Washington State Department of Revenue
Transition 2004 – Tier 1

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Introduction

As the state's principal tax collection agency, the Department of Revenue collects more than 97 percent of state General Fund tax revenues and all local sales tax revenues for a total of $13.9 billion during Fiscal Year 2004.

The Department collects about 60 different taxes, including $8.1 billion in state and local sales and use tax, and $2 billion in business and occupation (B&O) tax.

Revenue employs 1,073 employees, more than half of whom are directly involved in enforcement and compliance activities such as conducting audits, collecting delinquent taxes, locating unregistered businesses, and finding unpaid taxes. Other key functions include: providing taxpayer assistance, information, and education; accounting for and processing tax revenues and information; distributing money to local governments; conducting appeals; administering property taxes; developing tax legislation; and conducting tax and fiscal research. It also administers special programs such as timber, cigarette, real estate, leasehold, and estate taxes. Supporting divisions include information services and financial and employee services.

More than half of the agency's employees are located in the Olympia-Tumwater area, but the Department also operates 16 offices around the state including 12 that are open to the public and provide taxpayer assistance. The Department employs 36 auditors in 17 out-of-state locations near major business centers.

Businesses constitute the largest group paying taxes to the Department, with 408,233 currently filing tax returns on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Another 284,612 businesses are registered with the Department, but have no tax liability and are not required to file tax returns.

Agency Responsibilities

By administering state tax law efficiently and effectively, the agency's ultimate goal is to create an environment where taxpayers voluntarily pay and report their taxes. Taxpayers doing business with the agency range from very successful global corporations to very small businesses. Most are located in state, but many have headquarters located out of state. With this diversity comes the need to provide services in a manner that meets a variety of needs. To carry out its tax administration duties, the Department has the following responsibilities:

Informing and Educating Taxpayers

The Department works hard to ensure taxpayers know and understand their obligations so they can correctly pay their taxes. It provides information and education through its web site, mailings, and workshops, and through industry associations. In Fiscal Year 2004, the Department processed 94,289 new business registrations. Businesses are sent information packets including a *Business Tax Guide* explaining their obligations, and other instructions to help them complete tax returns accurately. Last year 2,266 taxpayers attended New Business Outreach workshops taught by Revenue employees. Educational efforts continue through quarterly publications such as *Tax Facts* that outline new legislation, changes in tax policy, and any recurring problems that warrant special emphasis. The Department also writes and distributes special notices to specific industries affected by changes in rules or laws and conducts industry specific workshops. Other efforts include targeted education in which businesses that appear to be underreporting taxes are informed of their tax obligations, and asked to review their records and remit any additional taxes due. Additionally, the Department provides interpretations and technical assistance by adopting administrative rules and issuing excise tax advisories and other policy statements.

Providing Taxpayer Assistance

The Department operates a toll-free telephone information center that handled 256,445 calls in Fiscal Year 2004, answering 89 percent of them in less than two minutes. It also answered more than 4,100 requests for letter rulings and answered about 2,500 e-mails. Staff at 12 field offices also handle local calls and visits from taxpayers seeking assistance.

Efficiently Processing Information and Making It Simple to Conduct Business

The Department processes about 1.9 million tax returns each year. To increase processing efficiency and make filing a tax return simpler, the Department developed and implemented an electronic filing system and has been marketing it to businesses. More than 400,000 or 21 percent of returns the Department received during Fiscal Year 2004 were filed electronically, and these businesses paid $5 billion in taxes. The Department's 2005 goal is to achieve 600,000 electronically filed returns. Electronic filing provides many benefits to the Department, such as eliminating the need to key data from paper returns, receiving payments more quickly, and reducing taxpayer error rates.

Distributing Money to Local Governments

The Department collects and distributes local sales and use tax to 320 cities and 39 counties. It distributed more than $2 billion in Fiscal Year 2004. It also collects and distributes timber and leasehold excise taxes to local governments.

Enforcing Compliance with Tax Laws

Without enforcement, the state likely wouldn't have the 97.5 percent voluntary compliance rate it now enjoys. Enforcement includes collecting delinquent taxes from businesses that fall behind on their taxes and auditing businesses to verify they are paying their proper share of taxes. In Fiscal Year 2004, the Department audited 7,339 businesses, approximately two percent of all businesses filing returns. The Department also identifies unregistered businesses that are competing unfairly with registered businesses. It discovers and prosecutes businesses that fraudulently underreport their tax liability or fail to remit to the state sales taxes paid by customers. During Fiscal Year 2004, enforcement collections totaled $406 million, exceeding expected collections of $390 million.

Providing Opportunities to Resolve Tax Disputes

When taxpayers don't agree with the Department's actions, they can appeal to the Department's Appeals Division which hears taxpayer appeals, issues written determinations, and mediates and facilitates settlements of tax disputes. The Appeals Division received 831 appeals during Fiscal Year 2004. In addition, the Department has a Taxpayer Advocate to informally resolve disputes between the agency and taxpayers.

Assisting with Tax Policy at State and National Levels

The Department provides tax-related information to assist in the formulation of sound tax policy. This includes preparation of fiscal notes, analysis and drafting of legislation, and evaluating the impact of proposed legislation on taxpayers. Key stakeholders include the Office of Financial Management, the Governor's Office, legislators, and legislative staff.

In recent years, there has been a sharp increase in the trend for Congress to consider federal legislation that affects state and local taxing authority. The Department provides advice and analysis on such issues for the Governor's Office and works closely with the Federation of Tax Administrators, Multistate Tax Commission, and the National Governors Association.

Administering the Property Tax System Statewide

The Department is charged with the responsibility to ensure uniformity within the state's property tax system and oversee the administration of property taxes at both the state and local level. The Department determines the state school levy; values 375 intercounty utility, telecommunications, and transportation companies; administers property tax exemptions and deferral programs; and provides guidance, training, and assistance on property tax issues to county officials. In Calendar Year 2004, $6.53 billion in state and local property taxes will be collected.

Locating Owners of Abandoned Property

The Department administers the provisions of the State Uniform Unclaimed Property Act. It receives the transfer of abandoned property to the state and locates the owners through advertising, providing public access to abandoned property information, and other means. The Department's role is to act in the interest of the property owners and return the abandoned property to the rightful owners whenever possible. Examples of abandoned property include utility deposits, insurance policies, safety deposit box contents, dividends, and savings accounts. In Fiscal Year 2004, the Department processed 36,886 unclaimed property claims, returning $16.5 million to their rightful owners.

Negotiating Tribal Cigarette Compacts

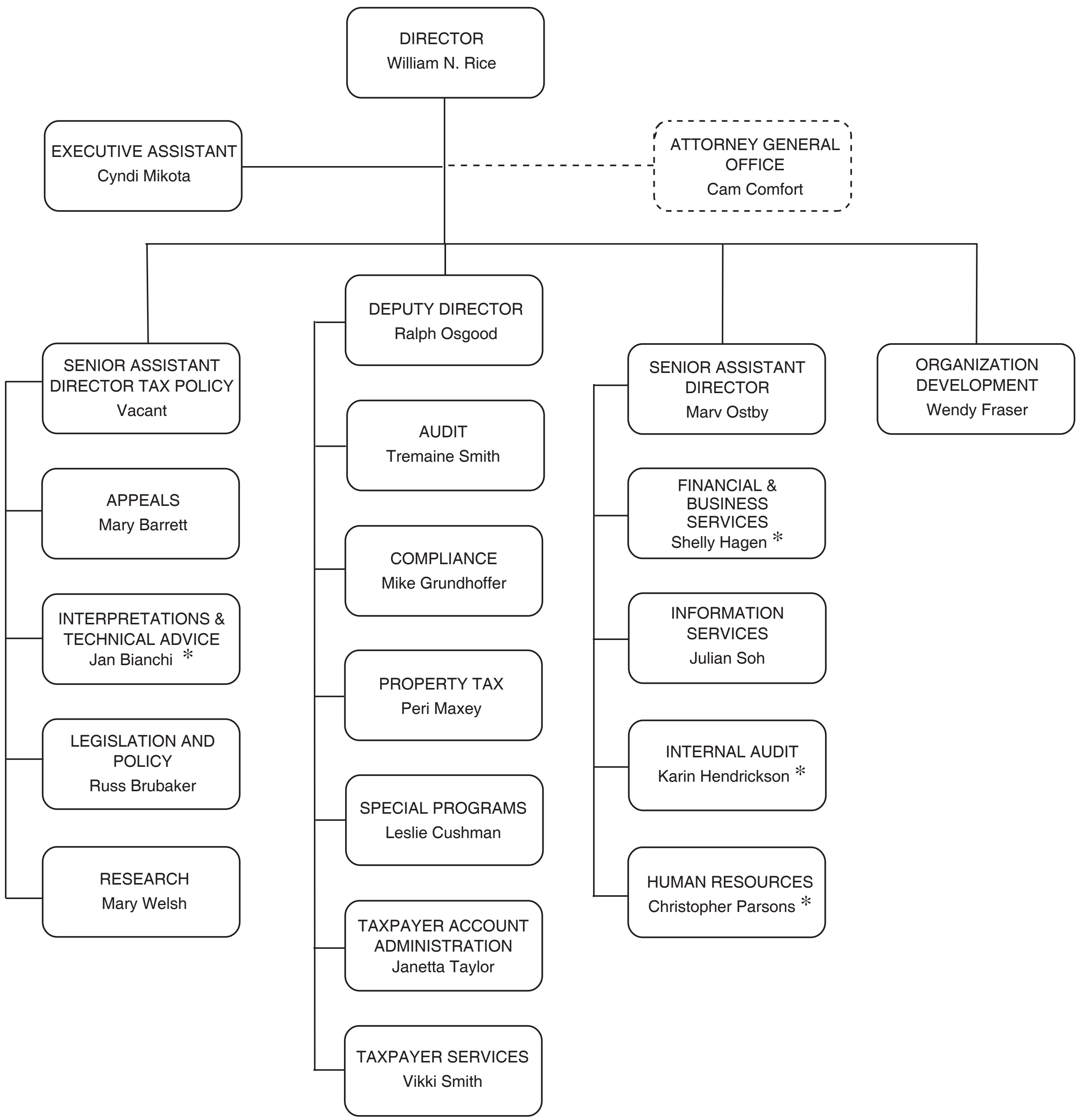
The Department negotiates cigarette tax compacts with Washington Indian tribes on behalf of the Governor. These compacts settle a long-running dispute between the state and tribes by allowing the tribes to impose their own tribal cigarette tax equivalent to the state cigarette and sales taxes. The Tribe gets revenue for tribal purposes, while eliminating non-payment of taxes as a competitive advantage over non-Indian tobacco retailers. To date, 16 compacts have been signed by the Governor.

Developing the Organization

The Department has a robust quality improvement process. It regularly performs an in-depth self-assessment process using the Baldrige criteria to provide the agency and divisions with feedback on their strengths and opportunities for improvement. It also conducts a taxpayer satisfaction survey every three years to identify areas for improvement, and conducts a biennial employee satisfaction survey to monitor progress in addressing and improving workplace conditions and attitudes.

DOR at a Glance - Fiscal Year 2004			
Employees	1,073.2	Tax returns filed	1.9 million
Field offices	16	Returns filed electronically	401,775
Total tax collections	$13.9 billion	Taxes paid by electronic filers	$5.0 billion
State retail sales & use tax	$6.1 billion	Total registered businesses	692,845
Business & occupation tax	$2.0 billion	Active reporting accounts	408,233
Local retail sales tax	$2.0 billion	Telephone Info Center calls	256,445
State property tax	$1.4 billion	Audits conducted	7,339
Other taxes and fees	$2.4 billion	Voluntary compliance rate	97.5%

Department of Revenue Organization



* Washington Management Service (non-exempt position)

Exempt Position Listing

Executive Team

Will Rice – Director provides leadership on state and national tax issues; member of the Governor's executive cabinet, member of the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, executive board member of the Federation of Tax Administrators and Multistate Tax Commission.

Ralph Osgood – Deputy Director (Acting) oversees statewide tax programs encompassing six major operating divisions – Audit, Compliance, Property Tax, Special Programs, Taxpayer Account Administration, and Taxpayer Services.

Vacant – Senior Assistant Director, Tax Policy oversees tax policy and legal functions including the Appeals Division, Interpretations and Technical Advice Section, Legislation and Policy Division, and Research Division.

Marv Ostby – Senior Assistant Director directs the internal support functions including financial and business services, information services, internal audit, and human resources.

Wendy Fraser – Organization Development Consultant develops and manages quality improvement, and other organization development programs.

Assistant Directors

Tremaine Smith – Assistant Director, Audit Division directs the activities of in-state and out-of-state audit staff, verifying reporting accuracy, correcting improper reporting, and ensuring uniform application of tax laws.

Mike Grundhoffer – Assistant Director, **Compliance Division** manages the collection of delinquent, underpaid, and unreported taxes owed; manages tax discovery and local field office assistance.

Peri Maxey – Assistant Director, Property Tax Division oversees the administration of property tax at state and local levels, values 375 interstate and inter-county utilities, administers exemptions for nonprofit organizations.

Leslie Cushman – Assistant Director, Special Programs Division manages the miscellaneous tax programs including cigarette, estate, real estate excise, leasehold excise, timber excise, and estate taxes, as well as the unclaimed property and log export programs; serves as the agency's Tribal Liaison.

Janetta Taylor – Assistant Director (Acting), Taxpayer Account Administration Division manages mainstream tax processing functions including taxpayer registration, Unified Business Identifier program, tax return mailings, out of balance return processing, refunds, electronic funds transfer, and Electronic Filing program.

Vikki Smith – Assistant Director, Taxpayer Services Division manages the public information and outreach programs, media relations, toll free telephone information center, written letter rulings program, forms management, and the Taxpayer Advocate program.

Mary Barrett – Assistant Director, Appeals Division is responsible for resolution of taxpayer appeals and oversees the publication of precedential tax law decisions.

Russ Brubaker – Assistant Director, Legislation and Policy Division manages legislative functions including proposing, tracking, analysis, and drafting of bills; oversees implementation planning for new and revised tax programs; monitors federal tax legislation.

Mary Welsh – Assistant Director, Research Division oversees tax revenue analysis including fiscal note estimates and forecasts for non-general fund revenue sources, provides operation research support, and advises management on economic issues.

Julian Soh – Assistant Director, Information Services Division manages information technology including networks, application development, database administration, client support, and Internet/Web applications.

Department of Revenue
2003 - 05 Budget Summary by Division

Divisions	FY04 FTEs	FY04 Budget	FY05 FTEs	FY05 Budget	Total Biennium
Audit	288.6	21,802,000	284.0	21,352,000	43,154,000
Compliance	215.0	14,797,000	212.7	15,184,000	29,981,000
Property Tax	54.0	5,215,000	53.0	5,432,000	10,647,000
Special Programs	65.9	6,080,000	70.5	6,662,000	12,742,000
Taxpayer Account Administration	141.2	9,507,000	140.7	9,680,000	19,187,000
Taxpayer Services	48.5	4,523,000	49	4,296,000	8,819,000
Appeals	21.9	1,946,000	21.2	1,923,000	3,869,000
Interpretations and Technical Advice	0	0	13.0	1,070,000	1,070,000
Legislation and Policy	22.0	1,704,000	12.6	951,000	2,655,000
Research	18.5	1,547,000	19.0	1,549,000	3,096,000
Financial and Employee Services	50.5	5,323,000	48.5	5,433,000	10,756,000
Information Services	135.1	12,014,000	127.9	11,685,000	23,699,000
Executive	12.0	1,612,000	12.0	1,433,000	3,045,000
Legal Services (Attorney General)	0.0	2,425,000	0.0	2,425,000	4,850,000
Total	1073.2	88,495,000	1064.1	89,075,000	177,570,000

2003 - 05 Budget Summary by Fund

Fund	FY04 FTEs	FY04 Budget	FY05 FTEs	FY05 Budget	Total Biennium
General Fund	1,011.3	82,927,000	1,003.3	83,202,000	166,129,000
Timber Tax	32.3	2,610,000	31.2	2,759,000	5,369,000
Unclaimed Property	27.7	2,867,000	27.7	3,023,000	5,890,000
Litter	1.0	50,000	1.0	51,000	101,000
Hazardous Waste	0.7	34,000	0.7	33,000	67,000
Oil Spill	0.2	7,000	0.2	7,000	14,000
Total	1,073.2	88,495,000	1,064.1	89,075,000	177,570,000

Major Issues

Streamlined Sales Tax Project

- **Issue:** Washington is currently part of a national initiative to simplify sales tax laws and make them more uniform. This initiative, known as the Streamlined Sales Tax Project (Project), is a cooperative effort of 42 states and the District of Columbia to design, test, and implement a nationwide system that simplifies the collection, reporting, and administration of sales taxes. The Project proposes that states change their laws to conform to an agreed upon set of requirements to accomplish these objectives. Many of the simplification measures – such as a centralized online registration system, a centralized automated reporting system, coordinated audits, and amnesty for sellers who voluntarily agree to collect sales taxes – will be implemented once at least 10 states comprising 20 percent of the population of states imposing a sales tax are found in full conformity with the Project requirements. Washington has enacted most, but not all of the required changes.

- **Urgency:** The Department has submitted legislation for consideration in 2005 to bring Washington into full conformity with all streamlined simplification requirements by April 1, 2006. Nineteen states, representing approximately 24 percent of the population of all states imposing a sales tax, have already enacted conforming legislation. The process of determining whether they are fully compliant is expected to begin in July 2005 with the possibility of having a fully operational interstate sales tax system by October 1, 2005.

- **Significance:** Once Washington's laws conform to all of the streamlined simplification requirements, the state will be eligible to participate in a system where multi-state retailers voluntarily register to begin collecting sales taxes on sales to consumers in all conforming states even if they did not previously have a legal obligation to do so. The Department estimates an increase of $33.7 million in state revenue for the 2005-2007 biennium if conforming legislation is enacted. In addition, full compliance with streamlined requirements would be a prerequisite to requiring remote sellers to collect retail sales tax in several bills pending before Congress (see "Federal Legislation: Sales Tax Collection on Remote Sales").

- **Controversy:** The Department's request legislation includes a required provision that changes the place where sales are "sourced." "Sourcing" determines the place of sale, and therefore what jurisdiction is entitled to tax a transaction. Under current law, sale of a delivered item is "sourced" to the place from which delivery originated. The Streamlined agreement "sources" a sale to the place where a customer takes delivery of the item. This change causes a shift in tax revenue among local taxing jurisdictions with some jurisdictions experiencing a revenue gain and others experiencing a revenue loss.

- **Stakeholders/key players:** Cities that will gain or lose tax revenue due to the change in "sourcing," county and city associations, Washington Retail Association, and the Association of Washington Business.

- **Status/timeline:** The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) worked with positively and negatively impacted cities to develop a plan to mitigate the anticipated losses due to the change in "sourcing." The AWC was unable, however, to reach a consensus on an acceptable mitigation option. The Department is working with cities and counties supportive of enacting Streamlined legislation to develop an acceptable mitigation plan for inclusion in the proposed legislation.

- **Web site links:** http://www.streamlinedsalestax.org; http://www.nga.org/nga/salestax/1,1169,,00.html

- **Staff contact(s):** Will Rice, WillR@dor.wa.gov, (360) 586-3462

Federal Restrictions on State and Local Business Activity Taxes

- **Issue:** Congress is considering legislation that would restrict state and local governments' ability to impose business activity taxes on out-of-state (non-resident) companies. The bill would affect taxes such as Washington's business and occupation (B&O) tax, and corporate income and franchise taxes imposed elsewhere. H.R. 3220, the Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2003, defines a level of physical presence an out-of-state company can have in a state without subjecting the company to tax. The current jurisdictional threshold for imposing Washington's business taxes is significantly lower than the threshold established by this bill.

- **Urgency:** Hearings were held on H.R. 3220 in May 2004, and further action is expected by Congress in 2005.

- **Significance:** If the bill passes, the Department estimates $138 million in state and local taxes would be immediately at risk. On a longer-term basis, the bill's impact could increase five-fold as businesses restructure and change their activities to take advantage of the bill's "safe harbors" that allow them to reduce or eliminate their state and local business tax liability.

- **Controversy:** The National Governors Association has taken the lead in opposing the bill since it interferes with the tenets of federalism by restricting each state's ability to determine its own tax policies and to tax activities within its borders. Proponents of the bill emphasize the need to provide greater clarity and uniformity in determining when a state can tax an out-of-state business, and cite Congress's authority to regulate interstate commerce as the rationale for imposing additional restrictions on the states. There is concern that the bill provides generous tax planning opportunities by creating a series of "safe harbors" enabling a business to structure its activities and minimize or avoid tax liability altogether. For example, states could not tax non-resident companies that: have employees in the state for less than 21 days per year; are engaged in the business of gathering news, lobbying, or purchasing; hire independent contractors to work in the state on their behalf; or own or lease property for less than 21 days per year. There is also concern that the bill puts local businesses at a disadvantage since out-of-state companies could engage in a wide variety of activities to establish and maintain markets within the state without being subject to the state's tax system.

  Supporters of H.R. 3220 have attempted to make passage of the bill a condition for their support of Federal legislation requiring out-of-state retailers to collect sales tax (see "Sales Tax Collection on Remote Sales").

- **Stakeholders/key players:** The National Governors Association has actively opposed the bill. The Multistate Tax Commission (MTC) and the Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA) are coordinating research and analysis of the bill among the states. A national coalition made up of major corporations involved in interstate commerce including technology companies, broadcasters, direct marketers, and financial services businesses is the major proponent of the legislation.

- **Status/timeline:** The House Judiciary Committee will likely take action on the bill, and attempts to move the bill all the way through the House before the end of 2004 are expected.

- **Web site links:** http://thomas.loc.gov

- **Staff contact(s):** Will Rice, WillR@dor.wa.gov, (360) 586-3462

Federal Legislation: Sales Tax Collection on Remote Sales

- **Issue:** Bills have been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House requiring remote sellers, such as mail order and Internet retailers, to collect sales taxes on their sales. S. 1736 and H.R. 3184 authorize those states whose laws conform with the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement (Agreement) to require sales tax collection by remote sellers. Under U.S. Supreme Court rulings, Washington and other states cannot require out-of-state businesses to collect and remit sales tax on sales to in state customers unless the business has a physical presence ("substantial nexus") in the state, although Congress clearly has the authority to change this.

- **Urgency:** The National Governors Association has indicated they will make this a high priority for Congressional action in 2005.
- **Significance:** Washington estimates that in Fiscal Year 2005 it will lose $493 million in state and local sales tax due to purchases from remote sellers. In addition to being a financial issue, this is a fairness issue to in-state "brick-and-mortar" retailers that are obligated to collect sales taxes on their in-state sales and compete with out-of-state remote sellers.
- **Controversy:** Providing states the authority to require remote sellers to collect sales taxes has been a long standing controversy. Growth in remote sales spurred by e-commerce has increased revenue losses to states and local governments and accentuated competitive problems faced by in-state "brick and mortar" retailers. At the same time, e-commerce is an expanding and increasingly influential industry whose customers enjoy the ability to buy products and services without sales tax being collected on their purchases.

  The success of the states to simplify the sales tax and make it more uniform has substantially altered the debate in Congress (see "Streamlined Sales Tax Project"). However, in addition to requiring states to conform with the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement, both S. 1736 and H.R. 3184 impose additional requirements. For example, the bills exempt remote sellers with less than $5 million of nationwide sales, require "reasonable compensation" to sellers for costs of collecting sales taxes, require states to also simplify their telecommunication taxes, and allow judicial review of disputes arising from the implementation of the Agreement with the United States Court of Federal Claims. These additional requirements are not uniformly agreed to by state and local governments who otherwise support an expanded duty to collect sales taxes.

  There is also an interest by some industry groups to link passage of sales tax legislation to business activity tax legislation (see "Federal Restrictions on State and Local Business Activity Taxes").
- **Stakeholders/key players:** National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, Washington's Congressional delegation, and the Washington Retail Association; Amazon.com has been very active in this issue.
- **Status/timeline:** Congressional hearings are expected in 2005.
- **Web site links**: http://thomas.loc.gov
- **Staff contact(s):** Will Rice, WillR@dor.wa.gov, (360) 586-3462

Estate Tax Challenge

- **Issue:** Early in 2005, the Washington State Supreme Court will be ruling on the validity of Washington State's estate tax. The tax has been challenged in a case brought by the estate of Wylie Hemphill, et al. A Thurston County Superior Court decision sustained the tax in December, 2003.
- **Urgency:** The court's decision is expected early in 2005.
- **Significance:** An adverse decision will reduce state revenues by an estimated $420 million. This includes estate taxes that would otherwise be collected during the remainder of the 2003-05 biennium and in the 2005-07 biennium, and an estimated $151 million in refunds.
- **Controversy:** In 2001, Congress voted to phase-out the federal estate tax over a ten-year period. As part of the phase-out, they eliminated the states' "pick-up" tax over a four-year period, reducing it by 25 percent in 2002, and in each of the succeeding three years until it's completely gone in 2005. The "pick-up" tax is a tax states were authorized to impose that was taken as a credit against the federal

estate tax. Accordingly, taxpayers paid no additional tax. Rather, states were effectively allowed to keep a portion of the estate tax proceeds. Forty-eight states, including Washington, imposed a "pick-up" tax.

While many states' estate taxes were effectively eliminated by this act of Congress, Washington's estate tax is tied to the Internal Revenue Code as it existed on January 1, 2001, prior to the federal changes enacted on June 7, 2001. Hemphill contends that the state automatically must conform to the new code. Thurston County Superior Court Judge Daniel Bershauer ruled that current state law "plainly" ties the estate tax to the old code until and unless the Legislature acts to update.

- **Stakeholders/key players:** The Supreme Court, Legislature, Washington State Bar Association, and affected estates.
- **Status/timeline:** Oral arguments were made on September 30, 2004. A decision is expected early in 2005.
- **Staff contact(s):** Cindy Evans, CindyEv@dor.wa.gov, (360) 570-5524

Qwest's Legal Challenge of Its Property Valuation (Intangibles)

- **Issue:** Qwest Corporation has filed suit in Kittitas County Superior Court seeking a refund of property taxes, alleging the Department overvalued Qwest's operating property in assessment years 2001, 2002, and 2003. Included in Qwest's allegations is a claim that its valuation should be substantially reduced because the Department improperly included intangible assets in the company's assessed value. This is the first major challenge of its kind in Washington since legislation was enacted in 1997 exempting intangibles from the property tax.
- **Urgency:** Originally scheduled to go to trial in January 2005, the case is now scheduled for November 2005 and is expected to last about three weeks.
- **Significance:** Qwest Corporation has property in 36 of 39 Washington counties and pays about $27 million in property taxes each year. Historically, Qwest has been the state's second largest property taxpayer. It is claiming that a substantial portion of the Department's valuations upon which its taxes were based constitute exempt intangible personal property. A large reduction in value will either shift tax burdens to other taxpayers within local taxing districts or cause a loss in tax dollars for taxing districts whose property tax rates are at their statutory limits. Some taxing districts receive a significant percentage of their revenues from Qwest's property taxes. An adverse decision would necessitate refunds to Qwest and may require the Department to change its appraisal methodology for other similar companies it values, thus further affecting the distribution of the tax burden.
- **Controversy:** When controversial legislation exempting intangibles was enacted in 1997, proponents assured legislative leaders and the Governor that there would not be any unintended consequences. These assurances responded to concerns that the bill could have a much greater fiscal impact than anticipated. It was understood that the bill would require the Department of Revenue to change appraisal methods used to value utility, transportation, and telecommunication companies, and this would result in lower values for these companies. The legislation required the Department to prepare a report to the Legislature in 2001 quantifying the lower valuations and indicating whether these changes were consistent with the bill's fiscal note. In addition, the Department was required to report any legal challenges prompted by the legislation. Since enactment, the impact of the exemption has been within the range estimated in the bill's fiscal note. This court challenge, if successful, would arguably reflect unintended consequences of the legislation by awarding a significantly larger tax reduction than was intended. This could prompt legislative interest in reviewing and revisiting the intangibles exemption.
- **Stakeholders/key players:** Telecommunication, electric, pipeline and transportation companies assessed by the Department; taxing districts; the Association of Washington Business; and other business proponents of the 1997 legislation.

- **Status/timeline:** The Department has put together a team of experts and is contracting with highly qualified witnesses in preparation for the trial. It submitted a 2005 supplemental budget request for $600,000 to cover the estimated cost of expert witnesses for this case.
- **Staff contact(s):** Peri Maxey, PeriM@dor.wa.gov, (360) 570-5860; Steve Yergeau, SteveY@dor.wa.gov, (360) 570-5877