SENATE BILL 7000

State of Washington 69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Bateman and Chapman Prefiled 12/03/24.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to Testing Bills for Session '25; and amending
- 2 RCW 82.32.023, 82.32.026, 82.32.030, 82.32.033, 82.32.045, 82.32.050,
- 3 and 82.32.052.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.32.023 and 2009 c 535 s 1112 are each amended to read as follows:
- For purposes of construing those provisions of the streamlined sales and use tax ((agreement that have been incorporated into thi))s
- 9 title, and unless the context requires otherwise, the terms "product"
- 10 and "products" refer to tangible personal property, digital goods,
- 11 digital codes, digital automated services, other services, extended
- 12 warranties, and anything else that can be sold or used.
- 13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.32.026 and 2007 c 6 s 201 are each amended to 14 read as follows:
- 15 (1) A seller, by written agreement, may appoint a person to 16 represent the seller as its agent. The seller's agent has authority 17 to register the seller with the department under RCW 82.32.030. An 18 agent may also be a certified service provider, with authority to
- 19 perform all the seller's sales and use tax functions, except that the

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- 1 seller remains responsible for remitting the tax on its own 2 purchases.
- 3 (2) The seller or its agent must provide the department with a copy of the written agreement upon request.
- 5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.32.030 and 2017 c 323 s 505 are each amended to 6 read as follows:

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- (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if any person engages in any business or performs any act upon which a tax is imposed by the preceding chapters, he or she must, under such rules as the department prescribes, apply for and obtain from the department a registration certificate. Such registration certificate is personal and nontransferable and is valid as long as the taxpayer continues in business and pays the tax accrued to the state. In case business is transacted at two or more separate places by one taxpayer, a separate registration certificate for each place at which business is transacted with the public is required. Each certificate must be numbered and must show the name, residence, and place and character of business of the taxpayer and such other information as the department of revenue deems necessary and must be posted in a conspicuous place at the place of business for which it is issued. Where a place of business of the taxpayer is changed, the taxpayer must return to the department the existing certificate, and a new certificate will be issued for the new place of business. No person required to be registered under this section may engage in any business taxable hereunder without first being so registered. The department, by rule, may provide for the issuance of certificates of registration to temporary places of business.
- (2) Unless the person is a dealer as defined in RCW 9.41.010, registration under this section is not required if the following conditions are met:
- 31 (a) A person's value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or 32 gross income of the business, from all business activities taxable 33 under chapter 82.04 RCW, is less than twelve thousand dollars per 34 year;
- 35 (b) The person's gross income of the business from all activities 36 taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW is less than twelve thousand dollars 37 per year;

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(c) The person is not required to collect or pay to the department of revenue any other tax or fee that the department is authorized to collect; and

- (d) The person is not otherwise required to obtain a license subject to the business license application procedure provided in chapter 19.02 RCW.
- (3) All persons who agree to collect and remit sales and use tax to the department under the agreement must register through the central registration system authorized under the agreement. Persons required to register under subsection (1) of this section are not relieved of that requirement because of registration under this subsection (3).
- 13 (4) Persons registered under subsection (3) of this section who
 14 are not required to register under subsection (1) of this section and
 15 who are not otherwise subject to the requirements of chapter 19.02
 16 RCW are not subject to the fees imposed by the department under the
 17 authority of RCW 19.02.075.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.32.033 and 2007 c 111 s 105 are each amended to 19 read as follows:
 - (1) A promoter of a special event within the state of Washington shall not permit a vendor to make or solicit retail sales of tangible personal property or services at the special event unless the promoter makes a good faith effort to obtain verification that the vendor has obtained a certificate of registration from the department.
 - (2) A promoter of a special event shall:
 - (a) Keep, in addition to the records required under RCW 82.32.070, a record of the dates and place of each special event, and the name, address, and registration certificate number of each vendor permitted to make or solicit retail sales of tangible personal property or services at the special event. The record of the date and place of a special event, and the name, address, and registration certificate number of each vendor at the event shall be preserved for a period of one year from the date of a special event; and
 - (b) Provide to the department, within twenty days of receipt of a written request from the department, a list of vendors permitted to make or solicit retail sales of tangible personal property or services. The list shall be in a form and contain such information as the department may require, and shall include the date and place of

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the event, and the name, address, and registration certificate number of each vendor.

- (3) If a promoter fails to make a good faith effort to comply with the provisions of this section, the promoter is liable for the penalties provided in this subsection (3).
- (a) If a promoter fails to make a good faith effort to comply with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the department shall impose a penalty of one hundred dollars for each vendor permitted to make or solicit retail sales of tangible personal property or services at the special event.
- (b) If a promoter fails to make a good faith effort to comply with the provisions of subsection (2)(b) of this section, the department shall impose a penalty of:
- (i) Two hundred fifty dollars if the information requested is not received by the department within twenty days of the department's written request; and
- (ii) One hundred dollars for each vendor for whom the information as required by subsection (2)(b) of this section is not provided to the department.
- (4) The aggregate of penalties imposed under subsection (3) of this section may not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for a special event if the promoter has not previously been penalized under this section. Under no circumstances is a promoter liable for sales tax or business and occupation tax not remitted to the department by a vendor at a special event.
- (5) The department shall notify a promoter by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of any penalty imposed under this section, and the penalty shall be due within thirty days from the date of the notice. If any penalty imposed under this section is not received by the department by the due date, there shall be assessed interest on the unpaid amount beginning the day following the due date until the penalty is paid in full. The rate of interest shall be computed on a daily basis on the amount of outstanding penalty at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate computed shall be adjusted annually in the same manner as provided in RCW 82.32.050(1)(c).
 - (6) For purposes of this section:
- 38 (a) "Promoter" means a person who organizes, operates, or 39 sponsors a special event and who contracts with vendors for 40 participation in the special event.

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- 1 "Special event" means an entertainment, amusement, recreational, educational, or marketing event, whether held on a 2 regular or irregular basis, at which more than one vendor makes or 3 solicits retail sales of tangible personal property or services. The 4 term includes, but is not limited to: Auto shows, recreational 5 6 vehicle shows, boat shows, home shows, garden shows, hunting and 7 fishing shows, stamp shows, comic book shows, sports memorabilia shows, craft shows, art shows, antique shows, flea markets, 8 exhibitions, festivals, concerts, swap meets, bazaars, carnivals, 9 athletic contests, circuses, fairs, or other similar activities. 10 "Special event" does not include an event that is organized for the 11 12 exclusive benefit of any nonprofit organization as defined in RCW 82.04.3651. An event is organized for the exclusive benefit of a 13 nonprofit organization if all of the gross proceeds of retail sales 14 of all vendors at the event inure to the benefit of the nonprofit 15 16 organization on whose behalf the event is being held. "Special event" 17 does not include athletic contests that involve competition between teams, when such competition consists of more than five contests in a 18 19 calendar year by at least one team at the same facility or site.
 - (c) "Vendor" means a person who, at a special event, makes or solicits retail sales of tangible personal property or services.
 - (7) "Good faith effort to comply" and "good faith effort to obtain" may be shown by, but is not limited to, circumstances where a promoter:
 - (a) Includes a statement on all written contracts with its vendors that a valid registration certificate number issued by the department of revenue is required for participation in the special event and requires vendors to indicate their registration certificate number on these contracts; and
 - (b) Provides the department with a list of vendors and their associated registration certificate numbers as provided in subsection (2)(b) of this section.
 - (8) This section does not apply to:

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- (a) A special event whose promoter does not charge more than two hundred dollars for a vendor to participate in a special event;
- (b) A special event whose promoter charges a percentage of sales instead of, or in addition to, a flat charge for a vendor to participate in a special event if the promoter, in good faith, believes that no vendor will pay more than two hundred dollars to participate in the special event; or

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1 (c) A person who does not organize, operate, or sponsor a special 2 event, but only provides a venue, supplies, furnishings, fixtures, 3 equipment, or services to a promoter of a special event.

- Sec. 5. RCW 82.32.045 and 2023 c 374 s 12 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter and subsection (6) of this section, payments of the taxes imposed under chapters 82.04, 82.08, 82.12, 82.14, 82.16, and 82.27 RCW, along with reports and returns on forms prescribed by the department, are due monthly within 25 days after the end of the month in which the taxable activities occur.
- (2) The department of revenue may relieve any taxpayer or class of taxpayers from the obligation of remitting monthly and may require the return to cover other longer reporting periods, but in no event may returns be filed for a period greater than one year. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, for these taxpayers, tax payments are due on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the end of the period covered by the return.
- (3) For annual filers, tax payments, along with reports and returns on forms prescribed by the department, are due on or before April 15th of the year immediately following the end of the period covered by the return.
- (4) The department of revenue may also require verified annual returns from any taxpayer, setting forth such additional information as it may deem necessary to correctly determine tax liability.
- (5) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the department may relieve any person of the requirement to file returns if the following conditions are met:
- (a) The person's value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income of the business, from all business activities taxable under chapter 82.04 RCW, is less than \$125,000 per year;
- (b) The person's gross income of the business from all activities taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW is less than \$24,000 per year; and
- (c) The person is not required to collect or pay to the department of revenue any other tax or fee which the department is authorized to collect.
- 37 (6)(a) Taxes imposed under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW on taxable events that occur beginning January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2019,

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and payable by a consumer directly to the department are due, on returns prescribed by the department, by July 25, 2019.

- (b) This subsection (6) does not apply to the reporting and payment of taxes imposed under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW:
- 5 (i) On the retail sale or use of motor vehicles, vessels, or 6 aircraft; or
 - (ii) By consumers who are engaged in business, unless the department has relieved the consumer of the requirement to file returns pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.32.050 and 2022 c 282 s 2 are each amended to 11 read as follows:
 - (1) If upon examination of any returns or from other information obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against the taxpayer such additional amount found to be due and shall add thereto interest on the tax only. The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of the additional amount and the additional amount shall become due and shall be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.
 - (a) For tax liabilities arising before January 1, 1992, interest shall be computed at the rate of nine percent per annum from the last day of the year in which the deficiency is incurred until the earlier of December 31, 1998, or the date of payment. After December 31, 1998, the rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.
 - (b) For tax liabilities arising after December 31, 1991, the rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section from the last day of the year in which the deficiency is incurred until the date of payment. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.
 - (c)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (1)(c), interest imposed after December 31, 1998, shall be computed from the last day of the month following each calendar year included in a notice, and the last day of the month following the final month

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included in a notice if not the end of a calendar year, until the due date of the notice.

- (ii) For interest associated with annual tax reporting periods having a due date as prescribed in RCW 82.32.045(3), interest must be computed from the last day of April immediately following each such annual reporting period included in the notice, until the due date of the notice.
- 8 (iii) For purposes of computing interest under (c)(i) and (ii) of 9 this subsection (1):
 - (A) The same computation of interest applies regardless of whether the department grants additional time for filing any return under RCW 82.32.080(4)(a)(i).
 - (B) If the department extends a due date under subsection (3) of this section or RCW 82.32.080(4)(b), and payment is not made in full by the extended due date, interest is computed from the last day of the month in which the extended due date occurs until the date of payment.
 - (iv) If payment in full is not made by the due date of the notice, additional interest shall be computed under this subsection (1)(c) until the date of payment. The rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.
 - (2) For the purposes of this section, the rate of interest to be charged to the taxpayer shall be an average of the federal short-term rate as defined in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1274(d) plus two percentage points. The rate set for each new year shall be computed by taking an arithmetical average to the nearest percentage point of the federal short-term rate, compounded annually. That average shall be calculated using the rates from four months: January, April, and July of the calendar year immediately preceding the new year, and October of the previous preceding year.
 - (3) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the due date of any assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest as the department deems proper.
 - (4) No assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest due may be made by the department more than four years after the close of the tax year, except (a) against a

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- taxpayer who has not registered as required by this chapter, (b) upon a showing of fraud or of misrepresentation of a material fact by the taxpayer, or (c) where a taxpayer has executed a written waiver of such limitation. The execution of a written waiver shall also extend the period for making a refund or credit as provided in RCW 82.32.060(2).
- 7 (5) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions 8 apply:
- 9 (a) "Due date of the notice" means the date indicated in the 10 notice by which the amount due in the notice must be paid, or such 11 later date as provided by RCW 1.12.070(3).

- (b) "Return" means any document a person is required by the state of Washington to file to satisfy or establish a tax or fee obligation that is administered or collected by the department and that has a statutorily defined due date. "Return" also means an application for refund under RCW 82.08.0206.
- Sec. 7. RCW 82.32.052 and 2010 2nd sp.s. c 2 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, the department must waive all penalties and interest otherwise due under this chapter and that are unpaid as of February 1, 2011, if all of the following circumstances are met:
- (a) The penalties and interest are imposed with respect to: (i) State business and occupation tax, state public utility tax, state or local sales tax, or state or local use tax; and (ii) tax liability that first became due to the department before February 1, 2011, which includes taxes billed to the taxpayer, or disclosed by the taxpayer to the department, on or after February 1, 2011, but that were required by this chapter to have been reported and paid by the taxpayer before February 1, 2011;
- (b) The taxpayer must file with the department no later than April 18, 2011: (i) All outstanding tax returns for the taxes specified in (a)(i) of this subsection (1); and (ii) any amended returns covering tax liabilities with respect to which a penalty and interest waiver under this section is requested;
- (c) Before May 1, 2011, the taxpayer must remit full payment to the department of the balance due on all tax liabilities for which a penalty and interest waiver under this section is requested. If a waiver is requested for penalties or interest associated with an

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- invoice that has been billed to the taxpayer, the taxpayer must remit full payment to the department of the entire balance due on that invoice other than any penalty and interest eligible for waiver under this section, even if the invoice includes taxes not specified in (a)(i) of this subsection (1). If the invoice is a tax warrant, the taxpayer must also remit full payment to the department of any filing or other fees added to the tax warrant, including the filing fees provided in RCW 36.18.012 (2) and (10), the fee imposed in RCW 36.18.016(4), and the surcharge imposed in RCW 40.14.027;
- 10 (d) The taxpayer must file and pay in full by the due date all tax returns that become due after January 31, 2011, and before May 1, 2011, for all taxes administered by the department under this chapter;

- (e) No later than April 18, 2011, the department must receive a completed application for penalty and interest waiver under this section in a form and manner prescribed by the department;
- (f) The taxpayer must never have had an evasion penalty assessed against the taxpayer by the department under RCW 82.32.090 or a penalty assessed against the taxpayer by the department under RCW 82.32.291 for misusing a reseller permit or resale certificate; and
- (g) The taxpayer must never have been a defendant in a criminal prosecution related to an offense involving the failure to collect or pay the proper amount of any tax administered by the department under this chapter.
- (2) Taxpayers receiving penalty or interest relief under this section may not seek a refund, or otherwise challenge the amount, of any tax liability paid as required by subsection (1)(c) of this section. This subsection (2) applies to refund requests or appeals filed directly with the department and to proceedings brought in any court or administrative tribunal.
- (3) All tax liability reported and paid as required in subsection (1)(b), (c), and (d) of this section is subject to verification by the department as provided in RCW 82.32.050. This section does not preclude the assessment of taxes, penalties, and interest with respect to any amounts determined by the department to have been underpaid for any tax period for which the taxpayer previously received penalty or interest relief under this section.
- (4) This section does not authorize the department to waive the evasion penalty currently authorized by RCW 82.32.090(7) or the

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penalty currently authorized by RCW 82.32.291 for misusing a reseller permit or resale certificate.

- (5) If taxpayers are current for tax returns due as of November 25, 2010, tax liability that accrues after that date would not qualify under this section.
- (6) Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring a taxpayer to have first paid any penalty or interest for which a waiver is sought under this section.
- (7) Solely for purposes of determining whether a taxpayer qualifies for a waiver of penalties or interest under this section with respect to a balance owing as of February 1, 2011, on any invoice issued by the department, any payments made to the department on that taxpayer's account before May 1, 2011, are deemed to have been applied first to any of the taxes specified in subsection (1)(a)(i) of this section, then to any other taxes, and then to penalties or interest, if such payments were applied either:
 - (a) To that invoice; or

- (b) Against any liability reflected in that invoice before that invoice was issued by the department.
- (8) A taxpayer in a bankruptcy proceeding is ineligible for relief under this section to the extent that the payment of any tax debt by the taxpayer to the department as required under this section violates the federal bankruptcy code.

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