 a tax or excise for the privilege of using within this state as a 18 consumer any:
  - (a) Article of tangible personal property acquired by the user in any manner, including tangible personal property acquired at a casual or isolated sale, and including by-products used by the manufacturer thereof, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, irrespective of whether the article or similar articles are manufactured or are available for purchase within this state;
  - (b) Prewritten computer software, regardless of the method of delivery, but excluding prewritten computer software that is either provided free of charge or is provided for temporary use in viewing information, or both;
- (c) Services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2) (a) or (b) (c), excluding services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(c) that are provided free of charge;
  - (d) Extended warranty; or
  - (e) (i) Digital good, digital code, or digital automated service, including the use of any services provided by a seller exclusively in connection with digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services, whether or not a separate charge is made for such services.
- 37 (ii) With respect to the use of digital goods, digital automated 38 services, and digital codes acquired by purchase, the tax imposed in 39 this subsection (1)(e) applies in respect to:

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1 (A) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser the right 2 of permanent use;

- (B) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser a right of use that is less than permanent;
- (C) Sales in which the purchaser is not obligated to make continued payment as a condition of the sale; and
- (D) Sales in which the purchaser is obligated to make continued payment as a condition of the sale.
- (iii) With respect to digital goods, digital automated services, and digital codes acquired other than by purchase, the tax imposed in this subsection (1)(e) applies regardless of whether or not the consumer has a right of permanent use or is obligated to make continued payment as a condition of use.
- (2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or service taxable under RCW 82.04.050 (2) (a) or (g) or (6)(c), if the sale to, or the use by, the present user or the present user's bailor or donor has already been subjected to the tax under chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter and the tax has been paid by the present user or by the present user's bailor or donor.
- (3) (a) Except as provided in this section, payment of the tax imposed by this chapter or chapter 82.08 RCW by one purchaser or user of tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or other service does not have the effect of exempting any other purchaser or user of the same property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or other service from the taxes imposed by such chapters.
  - (b) The tax imposed by this chapter does not apply:
- (i) If the sale to, or the use by, the present user or his or her bailor or donor has already been subjected to the tax under chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter and the tax has been paid by the present user or by his or her bailor or donor;
- (ii) In respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property acquired by bailment and the tax has once been paid based on reasonable rental as determined by RCW 82.12.060 measured by the value of the article at time of first use multiplied by the tax rate imposed by chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter as of the time of first use;

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(iii) In respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property acquired by bailment, if the property was acquired by a previous bailee from the same bailor for use in the same general activity and the original bailment was prior to June 9, 1961; or

- (iv) To the use of digital goods or digital automated services, which were obtained through the use of a digital code, if the sale of the digital code to, or the use of the digital code by, the present user or the present user's bailor or donor has already been subjected to the tax under chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter and the tax has been paid by the present user or by the present user's bailor or donor.
- (4) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection (4), the tax is levied and must be collected in an amount equal to the value of the article used, value of the digital good or digital code used, value of the extended warranty used, or value of the service used by the taxpayer, multiplied by the applicable rates in effect for the retail sales tax under RCW 82.08.020.
- (b) In the case of a seller required to collect use tax from the purchaser, the tax must be collected in an amount equal to the purchase price multiplied by the applicable rate in effect for the retail sales tax under RCW 82.08.020.
- (5) For purposes of the tax imposed in this section, "person" includes anyone within the definition of "buyer," "purchaser," and "consumer" in RCW 82.08.010.
- (6) (a) Beginning July 1, 2025, and every year thereafter 10 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 20 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (c) Beginning July 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 30 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car

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rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.

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- (d) Beginning July 1, 2028, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 40 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (e) Beginning July 1, 2029, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 50 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (f) Beginning July 1, 2030, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 60 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (g) Beginning July 1, 2031, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 70 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (h) Beginning July 1, 2032, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 80 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (i) Beginning July 1, 2033, and every year thereafter, an additional 10 percent for a total of 90 percent of all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the use of each new and used vehicle in this state, but excluding retail car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account.
- (j) Beginning July 1, 2034, and each fiscal year thereafter, all use tax revenue collected under subsection (1) of this section on the

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- 1 <u>use of each new and used vehicle in this state</u>, but excluding retail
- 2 car rentals taxed under RCW 82.08.020, must be deposited into the
- 3 transportation preservation and maintenance account.

- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.68 5 RCW to read as follows:
  - (1) The transportation preservation and maintenance account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for transportation projects, programs, or activities.
  - (2) All sales and use tax revenues on new and used vehicles deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account pursuant to RCW 82.08.020 and 82.12.020 must be used exclusively on a cash funding basis for transportation projects, programs, and activities, including reducing the reliance on transportation-related debt obligations pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. All sales and use tax revenues on new and used vehicles deposited into the transportation preservation and maintenance account pursuant to RCW 82.08.020 and 82.12.020 cannot be used for any new revenue bond issues or used as a source for any other type of debt or similar type of financing mechanism.
  - (3) Part of the purpose in the allocation of additional resources from the sales and use tax revenues on new and used vehicles into the transportation preservation and maintenance account pursuant to RCW 82.08.020 and 82.12.020 is to lower the overall reliance on debt financing for transportation projects and infrastructure. Beginning December 1, 2025, and each two years thereafter, the state treasurer must prepare a report that shows the impact of this act on the reliance of debt financing for transportation appropriations.
  - (4) Nothing in this section may be construed so as to violate any terms or conditions contained in any highway construction bond issues now or hereafter authorized by statute and whose payment is by such statute pledged to be paid from any excise taxes on fuel.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.84.092 and 2022 c 182 s 404 are each amended to 34 read as follows:
- 35 (1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state 36 treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which 37 account is hereby established in the state treasury.

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(2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or receive funds associated with federal programs as required by the federal cash management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for refunds or allocations of interest earnings required by the cash management improvement act. Refunds of interest to the federal treasury required under the cash management improvement act fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require appropriation. The office of financial management shall determine the amounts due to or from the federal government pursuant to the cash management improvement act. The office of financial management may direct transfers of funds between accounts as deemed necessary to implement the provisions of the cash management improvement act, and this subsection. Refunds or allocations shall occur prior to the distributions of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

- (3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury income account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking services on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state treasury and affected state agencies. The treasury income account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.
- (4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the treasury income account except:
- (a) The following accounts and funds shall receive their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's average daily balance for the period: The abandoned recreational vehicle disposal account, the aeronautics account, the Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project account, the brownfield redevelopment trust fund account, the budget stabilization account, the capital vessel replacement account, the capital building construction account, the Central Washington University capital projects account, the charitable, educational, penal and reformatory institutions account, the Chehalis basin account, the Chehalis basin taxable account, the cleanup settlement account, the climate active

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1 transportation account, the climate transit programs account, the Columbia river basin water supply development account, the Columbia 2 river basin taxable bond water supply development account, the 3 Columbia river basin water supply revenue recovery account, the 4 common school construction fund, the community forest trust account, 5 6 the connecting Washington account, the county arterial preservation account, the county criminal justice assistance account, the deferred 7 compensation administrative account, the deferred compensation 8 principal account, the department of licensing services account, the 9 department of retirement systems expense account, the developmental 10 11 disabilities community services account, the diesel idle reduction 12 account, the drinking water assistance account, the administrative subaccount of the drinking water assistance account, the early 13 learning facilities development account, the 14 early learning facilities revolving account, the Eastern Washington University 15 16 capital projects account, the education construction fund, the 17 education legacy trust account, the election account, the electric 18 vehicle account, the energy freedom account, the energy recovery act 19 account, the essential rail assistance account, The Evergreen State College capital projects account, the fair start for kids account, 20 21 the ferry bond retirement fund, the fish, wildlife, and conservation 22 account, the freight mobility investment account, the freight 23 mobility multimodal account, the grade crossing protective fund, the services account, the state 24 health higher 25 construction account, the higher education construction account, the 26 higher education retirement plan supplemental benefit fund, the highway bond retirement fund, the highway infrastructure account, the 27 28 highway safety fund, the hospital safety net assessment fund, the 29 Interstate 405 and state route number 167 express toll lanes account, 30 judges' retirement account, the judicial retirement 31 administrative account, the judicial retirement principal account, 32 the limited fish and wildlife account, the local leasehold excise tax account, the local real estate excise tax account, the local sales 33 and use tax account, the marine resources stewardship trust account, 34 the medical aid account, the money-purchase retirement savings 35 administrative account, the money-purchase retirement savings 36 principal account, the motor vehicle fund, the motorcycle safety 37 education account, the move ahead WA account, the move ahead WA 38 39 flexible account, the multimodal transportation account, the multiuse 40 roadway safety account, the municipal criminal justice assistance

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1 account, the oyster reserve land account, the pension funding stabilization account, the perpetual surveillance and maintenance 2 account, the pilotage account, the pollution liability insurance 3 agency underground storage tank revolving account, the public 4 employees' retirement system plan 1 account, the public employees' 5 6 retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the public facilities construction loan revolving account, the public health 7 supplemental account, the public works assistance account, the Puget 8 Sound capital construction account, the Puget Sound ferry operations 9 account, the Puget Sound Gateway facility account, the Puget Sound 10 11 taxpayer accountability account, the real estate appraiser commission 12 account, the recreational vehicle account, the regional mobility grant program account, the resource management cost account, the 13 rural arterial trust account, the rural mobility grant program 14 15 account, the rural Washington loan fund, the sexual assault prevention and response account, the site closure account, the 16 17 skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund, the small city 18 pavement and sidewalk account, the special category C account, the 19 special wildlife account, the state investment board expense account, the state investment board commingled trust fund accounts, the state 20 21 patrol highway account, the state reclamation revolving account, the 22 state route number 520 civil penalties account, the state route 23 number 520 corridor account, the statewide broadband account, the statewide tourism marketing account, the supplemental pension 24 25 account, the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account, the teachers' retirement system plan 1 account, the teachers' retirement system 26 combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the tobacco prevention and 27 28 control account, the tobacco settlement account, the toll facility bond retirement account, the transportation 2003 account (nickel 29 account), the transportation equipment fund, the transportation 30 31 future funding program account, the transportation improvement 32 account, the transportation improvement board bond retirement 33 account, the transportation infrastructure account, the transportation partnership account, the transportation preservation 34 and maintenance account, the traumatic brain injury account, the 35 University of Washington bond retirement fund, the University of 36 Washington building account, the voluntary cleanup account, the 37 volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension 38 39 principal fund, the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' administrative fund, the vulnerable roadway user education account, 40

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1 the Washington judicial retirement system account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' system plan 1 retirement 2 account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' 3 system plan 2 retirement account, the Washington public safety 4 employees' plan 2 retirement account, the Washington school 5 6 employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 account, the 7 Washington state patrol retirement account, the Washington State University building account, the Washington State University bond 8 retirement fund, the water pollution control revolving administration 9 account, the water pollution control revolving fund, the Western 10 11 Washington University capital projects account, the Yakima integrated 12 implementation account, the Yakima plan integrated implementation revenue recovery account, and the Yakima integrated 13 14 plan implementation taxable bond account. Earnings derived from investing balances of the agricultural permanent fund, the normal 15 16 school permanent fund, the permanent common school fund, the 17 scientific permanent fund, and the state university permanent fund 18 shall be allocated to their respective beneficiary accounts.

- (b) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts or funds not statutorily required to be held in the state treasury that deposits funds into a fund or account in the state treasury pursuant to an agreement with the office of the state treasurer shall receive its proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's average daily balance for the period.
- 25 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state 26 Constitution, no treasury accounts or funds shall be allocated 27 earnings without the specific affirmative directive of this section.
- 28 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2025.

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