



# Special Notice

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

MARCH 24, 2011

## Telephone Program Excise Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2012

The Department of Revenue collects the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) and Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) taxes on behalf of the Department of Social and Health Services. (RCW 82.72.020)

The amount of tax is determined by dividing the TRS and WTAP approved annual budgets by the number of switched access lines from the prior calendar year as reported by local exchange companies (RCW 43.20A.725 and 80.36.430). For fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012), the monthly telephone program excise tax rates per switched access line are as follows:

- 19 cents for Telecommunications Relay Service
- 14 cents for Washington Telephone Assistance Program

We combine these taxes on the excise tax return with the state E911 tax (that is 25 cents per switched access line excluding the wireless state enhanced 911 tax). For fiscal year 2012, the combined monthly tax rate is 58 cents per switched access line comprised of:

TRS 19 cents  
WTAP 14 cents  
E911 25 cents

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Combined rate on return 58 cents

Although these taxes are combined for tax reporting purposes, **state law requires that they be separately stated on consumers' bills**. We are required to announce the amount of the taxes to local exchange companies and the Utilities and Transportation Commission no later than May 1 of each year. This special notice satisfies this statutory obligation.

SB 6846 Enhanced 911 Services Chapter 19, Laws of 2010, 1st Special Session  
Beginning January 1, 2011, counties can increase the local E-911 tax rates from \$0.50 to \$0.70 per line and the state tax rates are increased from \$0.20 to the maximum rate of \$0.25 per line. This legislation extends the enhanced 911 (E-911) excise taxes to interconnected voice over internet protocol service (VoIP) lines.