
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5760

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senator Patterson).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to department of licensing agents and subagents;
2 amending RCW 46.01.130 and 46.01.140; adding a new section to chapter
3 46.01 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; creating a new
4 section; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.01.130 and 1979 c 158 s 121 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The department of licensing shall have the general supervision and
9 control of the issuing of vehicle licenses and vehicle license number
10 plates and shall have the full power to do all things necessary and
11 proper to carry out the provisions of the law relating to the licensing
12 of vehicles; the director shall have the power to appoint and employ
13 deputies, assistants and representatives, and such clerks as may be
14 required from time to time, and to provide for their operation in
15 different parts of the state, and the director shall have the power to

1 appoint the county auditors of the several counties as his agents for
2 the licensing of vehicles. A county auditor so appointed may recommend
3 to the director the appointment of one or more persons as subagents of
4 the county auditor for vehicle licensing and registration. The
5 director may appoint one or more of the persons recommended by the
6 county auditor, but if none of the recommendations are approved by the
7 director, the county auditor shall submit new recommendations until the
8 director appoints one or more subagents for that county.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.01.140 and 1990 c 250 s 89 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) The county auditor, if appointed by the director of licensing
12 shall carry out the provisions of this title relating to the licensing
13 of vehicles and the issuance of vehicle license number plates under the
14 direction and supervision of the director and may with the approval of
15 the director appoint assistants as special deputies and subagents to
16 accept applications and collect fees for vehicle licenses and transfers
17 and to deliver vehicle license number plates.

18 (2) At any time any application is made to the director, the county
19 auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with licenses,
20 registration, or the right to operate any vehicle upon the public
21 highways of this state, excluding applicants already paying such fee
22 under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, the applicant shall pay to the
23 director, county auditor, or other agent a fee of two dollars for each
24 application in addition to any other fees required by law. Applicants
25 for certificates of ownership, including applicants paying fees under
26 RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, shall pay to the director, county auditor,
27 or other agent a fee of three dollars in addition to any other fees
28 required by law. These (~~additional~~) fees, if paid to the county
29 auditor as agent of the director, or if paid to (~~an agent~~) a subagent

1 of the county auditor, shall be paid to the county treasurer in the
2 same manner as other fees collected by the county auditor and credited
3 to the county current expense fund. If the fee is paid to another
4 agent of the director, the fee shall be used by the agent to defray his
5 or her expenses in handling the application(~~(: PROVIDED, That an agent~~
6 ~~of the county auditor)~~).

7 (3) A subagent is entitled to an additional service charge of two
8 dollars. However, from July 1, 1991, through June 30, 1992, subagents
9 shall collect a service fee of (a) five dollars and fifty cents for
10 changes in a certificate of ownership, with or without registration
11 renewal, or verification of record and preparation of an affidavit of
12 lost title other than at the time of title application or transfer and
13 (b) two dollars and twenty-five cents for registration renewal only,
14 issuing a transit permit, or any other service under this section.

15 ~~((3))~~ (4) If the fee is collected by the state patrol as agent
16 for the director, the fee so collected shall be certified to the state
17 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the state patrol highway
18 account. If the fee is collected by the department of transportation
19 as agent for the director, the fee shall be certified to the state
20 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. All
21 such fees collected by the director or branches of his or her office
22 shall be certified to the state treasurer and deposited to the credit
23 of the highway safety fund.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 46.01 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 By March 1st of each odd-numbered year, each county auditor and all
27 persons appointed by the director as an agent or subagent under RCW
28 46.01.130 shall report to the director all costs and revenues
29 associated with vehicle title and registration activities for the

1 previous two calendar years. Each county auditor shall also report the
2 total number of licensing subagents and the appointments made during
3 the reporting period. Reports must be made on standard forms provided
4 by the director for that purpose. The director shall revoke the
5 appointment of a person who fails to file the report by March 15th.
6 The director shall compile the reports and submit them to the
7 legislative transportation committee by April 1st. The director's
8 report shall include the total costs and revenues of each county
9 auditor and of all subagents within each county, the number of
10 subagents within each county, and appointments and revocations made
11 during the two-year period.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 "County auditor" includes, in charter counties, the office
15 designated to issue motor vehicle licenses.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The director of licensing shall review
17 the costs and revenues of all vehicle licensing agents and subagents
18 and the benefits provided to the communities they serve and submit a
19 report by January 15, 1992, to the legislative transportation committee
20 including the following:

21 (1) Criteria for determining the costs and benefits of title and
22 registration activities by agents and subagents;

23 (2) A review of the rate structure for agents and subagents;

24 (3) A review of other fee structures for counties and subagents;

25 (4) An estimate of the costs of providing each individual title and
26 registration function;

1 (5) Consideration of the need for cost allocations, such as a
2 revolving fund or other mechanisms for funding an automated licensing
3 system;

4 (6) Consideration of the County Auditors' Automation Program (CAAP)
5 system and other changes in methods of providing title and registration
6 services since adoption of the current method of compensating agents
7 and subagents;

8 (7) Recommendations for a process to allow counties to recover
9 their full costs of vehicle title and registration activities without
10 increasing costs to consumers;

11 (8) Recommendations for one standard contract to be used by the
12 director of licensing for county auditor agents and one standard
13 contract for subagents, with provisions in each requiring disclosure of
14 all costs and revenues to the director, but protecting the
15 confidentiality of this information;

16 (9) An examination of alternative methods of providing title and
17 registration services.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
21 effect July 1, 1991.