
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5656

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Trade & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Carrell, Rivers, Sheldon, Hobbs, and Fain)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to revising business licensing systems; and adding
2 a new section to chapter 35.102 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.102 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, all
7 cities that impose a business and occupation tax under this chapter
8 must have by July 1, 2016, their general business licenses issued and
9 renewed, if the license is required to be renewed, through the business
10 licensing system in accordance with chapter 19.02 RCW or through a
11 city-developed portal.

12 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, by
13 January 1, 2019, all cities that require general business licenses and
14 that do not impose a business and occupation tax must have such
15 licenses issued and renewed, if the license is required to be renewed,
16 through the business licensing system in accordance with chapter 19.02
17 RCW or through a city-developed portal.

18 (3) The department may delay or phase-in the issuance and renewal
19 of general business licenses beyond the dates provided in subsections

1 (1) and (2) of this section if funding or other resources are
2 insufficient to enable the department to meet the deadlines in
3 subsection (1) or (2) of this section or as necessary to ensure the
4 business licensing system is adequately prepared to handle all general
5 business licenses and that the transition to mandatory department
6 issuance and renewal of general business licenses is as seamless as
7 possible. To that end, the department, working with affected cities,
8 is authorized to establish a schedule for assuming the issuance and
9 renewal of general business licenses as required by this section.
10 Cities may continue to issue and renew their general business licenses
11 until those licenses have been incorporated into the business licensing
12 system. A city whose general business license has been incorporated
13 into the business licensing system may no longer issue and renew those
14 licenses.

15 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
16 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (a) "Business and occupation tax" has the same meaning as in RCW
18 35.102.030.

19 (b) "City-developed portal" means a single portal with at least
20 five participating cities that allows for the issuance or renewal of
21 general business licenses for all participating cities.

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