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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 332

BY REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT RELATING TO TAXES; AMENDING SECTION 63-602JJ, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A PROP-ERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR A RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY; AMENDING SEC-TION 63-3501, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO REVISE DEFINITIONS, AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 63-3502, IDAHO CODE, TO CLARIFY TERMINOLOGY; AMENDING CHAPTER 35, TITLE 63, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 63-3502C, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING THE LEVY OF TAX ON ANNUAL GROSS UTILITY ELECTRICAL EARNINGS; AMENDING CHAPTER 35, TITLE 63, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SEC-TION 63-3503C, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ALLOT-MENT AND APPORTIONMENT OF TAX DUE FROM RATE-REGULATED ELECTRICAL UTILI-TIES BY THE STATE TAX COMMISSION; AMENDING SECTION 63-3504, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING COLLECTION OF CERTAIN TAXES AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 63-3505, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING CERTAIN TAX LIENS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORREC-TIONS; AMENDING SECTION 63-3506, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PROVISION RE-GARDING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY; AMENDING CHAPTER 8, TITLE 57, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 57-828, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING THE RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY TAX REPLACE-MENT FUND; APPROPRIATING MONEYS TO THE RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

TAX REPLACEMENT FUND; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1. That Section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 63-602JJ. PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION -- CERTAIN PROPERTY OF <u>RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND PRODUCERS</u> OF ELECTRICITY BY MEANS OF WIND, SOLAR, OR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY. Real estate, fixtures, operating property, or personal property is exempt from taxation if it is:
- (1) Owned, controlled, operated, or managed by an electrical or natural gas association or, a producer of electricity by means of wind energy, solar energy, or geothermal energy, excluding entities that are regulated by the Idaho public utilities commission as to price or a rate-regulated electric utility, as that term is defined in section 63-3501, Idaho Code;
 - (2) Held or used in connection with or to facilitate the either:
 - (a) The generation, transmission, distribution, delivery, or measuring of electricity by a rate-regulated electric utility, including all conduits, ducts, or other devices, materials, apparatus, or property for containing, holding, or carrying conductors used for the transmission, distribution, and delivery of electricity by the rate-regulated electric utility and including construction tools, materials, and supplies; or

- (b) The generation, transmission, distribution, delivery, or measuring of electric power, natural gas, or electrical electric energy generated, manufactured, or produced by means of wind energy, solar energy, or geothermal energy, and all conduits, ducts, or other devices, materials, apparatus, or property for containing, holding, or carrying conductors used for the transmission, distribution, and delivery of electric power, natural gas, or electric energy generated, manufactured, or produced by means of wind energy, solar energy, or geothermal energy, including construction tools, materials, and supplies; and
- (3) Subject to the taxes on gross wind, solar, or geothermal energy or rate-regulated electric utility earnings pursuant to chapter 35, title 63, Idaho Code.

SECTION 2. That Section 63-3501, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

63-3501. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this chapter:

- (a) The term "cooperative electrical association" means any nonprofit, cooperative association organized and maintained by its members, whether incorporated or unincorporated, for the purpose of transmitting, distributing, or delivering electric power to its members.
- (b) The term "cooperative natural gas association" means any nonprofit cooperative association organized and maintained by its members, whether incorporated or unincorporated, for the purpose of transmitting, distributing, or delivering natural gas to its members.
- (c) The term "cost of power" means the cost of power purchases and generation included in reports to, and in accordance with applicable requirements of, the rural electrification administration, United States department of agriculture, by cooperative electrical associations which that are borrowers from the rural electrification administration, and for cooperative electrical associations which that are not borrowers from the rural electrification administration, such costs which that could have been included by such cooperative electrical associations using equivalent reporting and accounting requirements. The state tax commission shall prescribe necessary rules for the purpose of providing a uniform method of reporting cost of power purchases and generation by cooperative electrical associations, consistent with the reporting and accounting requirements of the rural electrification administration.
- (d) The term "cost of gas" means the cost of natural gas purchased by cooperative natural gas associations from wholesale or other suppliers of natural gas for delivery to members of the cooperative natural gas association.
- (e) The term "gas line mileage factor" means a figure that is arrived at by multiplying the tax levy of each taxing unit by the number of miles of natural gas transmission and distribution lines of a cooperative natural gas association situated in such taxing unit.
- (e) (f) The term "gross cooperative electrical earnings" means the gross receipts of a cooperative electrical association from the distribution, delivery, and sale of electric power within the state of Idaho, but shall not include any earnings or receipts from the distribution, delivery, or sale of electric power consumed in pumping water for irrigation or drainage purposes within the state of Idaho, upon on the land of such con-

sumer and for the use and benefit of his own land, and where such consumer has received from the association a refund, rebate, or credit of three and one-half percent $(3 \cdot 1/2\%)$ of the cost to him of the electric power so used and consumed.

- $\frac{\text{(f)}}{\text{(g)}}$ The term "gross natural gas earnings" means the gross receipts of a cooperative natural gas association from the distribution, delivery, and sale of natural gas within the state of Idaho.
- (h) The term "gross utility electrical earnings" means the gross receipts of a rate-regulated electric utility from all retail sales of electricity to customers for use in Idaho facilities, but shall not include any earnings or receipts from the distribution, delivery, or sale of electric power consumed in pumping water for irrigation or drainage purposes within the state of Idaho, on the land of such consumer and for the use and benefit of the consumer's own land, and where such consumer has received from the rate-regulated electric utility a refund, rebate, or credit of one and two-tenths percent (1.2%) of the cost to the consumer of the electric power so used and consumed.
- (g) (i) The term "gross wind, solar, or geothermal energy earnings" means the gross receipts of a wind energy generator, solar energy generator, or a geothermal energy generator from the distribution, delivery, and sale to a customer for the direct use or resale of electrical electric energy generated, manufactured, or produced by means of wind energy, solar energy, or geothermal energy within the state of Idaho.
- (j) The term "rate-regulated electric utility" means a company that provides electric utility service to retail customers in Idaho and is regulated by the Idaho public utilities commission as to the rates it charges.
- $\underline{\text{(k)}}$ The term "situs property" means the property apportioned to a tax $\underline{\text{code}}$ area based on physical location as provided in section 63-405, Idaho Code.
- (h) (1) The term "taxing unit" shall include any of the following that had property taxes levied in the prior year: the separate taxing districts of the county as well as the county itself and any such taxing district's fund having a different geographical boundary than such taxing district itself.
- $\frac{\text{(i)}}{\text{(m)}}$ The term "tax levy" means the total tax levies fixed by each taxing district, as defined herein, in the prior calendar year.
- (j) (n) The term "WPPSS 4 and 5 costs" means, for a cooperative electrical association which that is a participant under the Washington public power supply system nuclear projects numbers 4 and 5 participants' agreement, dated July 14, 1976, all of its costs in connection with Washington public power supply system nuclear projects numbers 4 and 5.
- $\frac{\text{(k)}}{\text{(o)}}$ The term "weighted wire mileage factor" means a figure which that is arrived at by multiplying the tax levy of each taxing unit by the number of wire miles of transmission and distribution lines of such cooperative electrical association situated in such taxing unit.
- (1) The term "gas line mileage factor" means a figure which is arrived at by multiplying the tax levy of each taxing unit by the number of miles of natural gas transmission and distribution lines of such cooperative natural gas association situated in such taxing unit.
- SECTION 3. That Section 63-3502, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

63-3502. LEVY OF TAX ON ANNUAL GROSS COOPERATIVE ELECTRICAL EARN-INGS. There shall be levied against every cooperative electrical association in this state a tax of three and one-half percent $(3\ 1/2\%)$ (3.5%) of its annual gross earnings, after first reducing such gross earnings by its cost of power and WPPSS 4 and 5 costs in such sum as the amount of its gross earnings bear to its gross receipts from the distribution, delivery and sale of electric power within the state of Idaho. This tax shall be in lieu of all other taxes on the property of such association exempted pursuant to section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code, for the tax year next preceding the filing of the statement hereinafter provided for, and which shall be paid in the manner and at the time prescribed herein.

 SECTION 4. That Chapter 35, Title 63, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a <u>NEW SECTION</u>, to be known and designated as Section 63-3502C, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

63-3502C. LEVY OF TAX ON ANNUAL GROSS UTILITY ELECTRICAL EARNINGS. (1) A tax shall be levied against rate-regulated electric utilities in the amount of one and two-tenths percent (1.2%) of gross utility electrical earnings. The gross utility electrical earnings tax will be reduced by the total of levies assessed and payable pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

- (2) This tax on gross utility electrical earnings shall be in lieu of all other taxes on the operating property of a rate-regulated electric utility exempted pursuant to section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code.
- (3) For purposes of the certification required by section 63-803, Idaho Code, and the limitations provided by section 63-802, Idaho Code, the taxes levied pursuant to this section shall reduce the property tax to be levied to finance a taxing district's annual budget and shall be included in the amount of property tax revenues to finance a taxing district's annual budget for purposes of limitations on increases in the annual budget as provided in section 63-802, Idaho Code.
- (4) When any taxing district certifies a levy for a new property tax levy approved by the voters in the taxing district on or after the November 2023 general election, a rate-regulated electric utility that would have paid property tax based on this levy if not for the exemption provided in section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code, shall have a portion of its gross utility electrical earnings tax allocated to that taxing district, in the manner and in an amount determined as follows:
 - (a) The state tax commission shall determine the percent of the taxing district's property tax budget paid by the rate-regulated electric utility through its gross utility electrical earnings tax in the year immediately prior to the first year in which the new voter-approved property tax is levied.
 - (b) The amount certified by the taxing district for the new voter-approved property tax levy in its first year shall be multiplied by the percentage determined in paragraph (a) of this subsection.
 - (c) The tax so determined shall be billed to the rate-regulated electric utility and distributed to the taxing district at the same time and in the same manner as all other taxes on gross utility electrical earnings.

- (d) The additional tax provided pursuant to this subsection, if received by a taxing district prior to certifying its property tax to be levied in the current year, shall be subtracted before the tax levy is set.
- (e) The procedure set forth in this subsection shall be followed each year the voter-approved property tax levy is in effect, except that after the first year of the voter-approved property tax levy, the percent in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be multiplied by the amount certified by the taxing district for the voter-approved property tax levy in the immediate prior year.
- (f) If the voter-approved property tax levy is in the form of a permanent override, as provided in section 63-802(1)(h), Idaho Code, the amount of the levy used in the calculations provided in this subsection shall be the amount to be certified in the first year of the levy.
- SECTION 5. That Chapter 35, Title 63, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a $\underline{\text{NEW SECTION}}$, to be known and designated as Section 63-3503C, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:
- 63-3503C. FILING OPERATOR'S STATEMENTS -- ALLOTMENT AND APPORTION-MENT OF TAX DUE FROM ELECTRICAL UTILITIES BY STATE TAX COMMISSION. (1) Every rate-regulated electric utility in this state shall file with the state tax commission the operator's statement provided for in section 63-404, Idaho Code, and shall include thereon a statement of the amount of its gross utility electrical earnings for the preceding calendar year and any other information required by the state tax commission to establish the nature and location of property of the rate-regulated electric utility. After examining and verifying said statement, the state tax commission shall compute the amount of the tax measured by such gross utility electrical earnings and shall determine allotments to each eligible taxing district and unit. Taxing districts and units are eligible if they are in existence on January 1 of the current year and are otherwise eligible to certify a property tax to be levied against operating property, including any fire protection districts for which the rate-regulated electric utility has elected to receive fire protection pursuant to the provisions of section 31-1425, Idaho Code.
 - (2) (a) For situs property, as defined in section 63-3501, Idaho Code, the state tax commission shall determine the allotment as follows:
 - (i) The rate-regulated electric utility shall provide the total undepreciated investment and the tax code area in which its property is located.
 - (ii) The state tax commission shall divide the undepreciated investment of property identified in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph by the total undepreciated investment of all property of the rate-regulated electric utility.
 - (iii) The ratio determined in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph shall be multiplied by the total tax on the gross utility electrical earnings.
 - (iv) The state tax commission shall identify the eligible taxing districts and units within the tax code area identified in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph and shall allot an amount of the tax calculated in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph based on

each such district's or unit's proportional share of the prior year's tax levy in the tax code area.

- (v) The state tax commission shall subtract the amount calculated in subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph from the total tax on the gross utility electrical earnings before allotting the remaining portion of the tax.
- (b) For transmission property, the state tax commission shall determine the allotment of the remaining portion of the gross utility electrical earnings tax as follows:
 - (i) The state tax commission shall divide the undepreciated investment of the rate-regulated electric utility's transmission property in each county by the total undepreciated investment of the rate-regulated electric utility's transmission and distribution property statewide to determine the transmission ratio.
 - (ii) The transmission ratio shall be multiplied by the remaining gross utility electrical earnings tax on the rate-regulated electric utility to determine the amount of tax allotted to each county based on transmission property.
 - (iii) For each county, the state tax commission shall divide the allotment determined in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph by the total miles of transmission lines reported in the county to determine a rate per mile.
 - (iv) The state tax commission shall multiply the rate per mile determined in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph by the number of transmission line miles reported in each tax code area within the county to determine the allotment based on transmission property.
- (c) For distribution property, the state tax commission shall determine the allotment as follows:
 - (i) The state tax commission shall divide the undepreciated investment of distribution property in each county by the total undepreciated investment of transmission and distribution property statewide to determine the distribution ratio.
 - (ii) The distribution ratio shall be multiplied by the remaining gross utility electrical earnings tax to determine the amount of tax allotted to each county based on distribution property.
 - (iii) For each county, the state tax commission shall divide the allotment determined in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph by the total miles of distribution lines reported in the county to determine a rate per mile.
 - (iv) The state tax commission shall multiply the rate per mile determined in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph by the number of distribution line miles reported in each tax code area within the county to determine the allotment based on distribution property.
- (d) The state tax commission shall determine the proportion that each eligible taxing district's and unit's levy rate is of the total of the levy rates of all eligible taxing districts and units within the tax code area. This proportion shall be multiplied by the sum of the amounts determined in paragraphs (b) (iv) and (c) (iv) of this subsection, and the resulting amount shall be paid to each taxing district and unit.

(3) No later than the third Monday in May each year, the state tax commission shall notify the state superintendent of public instruction, the county treasurer, and the county auditor of such allotment and apportionment and the amounts thereof.

- (4) On or before the first Monday in August, the county auditor shall notify each taxing district or unit of the amount of gross utility electrical earnings tax being apportioned and distributed to such taxing district or unit during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding July 1 of the current tax year.
- (5) For tax years 2024, 2025, and 2026, the state tax commission shall transfer moneys from the rate-regulated electric utility tax replacement fund, established pursuant to section 57-828, Idaho Code, to counties and taxing districts as provided in this subsection in order to replace property tax revenues lost due to the property tax exemption of property of a rate-regulated electric utility exempted pursuant to section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code.
 - (a) The state tax commission shall determine the dollar amount of property taxes each county received in 2023 that were attributable to property tax levies on all property of a rate-regulated electric utility in each county. The state tax commission shall subtract the total amounts payable to each taxing district in the county pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, and the difference shall be the replacement money amount for all subsequent years.
 - (i) For 2024, the state tax commission shall transfer one hundred percent (100%) of the replacement money amount from moneys in the rate-regulated electric utility tax replacement fund to each county treasurer for distribution to each taxing district and unit within the county in the same manner as if the moneys were property taxes received by the county.
 - (ii) For 2025, the state tax commission shall transfer sixty-seven percent (67%) of the replacement money amount from moneys in the rate-regulated electric utility tax replacement fund to each county treasurer for distribution to each taxing district and unit within the county in the same manner as if the moneys were property taxes received by the county.
 - (iii) For 2026, the state tax commission shall transfer thirty-three percent (33%) of the replacement money amount from moneys in the rate-regulated electric utility tax replacement fund to each county treasurer for distribution to each taxing district and unit within the county in the same manner as if the moneys were property taxes received by the county.
 - (iv) No replacement moneys shall be provided for tax year 2027 or any year thereafter.
 - (b) The state tax commission shall pay the first half of the replacement moneys provided in this subsection no later than December 20 of each year, and the second half shall be paid by no later than June 20 of the following year. The moneys received by the county tax collector under the provisions of this subsection may be considered as property tax revenues by counties and other taxing districts and units and revenue

allocation areas and may be budgeted against at the same time, in the same manner, and in the same year as property tax revenues.

SECTION 6. That Section 63-3504, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

63-3504. COLLECTION BY COUNTY TREASURER -- PENALTY AND INTEREST IMPOSED WHEN DELINQUENT. Upon receipt of the notification of the allotment and apportionment of such taxes by the state tax commission by the county treasurer, said county treasurer shall, not later than June 15 of each year, notify each cooperative electrical association, natural gas cooperative, rate-regulated electric utility, and producer of electricity by means of wind energy, by means of solar energy, or by means of geothermal energy, of the amount of taxes owed, and the apportionment thereof to the county and to the several taxing districts in the county, and such tax shall be due and payable not later than July 1, following and, upon the payment thereof, the county treasurer shall pay over to each taxing district its apportionment as herein determined. Any such taxes not paid by July 1, as aforesaid, shall become delinquent and a penalty of five percent (5%) thereof shall be imposed, together with interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month from July 1 until paid.

SECTION 7. That Section 63-3505, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

63-3505. TAXES A LIEN ON PROPERTY OF ASSOCIATION OR PRODUCER UNTIL PAID. All taxes due and payable under this chapter shall be a lien on all property, real and personal, of the electrical <u>association</u>, or natural gas association, <u>rate-regulated electric utility</u>, or the producer of electricity by means of wind energy, by means of solar energy, or by means of geothermal energy, owing the same, as of June 15 of each year and shall be discharged only by the payment thereof. In any action to enforce payment of any delinquent taxes due under this chapter, the county prosecuting such action shall be entitled to a judgment for the reasonable costs of prosecuting such action, as well as for the delinquent taxes, penalty, and interest.

SECTION 8. That Section 63-3506, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

63-3506. ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY BY ASSESSOR. Any property not subject to the gross receipts tax levied in this chapter of any cooperative electrical association, or natural gas association, rate-regulated electric utility, or producer of electricity by means of wind energy, by means of solar energy, or by means of geothermal energy, shall be assessed by the county assessor of the county wherein such property is situate, and taxes levied against the same shall be a lien, and shall be due and payable, in the same manner as are any other taxes on property.

SECTION 9. That Chapter 8, Title 57, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a $\underline{\text{NEW SECTION}}$, to be known and designated as Section 57-828, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

57-828. RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY TAX REPLACEMENT FUND. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the rate-regulated electric utility tax replacement fund. Moneys in the fund shall consist of legislative appropriations to the fund and interest earned on idle moneys in the fund.

- (2) Moneys in the fund shall be used to replace a portion of property taxes paid by rate-regulated electric utilities. Such moneys shall be used to supplement gross utility electrical earnings payments allocated to taxing districts pursuant to the provisions of sections 63-3502C and 63-3503C, Idaho Code. The state tax commission shall determine and transfer the appropriate amount to each county pursuant to the provisions of section 63-3503C, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 10. CASH TRANSFER. There is hereby appropriated and the State Controller shall transfer \$9,000,000 from the General Fund to the Rate-Regulated Electric Utility Tax Replacement Fund established pursuant to section 57-828, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 11. This act shall be in full force and effect on and after January 1, 2024.