

RCW 82.32.235 Notice and order to withhold and deliver property due or owned by taxpayer—Bond—Judgment by default. (1) In addition to the remedies provided in this chapter the department is authorized to issue to any person, including the department, a notice and order to withhold and deliver property of any kind whatsoever when there is reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, property which is or will become due, owing, or belonging to any taxpayer against whom a warrant has been filed.

(2) The sheriff of the county where the service is made, or his or her deputy, or any duly authorized representative of the department may personally serve the notice and order to withhold and deliver upon the person to whom it is directed or may do so by certified mail, with return receipt requested. Upon written consent of the person to be served, a notice and order to withhold and deliver issued under subsection (1) of this section may be served electronically.

(3) (a) The department is authorized to issue a notice and order to withhold and deliver to any financial institution in the form of a listing of all or a portion of the unsatisfied tax warrants filed under this chapter and outstanding warrants under RCW 49.48.086 with the clerk of the superior court of a county of the state, except tax warrants subject to a payment agreement, which is not in default, between the department and the taxpayer. The department may also issue a notice and order to withhold and deliver in the form authorized in this subsection (3) (a) to itself or any other person upon that person's written consent.

(b) The department may serve the notice and order to withhold and deliver authorized under this subsection electronically. The remedy in this subsection (3) is in addition to any other remedies authorized by law.

(c) No more than one notice and order to withhold and deliver under this subsection (3) may be served on the same person in a calendar month except upon the person's written consent.

(d) A notice and order to withhold and deliver served on a financial institution under this subsection (3) must include the federal taxpayer identification number of each taxpayer listed in the notice.

(e) For purposes of this subsection, "financial institution" means a bank, trust company, mutual savings bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to do business and accept deposits in this state under state or federal law.

(f) The department may provide a financial institution relief from a notice and order to withhold and deliver in the form provided under this subsection (3) upon the request of the financial institution. The department must consider the size, customer base, and geographic location of the financial institution when considering whether to provide relief. The department must serve any financial institution so relieved under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) Any person who has been served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver under subsection (1) of this section must answer the notice within twenty days, exclusive of the day of service. Any person who has been served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver under subsection (3) of this section must answer the notice within thirty days, exclusive of the day of service. The answer must be in writing, under oath if required by the department, and include true answers to the matters inquired of in the notice. Any person served under subsection (3) of this section may answer in aggregate

within thirty days, but must answer separately as to each taxpayer listed and specify any property by taxpayer which is delivered. The department must allow any person served electronically as authorized in subsection (2) or (3) of this section to answer the notice and order to withhold and deliver electronically in a format provided or approved by the department.

(5) In the event there is in the possession of any person served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver, any property which may be subject to the claim of the department, such property must be delivered immediately to the department of revenue or its duly authorized representative upon demand. The department must hold the property in trust for application on the indebtedness involved or for return, without interest, in accordance with final determination of liability or nonliability. Instead of delivering the property to the department or the department's duly authorized representative, the person may furnish a bond satisfactory to the department conditioned upon final determination of liability.

(6) Should any person, having been served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver, fail to answer the notice and order to withhold and deliver within the time prescribed in this section or otherwise fail to comply with the duties imposed in this section, the department may bring a proceeding, in the superior court of Thurston county or of the county in which service of the notice was made, to enforce the notice and order to withhold and deliver. The court may render judgment by default against such person for the full amount claimed by the department in the notice and order to withhold and deliver or may grant such other relief as the court deems just, together with costs.

(7) For purposes of this section, "person" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.030 and also includes any agency, department, or institution of the state. [2014 c 210 s 2; 2014 c 97 s 104; 2009 c 562 s 1; 1987 c 208 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 s 85; 1971 ex.s. c 299 s 22; 1963 ex.s. c 28 s 11.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 2014 c 97 s 104 and by 2014 c 210 s 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Finding—2009 c 562: "(1) The legislature finds that the state's vital interest in collecting lawfully due taxes must be balanced against the burden of complying with section 1(3) of this act, particularly for small financial institutions.

(2) (a) Therefore, the legislature directs the department of revenue to work with interested financial institutions to develop policies regarding the frequency of service under section 1(3) of this act and under what circumstances a notice and order to withhold and deliver will contain only a partial list of unsatisfied tax warrants eligible to be included in the notice. The policies should take into account the size of a financial institution, location of a financial institution, number of business accounts that a financial institution has, and any other factors the department may choose to consider.

(b) The department is also directed to develop a policy regarding the information to be contained in a notice and order to withhold and deliver to ensure that financial institutions can accurately match their records with the names of tax debtors.

(3) The department must report to the fiscal committees of the legislature on the implementation of section 1(3) of this act by January 1, 2012. The report should describe the policies developed by the department as directed in subsection (2) of this section. The report should also describe any difficulties the department encountered in implementing section 1(3) of this act and any suggestions the department may have to improve the effectiveness of section 1(3) of this act, reduce the burden on financial institutions in complying with section 1(3) of this act, or both." [2009 c 562 s 2.]

Construction—Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 278: See notes following RCW 11.08.160.

Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 299: See notes following RCW 82.04.050.