
SENATE BILL 5556

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senator Fortunato

Prefiled 12/17/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing financial relief to hotels, motels,
2 and other lodging facilities impacted by the eviction moratorium;
3 adding a new section to chapter 84.36 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 43.330 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 84.36
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) A lodging facility housing long-term guests under the
9 eviction moratorium is exempt from taxation for property taxes levied
10 for collection in 2022 and 2023, as described under this section.

11 (2)(a) Claims for an exemption under this section must be filed
12 with the county assessor on forms provided by the department and
13 furnished by the county assessor.

14 (b) The forms must include documentation, in a manner as
15 prescribed by the department, that at least one occupant of the
16 lodging facility properly evoked their right to cease making lodging
17 payments pursuant to the eviction moratorium for each reporting year
18 in which the property owner claims an exemption under this section.

19 (3) The department may adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 34.05
20 RCW, as necessary to implement this section.

1 (4) The provisions of RCW 82.32.805 and 82.32.808 do not apply to
2 this section.

3 (5) For the purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Eviction moratorium" refers to the governor of the state of
5 Washington's proclamation 20-19.5, proclaiming a moratorium on
6 certain evictions for all counties throughout Washington state on
7 December 31, 2020, and any subsequent orders extending or amending
8 such proclamation until it expires or is terminated by the governor
9 of the state of Washington.

10 (b) "Lodging facility" means any building held out to the public
11 as an inn, hotel, motel, or other public lodging house where sleeping
12 accommodations are furnished for hire to transient guests, in which
13 three or more rooms are used for the accommodation of such guests.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The department must administer reimbursements to lodging
17 facility operators, as provided in this section.

18 (2) Reimbursements must be sufficient to cover all legal costs
19 associated with removal of a long-term guest no longer making lodging
20 payments under the eviction moratorium.

21 (3) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this
22 section.

23 (4) For the purposes of this section:

24 (a) "Eviction moratorium" and "lodging facility" have the same
25 meanings as in section 1 of this act.

26 (b) "Legal costs" means attorney fees, court filing costs,
27 expenses associated with repairing property damage or property
28 maintenance including, but not limited to, cleaning of premises,
29 removal of abandoned property, disposal of hazardous material, and
30 any other costs the department considers appropriate for
31 reimbursement.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The provisions of RCW 82.32.805 and
33 82.32.808 do not apply to this act.

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