

Initiative Measure No. 1635, filed March 26, 2018

STOP TAXING OUR GROCERIES

AN ACT Relating to exempting groceries, such as food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, from state and local sales and use taxes; adding a section to chapter 82.08 RCW; adding a section to chapter 82.12 RCW; adding a section to chapter 43.135 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.16 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36.32 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.22 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.23 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.17 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35A.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35A.13 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.18 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

POLICIES AND PURPOSES

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** When state and local governments impose taxes on groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, they hurt all Washington consumers, especially lower and middle income taxpayers who can least afford it. This measure would exempt groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients

from sales and use taxes and prohibit state and local governments from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.08 RCW to read as follows:

The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of groceries. For the purposes of this chapter, "groceries" includes, but is not limited to, food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco. State government is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients. Local governments are prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 82.12 RCW to read as follows:

The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of groceries. For the purposes of this chapter, "groceries" includes, but is not limited to, food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco. State government is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients. Local governments are prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.135 RCW to read as follows:

The state is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on

groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Any local government is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottled water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 36.16 RCW to read as follows:

Any county is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 36.32 RCW to read as follows:

Any county is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 35.22 RCW to read as follows:

Any city is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 35.23 RCW to read as follows:

Any city is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 35.17 RCW to read as follows:

Any city is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.12 RCW to read as follows:

Any city is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.13 RCW to read as follows:

Any city is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 35.18 RCW to read as follows:

Any city is prohibited from imposing sales and use taxes on groceries like food, bottle water, carbonated beverages, and soft drinks including its ingredients, but does not include alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, or tobacco.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** This act is known and may be cited as "Stop Taxing Our Groceries."

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