

1 Sponsored by: Councilmembers Derek Young, Pam Roach and Douglas G. Richardson
2 Requested by:

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5
6 **ORDINANCE NO. 2018-51s**
7

8
9 **An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Adopting a New Chapter 2.132**
10 **to the Pierce County Code, "Pierce County Family-Wage**
11 **Jobs Credit Program"; Setting an Effective Date; and**
12 **Establishing a Sunset Date.**
13

14 **Whereas**, household income in Pierce County lags behind other counties in the
15 Puget Sound region; and
16

17 **Whereas**, more than 100,000 Pierce County residents commute outside of the
18 County for work, increasing traffic congestion and decreasing community involvement;
19 and
20

21 **Whereas**, Pierce County is committed to partnering with business, labor, and
22 community leaders to increase local family-wage jobs; and
23

24 **Whereas**, jurisdictions throughout Pierce County recognize the critical role
25 businesses play in creating vibrant communities and are actively working together to
26 encourage businesses to choose Pierce County; and
27

28 **Whereas**, the County requires payment of certain permits and fees pertaining to
29 construction of commercial buildings and facilities; and
30

31 **Whereas**, in order to support and incentivize the creation of local family-wage
32 jobs, the Council desires to rebate a portion of the permit and fee payments made by
33 employers; and
34

35 **Whereas**, in consideration of the creation of new family-wage jobs, the rebate
36 will be available to those employers that made payments for construction fees and
37 permits and who provide evidence that they have created five or more new family-wage
38 jobs of indefinite duration in Pierce County; and
39

40 **Whereas**, providing the family-wage job credit will help to increase the number of
41 higher paying jobs in Pierce County, make the County a more attractive place to start or
42 grow a business, enhance economic activity, and expand the tax base; and
43

44 **Whereas**, the rebate will be limited to maximum one-time rebate of \$275 per new
45 family-wage job created; and
46



1 **Whereas**, the public benefits derived from the creation of a new family-wage job
2 will exceed the value of the rebate provided. An example of one public benefit is
3 increased local sales tax revenue which is estimated to be \$280 or more per year for
4 incomes of at least \$50,000 per year; **Now Therefore**,

5
6 **BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:**
7

8 Section 1. A new Chapter 2.132 of the Pierce County Code, "Pierce County
9 Family-wage Jobs Credit Program," is hereby adopted as shown in Exhibit A, which is
10 attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

11
12 Section 2. The effective date of this Ordinance shall be January 1, 2019.

13
14 Section 3. Chapter 2.132 of the Pierce County Code, "Pierce County Family-
15 Wage Jobs Credit Program," shall sunset December 31, 2025.

16
17
18 **PASSED** this 17th day of July, 2018.

19
20 ATTEST:

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL
Pierce County, Washington

21
22
23 Denise D. Johnson
24
25 **Denise D. Johnson**
26 Clerk of the Council

D. G. Richardson
27
28
29 **Douglas G. Richardson**
30 Council Chair

Bruce F. Dammeier
31
32 **Bruce F. Dammeier**
33 Pierce County Executive
34 Approved Vetoed _____, this
35 23rd day of July,
36 2018.

37 Date of Publication of
38 Notice of Public Hearing: July 4, 2019

39 Effective Date of Ordinance: January 1, 2019



"New Chapter"

Note: The Chapter number and title shall also be inserted chronologically in the Table of Contents for Title 2.

Chapter 2.132

PIERCE COUNTY FAMILY-WAGE JOBS CREDIT PROGRAM

Sections:

- 2.132.010 Title.
- 2.132.020 Purpose.
- 2.132.030 Definitions.
- 2.132.040 Family-Wage Jobs Credit.
- 2.132.050 Administration.
- 2.132.060 Reconsideration.
- 2.132.070 Sunset.

2.132.010 Title.

This Chapter shall be officially cited as the Pierce County Family-Wage Jobs Credit Program.

2.132.020 Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to encourage businesses to create new family-wage jobs in Pierce County by crediting certain charges and fees associated with establishing or expanding a business.

2.132.030 Definitions.

"Credit" means a monetary payment or reduction in present or future balance due to the Planning and Public Works Department.

"Department" means the Planning and Public Works Department.

"Director" means the Planning and Public Works Director.

"Eligible charges and fees" means monetary payments paid by the family-wage jobs credit applicant or the applicant's agent to Pierce County after December 31, 2016, for building permits, critical area review, traffic impact fees, sewer connection charges, and land use actions such as conditional permits and variances. Expressly excluded from the definition of eligible charges and fees are state building code charges and fees, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department charges and fees, fire inspection charges and fees, residential land use action charges and fees, and residential building permit or associated application charges and fees.



1 "Eligible employer" means an individual or entity that has created and filled at least five new
2 family-wage jobs in unincorporated Pierce County after January 1, 2019, and has paid, or whose
3 agent has paid, an eligible charge or fee to Pierce County.

4
5 "Family-wage job" means an ongoing employment relationship of indefinite duration in which
6 an employee is compensated by an employer at a gross annualized rate, excluding employer-paid
7 benefits such as health benefits and pension payments of any type, at or above 80 percent of the
8 most recent calculation of Pierce County's median annual household income by the Washington
9 State Office of Financial Management, which is \$52,197 for calendar year 2019.

10
11 "New family-wage job" means a family-wage job that an employer did not advertise or fill in the
12 previous calendar year that results in a net increase in employees employed by the employer in
13 unincorporated Pierce County compared to the previous calendar year.

14
15 **2.132.040 Family-wage Jobs Credit.**

16 Eligible employers may apply to the Department of Planning and Public Works for a credit in
17 the amount of \$275 per new family-wage job created in unincorporated Pierce County, up to the
18 maximum allowed credit amount.

19 The maximum allowed credit amount is the total of eligible charges and fees paid to Pierce
20 County by the eligible employer or the eligible employer's agent. Credit payments shall be
21 subject to funds available from other sources appropriated for this purpose. Eligible employers
22 may apply multiple times but may not receive credits exceeding the maximum allowed credit
23 amount for each eligible family-wage job they created.

24
25 **2.132.050 Administration.**

26 The Planning and Public Works Department is responsible for administering this Chapter.

27 The Department must create and make publicly available a standard application that enables
28 the Department to determine applicant eligibility for a credit under the provisions of this
29 Chapter. The Department may require applicants provide Wage and Hour Reports (Form 5208)
30 as submitted to the Washington State Employment Security Department, with social security
31 numbers redacted, and may require applicants provide other information deemed necessary by
32 the Department Director.

33 The Department must review applications for completeness prior to acceptance and no credit
34 may issue without Department approval. Approved credits must be processed in a reasonably
35 expeditious manner.

36
37 **2.132.060 Reconsideration.**

38 Within seven working days of the date of the Director's decision, aggrieved applicants may
39 file with the Planning and Public Works Department a written request for reconsideration based
40 on any one of the following grounds:

- 41 A. Errors of procedure or misinterpretation of fact, material to the party seeking the request
42 for reconsideration.
43 B. Additional supporting information will demonstrate the applicant's eligibility for a credit
44 under this Chapter.



1 Upon receipt of a request for reconsideration, the Planning and Public Works Director shall
2 review said request considering the record and take such further action as is deemed proper
3 including, but not limited to, requesting a response from another party, denying the request,
4 granting the request, and may render a revised decision.

5 The result of the reconsideration is the final determination and may not be further appealed
6 or contested.

7
8 **2.132.070 Sunset.**

9 The Department may not accept any applications for a credit utilizing the provisions of this
10 Chapter after December 31, 2024. This Chapter shall sunset on December 31, 2025.

