



Legislation approved in 2012

Bill Title: Strengthening the department of revenue's ability to collect spirits taxes imposed under RCW 82.08.150
Bill Number: HB 2758
Effective Date: March 15, 2012

Summary:

The Department may request that the Board suspend a spirits license and refuse to renew such license if the taxpayer is more than 30 days delinquent in reporting or remitting spirits taxes.

Bill Title: Wineries – Reporting and Tax Payments
Bill Number: SB 5259
Effective Date: June 7, 2012

Summary:

Wineries and wine certificate of approval holders that have a total taxable sales of wine in Washington of 6,000 gallons or less during the calendar year preceding the tax due date must report on and pay taxes no more frequently than annually.

Bill Title: Improving revenue and budget sustainability by repealing, modifying, or revising tax preference and license fees
Bill Number: ESB 6635
Effective Date: June 1, 2012 (except for craft distilleries, May 2, 2012)

Summary:

This bill exempts craft distilleries from the license issuance fee of 17 percent of all spirits sales revenues.

Bill Title: An act relating to fiscal matters
Bill Number: 3ESHB 2127
Effective Date: May 2, 2012

Summary:

Section 142 of the bill: For Liquor Control Board employees that remain through June 15, 2012, a temporary opportunity to cash out sick leave at one day for four days is provided to assist the unique challenges to the agency and its employees posed by this transition. Only persons in positions affected by the transition are eligible for this opportunity.

Bill Title: Redirecting existing state revenues into the state general fund.
Bill Number: ESHB 2823
Effective Date: July 1, 2012

Summary:
Liquor Excise Taxes.

In Fiscal Year 2013, all liquor excise taxes that normally were deposited into the Liquor Excise Tax Fund for distribution to local governments are deposited into the State General Fund. Distributions to local governments are suspended for a year to correspond to this reallocation of the tax. Beginning in fiscal year 2014 and every year after, quarterly distributions from the Liquor Excise Tax Fund of \$2.5 million are made to the State General Fund. The County Research Services Account is eliminated and any remaining moneys are deposited into the State General Fund. Prior to distributing the counties' portion of the Liquor Excise Tax Fund, the State Treasurer shall transfer an amount to the Liquor Revolving Fund to support legislative appropriations for county research services.

Liquor Revolving Fund.

Beginning July 1, 2012, the distributions to cities and counties from the Liquor Revolving Fund are modified. Instead of distributing moneys to cities and counties by a formula based on amounts deposited in the Liquor Revolving Fund, distributions will be made as provided under Initiative 1183. The City and Town Research Services Account is eliminated and any remaining moneys are deposited into the State General Fund. Prior to distributing the cities' portion of the Liquor Revolving Fund, an amount must be retained to support municipal research services consistent with Initiative 1183.

Bill Title: An act relating to persons who operate a roll-your-own cigarette machine at retail establishments.
Bill Number: 3E2SHB 2565
Effective Date: July 1, 2012

Summary:

The definition of "cigarette" used for excise taxation is modified to include roll-your-own (RYO) cigarettes. Several new definitions are created including "cigarette paper," "cigarette tube," "commercial cigarette-making machine," and "roll-your-own cigarettes." A tax enforcement and regulatory system for RYO cigarettes is established that requires RYO retailers to:

- purchase tax stamps that must be affixed to the containers that are provided by the retailer and used by consumers to transport RYO cigarettes from the retailer's place of business;
- limit consumer access to a RYO machine;
- pay an additional \$93 annual RYO retailer licensing fee; and
- use only commercial RYO machines that have metering devices.

Retailers that purchase stamps for RYO cigarettes are provided with compensation to offset the tobacco products tax. The amount is equal to five cents per cigarette.

Bill Title: **Requiring state agencies to offer electronic filing for business forms.**

Bill Number: **SSB 6354**

Effective Date: **June 7, 2012**

Summary:

Requires state agencies that require businesses to submit a document, form, or payment of a fee in paper format, to:

- Provide the business an option to submit the requirement electronically;
- Add the capability to submit existing documents, forms, and fees electronically as part of their normal operations; and
- Document how they plan to transition from paper to electronic forms.