



# BUSINESS LICENSES

CITY OF CAMAS - 2019



## WHAT IS A BUSINESS LICENSE?

License to legally conduct business within the City.

**RCW 35A.82.020** Code cities may “exercise the authority authorized by general law for any class of city to license and revoke the same for cause, to regulate, make inspections and to impose excises for regulation or revenue in regard to all places and kinds of business, production, commerce, entertainment, exhibition, and upon all occupations, trades and professions and any other kind of lawful activity...”

Any city may require a general business license for any person or company “engaging in business” within city limits. This includes businesses that are physically located within the city, as well as businesses that are physically located elsewhere but engage in business within the city.

## WHY A BUSINESS LICENSE?

Cities have several reasons and approach business licenses with different purposes:

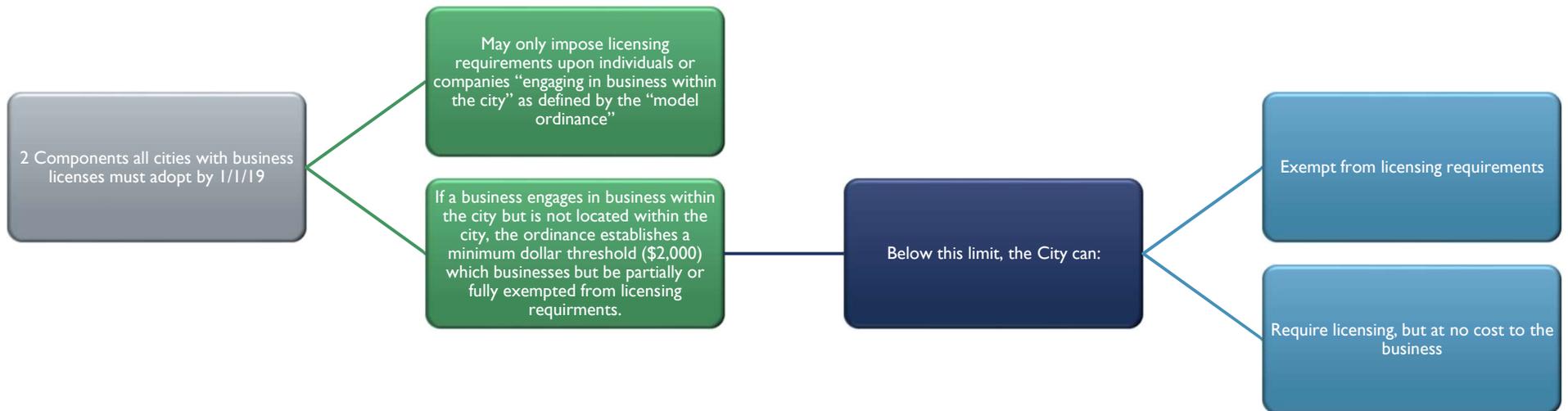
Monitoring business activities within the City

Regulating certain types of business activities to ensure public safety and code compliance

Generating revenue

Analyzing and cultivating business growth

# EHB 2005 PROVIDED UNIFORMITY FOR BUSINESS LICENSES STATEWIDE



## WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?



- Business Licenses can include:
  - Fees and thresholds (provided they comply with the model ordinance)
  - Approval process and conditions
  - License terms and expirations dates
  - Penalties
  - Suspension, revocation and appeals

Some cities provide for exemptions for certain business types or require the license but do not charge a fee. Examples include:

- Nonprofit and religious groups
- Minors engaged in babysitting, newspaper delivery, lemonade stands, lawn mowing, etc.
- Private ambulance operators
- Common carrier delivery of goods and services
- Farmers selling their own produce
- Businesses below a certain income threshold
- Businesses that only do casual or isolated sales

However, these individuals and businesses may still be subject to state business licensing requirements

## ANY EXEMPTIONS?

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Regulatory businesses which require additional regulation, oversight for code enforcement or public safety could have higher fees. Examples include:

- Door-to-door solicitors
- Fireworks stands
- Heavy manufacturing
- Short-term rentals
- Taxi-cabs

Some cities raise revenues by charging business license fees on a sliding scale based on criteria such as employees or number of employee hours worked or the square footage of the business.

WHAT ABOUT ADDITIONAL FEES TO RECOUP COSTS?

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New state law in RCW 35.90, requires all cities to partner with BLS or FileLocal over the next few years.

Deadlines include:

License fees and thresholds are established by the City

BLS  
12/31/2022

FileLocal  
7/1/2020

## HOW TO ISSUE BUSINESS LICENSE?

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Discuss specific options with Council for direction

15 Oct. 2018

Oct.–Nov.

Public Outreach

Public Hearing

19 Nov. 2018

Business License Ordinance Consideration

3 Dec. 2018

**NEXT STEPS**