STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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June 12, 2015

TO: Hunter Goodman, Secretary
Washington State Senate

Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk
Washington State House of Representatives

FROM: Vikki Smith, Director

SUBJECT: Report on Tax Credit for Patient-Lifting Devices

RCW 82.04.4485(7) requires that the Department of Revenue issue an annual report on the amount of credit claimed by hospitals for purchases of mechanical lifting devices. This incentive was adopted by the Legislature in 2006 and was intended to encourage hospitals to acquire mechanical lifting devices to improve safety, for both patients and hospital staff, relating to transporting patients within their facilities.

Since the effective date of this incentive, seventy-eight hospitals (nearly 87 percent of eligible hospitals) have utilized the credit. Thirty-four hospitals have met their individual credit caps of $1,000 per acute care available inpatient bed. The total amount of credit taken is nearly $9 million.

RCW 82.04.4485(6) does indicate that credit may not be claimed for any acquisition of mechanical lifting devices occurring after December 30, 2010. Tax reporting data indicates no credits taken since the first quarter of 2011 and the information contained in this report is identical to the information provided to the Legislature in July of 2014. The 2015 Legislature passed SSB 5275, which repeals the credit and the requirement that the Department of Revenue issue this annual report. This will be the final report for this credit program.

The attached report was prepared by Donald Gutmann, Program Manager, under the direction of Kathy Oline, Assistant Director of Research & Fiscal Analysis. This report is also available on our website at: Statistics & reports. If you have questions about this program, please contact Kathy at (360) 534-1534.

Attachment

cc: Members, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Members, House Finance Committee
Members, House Appropriations Committee
David Schumacher, Director, Office of Financial Management

Patient Lifting Devices Program

Research Report #2015-4
Pursuant to RCW 82.04.4485(7)
June 12, 2015

Department of Revenue
Washington State

Background

In the 2006 session, the Legislature adopted ESHB 1672 requiring hospitals to acquire a minimum number of safe patient handling devices by January 30, 2010. The bill addressed safety concerns for patients lifted manually while reducing back injuries among those in the nursing profession.

The legislation provided a business and occupation (B&O) tax credit for amounts spent between June 7, 2006, and December 30, 2010, on mechanical lifting devices or other equipment used to minimize patient handling. Each hospital is limited to a lifetime credit of $1,000 per acute care inpatient bed available. The maximum is based on available beds, not licensed beds. Credit earned during one calendar year may be carried over and credited against taxes incurred in a subsequent calendar year. The statewide credit is limited to $10 million across all years. The Department of Revenue (Department) must notify hospitals and disallow credits that exceed the statewide limit.

Recent data suggest 10,647 beds are eligible for the patient lifting device credit. This excludes beds dedicated to skilled nursing. There are currently 90 eligible hospitals in Washington; including public hospital districts, private not-for-profit hospitals, and private for-profit hospitals. The majority of the hospitals are located in public hospital districts or are private not-for-profit hospitals.

The Department is statutorily required to issue an annual report by July 1 of each year on the amount of credits claimed by hospitals.

The 2015 Legislature passed SSB 5275, which repeals the credit and the requirement that the Department of Revenue issue this annual report in Section 101(4). The Governor signed this legislation on April 24, 2015, with a July 24, 2015 effective date.

Credits Taken by Hospitals

Hospitals have taken almost $9 million in B&O tax credits since the effective date of the legislation. Seventy-eight hospitals—nearly 87 percent of eligible hospitals—utilized the credit. Thirty-four hospitals have met the individual cap of $1,000 per acute care inpatient bed available.

The hospitals taking the credit report 10,071 available acute care beds. At $1,000 credit each, this calculates to be more than the $10 million credit maximum for this program. However, to date participating hospitals have taken only 89 percent of the reported eligible credit.

Calendar Year	Number of Hospitals	New Hospitals this Period	Available Acute Care Inpatient Beds [a]	Hospitals Reaching Limit	Credit Taken
2006	11	11	936	1	$ 312,770
2007	41	34	4,784	7	2,909,365
2008	37	20	3,644	14	2,292,981
2009	32	7	2,772	9	1,495,389
2010	28	6	4,015	12	1,898,256
2011	3	0	1,047	1	36,127
2012	0	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0	0
Total	78 (net) [b]		10,071 (net) [b]	34 [c]	$ 8,944,888

Based on data available May 2015
Data shown is based on the time the application was received and not the reporting period to which it applies.
[a] Numbers are approximate. The number of beds in qualifying hospitals fluctuates.
[b] Net refers to the removal of duplicates from totals.
[c] Some hospitals increased their available bed counts after having reached their maximum credit limit.

Conclusion

RCW 82.04.4485(6) does indicate credit may not be claimed for acquisitions of mechanical lifting devices occurring after December 30, 2010. Tax credits earned may be carried over to future reporting periods until fully utilized. This credit program cannot exceed $10 million total. Through May of 2015, taxpayers took less than $9 million in credit.

More than $1 million in credit is still available for this program. However, tax reporting data indicates that no credit has been claimed since the first quarter of 2011. This most likely means that hospitals have used all of their eligible credits. The 2015 Legislature passed SSB 5275, which repealed the credit and removed the annual reporting requirement contained in RCW 82.04.4485(7). This will be the final report for this credit program.