

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, DISCONTINUING THE BUSINESS AND OCCUPATIONS TAX EXEMPTION FOR RELIGIOUS AND MEDICAL SERVICE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITH ANNUAL GROSS INCOMES EXCEEDING \$30 MILLION; AND AMENDING OLYMPIA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5.04.110.**

WHEREAS, the City has determined that non-profit organizations and for profit businesses are similarly situated, and should therefore be treated the same to the extent practicable, when the former engage in active business operations and obtain their revenues principally from the sale of goods and services to the public rather than from grants and donations; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve its limited tax administration resources the City has determined that it is only practicable to seek taxes from taxpayers with revenues above a certain threshold; and

WHEREAS, the City has the authority to remove the exemption for non-profit organizations and religious societies, religious associations or religious corporations operating a hospital or clinic from the City's Business and Occupations tax code; and

WHEREAS, the City has a goal of adopting a sustainable budget; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this tax is consistent with the City's long-term financial strategy principles and guidelines;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Amendment of OMC 5.04.110. Olympia Municipal Code 5.04.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**5.04.110 Exemptions**

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following:

A. This chapter shall not apply to non-profit organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as hereafter amended, except with respect to retail sales of such persons; provided, however, that the exemption set forth in the foregoing provision of this OMC 5.04.110(A) shall not apply to medical services, including a hospital, as defined in RCW 70.41, if gross income of the business of the medical service or hospital, net of exemptions and deductions (if any) permitted to be taken under OMC 5.04.110 and OMC 5.04.120, exceeds \$30 million.

B. Certain fraternal and beneficiary organizations. This chapter shall not apply to fraternal benefit societies or fraternal fire insurance associations, as described in Title 48 RCW; nor to beneficiary corporations or societies organized under and existing by virtue of Title 24 RCW, if such beneficiary corporations or societies provide in their bylaws for the payment of death benefits. This exemption is

limited, however, to gross income from premiums, fees, assessments, dues or other charges directly attributable to the insurance or death benefits provided by such societies, associations, or corporations.

C. Certain corporations furnishing aid and relief. This chapter shall not apply to the gross sales or the gross income received by corporations which have been incorporated under any act of Congress of the United States of America and whose principal purposes are to furnish volunteer aid to members of the armed forces of the United States of America and whose principal purposes are to furnish volunteer aid to members of the armed forces of the United States and also to carry on a system of national and international relief and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other national calamities and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.

D. Operation of sheltered workshops. This chapter shall not apply to income received from the Department of Social and Health Services for the cost of care, maintenance, support, and training of persons with developmental disabilities at non-profit group training homes as defined by Chapter 71A.22 RCW or to the business activities of non-profit organizations from the operation of sheltered workshops. For the purposes of this subsection, "the operation of sheltered workshops" means performance of business activities of any kind on or off the premises of such non-profit organizations which are performed for the primary purpose of:

1. Providing gainful employment or rehabilitation services to the handicapped as an interim step in the rehabilitation process for those who cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market do not exist; or
2. Providing evaluation and work adjustment services for handicapped individuals.

E. Credit unions. This chapter shall not apply to the gross income of credit unions organized under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States.

F. Health maintenance organization, health care service contractor, certified health plan.

1. This chapter does not apply to any health maintenance organization, health care service contractor, or certified health plan in respect to premiums or prepayments that are taxable under RCW 48.14.0201. However, per RCW 48.14.0201 (7), this exemption is not intended to, and shall not, impair the City's ability to impose a tax hereunder upon the health care services directly delivered by the employees of a health maintenance organization under RCW chapter 48.46.

- ~~2. The gross income received by any religious society, religious association or religious corporation, through the operation of any hospital, clinic, resort or other institution devoted exclusively to the care or healing of human beings; provided, that no exemption is granted~~

~~where the income therefore inures to the benefit of any physician, surgeon, stockholder, or individual by the virtue of ownership or control of such hospital, clinic, resort, or other institution.~~

G. Public utilities. This chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to a business activity with respect to which tax liability is specifically imposed under the provisions of Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 5.84.

H. Investments – dividends from subsidiary corporations. This chapter shall not apply to amounts derived by persons, other than those engaging in banking, loan, security, or other financial businesses, from investments or the use of money as such, and also amounts derived as dividends by a parent from its subsidiary corporations.

I. International banking facilities. This chapter shall not apply to the gross receipts of an international banking facility. As used in this subsection, an "international banking facility" means a facility represented by a set of asset and liability accounts segregated on the books and records of a commercial bank, the principal office of which is located in this state, and which is incorporated and doing business under the laws of the United States or of this state, a United States branch or agency of a foreign bank, and Edge corporation organized under Section 25(a) of the Federal Reserve Act, 12 United States Code 611-631, or an Agreement corporation having an agreement or undertaking with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under Section 25 of the Federal Reserve Act, 12 United States Code 601-604(a), that includes only international banking facility time deposits (as defined in subsection (a)(2) of Section 204.8 of Regulation D (12 CFR Part 204), as promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System), and international banking facility extensions of credit (as defined in subsection (a)(3) of Section 204.8 of Regulation D).

J. Insurance business. This chapter shall not apply to amounts received by any person who is an insurer or their appointed insurance producer upon which a tax based on gross premiums is paid to the State pursuant to RCW 48.14.020, and provided further, that the provisions of this subsection shall not exempt any bonding company from tax with respect to gross income derived from the completion of any contract as to which it is a surety, or as to any liability as successor to the liability of the defaulting contractor.

K. Farmers - agriculture. This chapter shall not apply to any farmer in respect to amounts received from selling fruits, vegetables, berries, butter, eggs, fish, milk, poultry, meats or any other agricultural product that is raised, caught, produced, or manufactured by such persons.

L. Boxing/Wrestling exhibitions. This chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to the business of conducting boxing contests and sparring or wrestling matches and exhibitions for the conduct of which a license must be secured from the State Boxing Commission.

M. Racing. This chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to the business of conducting race meets for the conduct of which a license must be secured from the Washington State Horse Racing Commission.

N. Ride sharing. This chapter does not apply to any funds received in the course of commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for persons with special transportation needs in accordance with RCW 46.74.010.

O. Employees.

1. This chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to the person's employment in the capacity as an employee or servant as distinguished from that of an independent contractor. For the purposes of this subsection, the definition of employee shall include those persons that are defined in the Internal Revenue Code, as may be amended hereafter.

2. A booth renter is an independent contractor for purposes of this chapter.

P. Amounts derived from sale, lease or rental of real estate. This chapter shall not apply to gross proceeds derived from the sale, lease or rental of real estate. This, however, shall not be construed to allow an exemption of amounts received as commissions from the sale of real estate, nor as fees, handling charges, discounts, interest or similar financial charges resulting from, or relating to, real estate transactions. This chapter shall also not apply to amounts received for the rental of real estate if the rental income is derived from a contract to rent for a continuous period of thirty (30) days or longer.

Q. Mortgage brokers' third-party provider services trust accounts. This chapter shall not apply to amounts received from trust accounts to mortgage brokers for the payment of third-party costs if the accounts are operated in a manner consistent with RCW 19.146.050 and any rules adopted by the director of financial institutions.

R. Amounts derived from manufacturing, selling or distributing motor vehicle fuel. This chapter shall not apply to the manufacturing, selling, or distributing motor vehicle fuel, as the term "motor vehicle fuel" is defined in RCW 82.36.010 and exempt under RCW 82.35.0440, provided that any fuel not subjected to the state fuel excise tax, or any other applicable deduction or exemption, will be taxable under this chapter.

S. Amounts derived from liquor, and the sale or distribution of liquor. This chapter shall not apply to liquor as defined in RCW 65.04.010 and exempt in RCW 66.08.120.

T. Casual and isolated sales. This chapter shall not apply to the gross proceeds derived from casual or isolated sales.

U. Community Events and Farmers Markets. This chapter shall not apply to community events licensed under OMC 5.17, and farmers markets licensed under OMC 5.18, as specified in OMC 5.17 and OMC 5.18.

V. Accommodation sales. This Chapter shall not apply to sales for resale by persons regularly engaged in the business of making retail sales of the type of property so sold to other persons similarly engaged in the business of selling such property where (1) the amount paid by the buyer does not exceed the amount paid by the seller to the vendor in the acquisition of the article and (2) the sale is made as an accommodation to the buyer to enable the buyer to fill a bona fide existing order of a customer or is made within fourteen (14) days to reimburse in kind a previous accommodation sale by the buyer to the seller.

W. Taxes collected as trust funds. This Chapter shall not apply to amounts collected by the taxpayer from third parties to satisfy third party obligations to pay taxes such as the retail sales tax, use tax, and admission tax.

X. United States gross income. The gross income received by the United States or any instrumentality thereof and by the state or any municipal subdivision thereof.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances shall remain unaffected.

**Section 3. Ratification.** Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Ordinance is hereby ratified and affirmed.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after publication, as provided by law.

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MAYOR

**ATTEST:**

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CITY CLERK

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

*Darren Menaber*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY

**PASSED:**

**APPROVED:**

**PUBLISHED:**