
HOUSE BILL 1397

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representative G. Cole

Read first time 01/27/93. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the registration of travel agents; and adding a
2 new chapter to Title 18 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds it necessary to
5 regulate travel agents to protect the public health, safety, and
6 welfare. The public has a right to expect professionalism and
7 stability in the travel industry. The purpose of this chapter is to
8 help ensure that important information is made available to the public
9 and that the integrity of the travel industry is preserved.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
11 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
12 chapter.

13 (1) "Department" means the department of licensing.

14 (2) "Director" means the director of licensing.

15 (3) "Person" means any individual, partnership, unincorporated
16 association or society, or corporation of any character whatsoever.

17 (4) "Travel agency" means a person who represents directly or
18 indirectly that the person is offering or undertaking by any means or

1 method, to provide travel services for a fee, commission, or other
2 valuable consideration, direct or indirect.

3 (5) "Travel agent" means a travel agency or a person employed by a
4 travel agency whose principal duties include consulting with and
5 advising persons concerning travel arrangements or accommodations.

6 (6) "Travel services" means arranging or booking vacation or travel
7 packages, travel reservations or accommodations, tickets for domestic
8 or foreign travel by air, rail, ship, bus, or other medium of
9 transportation, or hotel or other lodging accommodations. Travel
10 services include travel related prizes or awards for which the customer
11 must pay a fee.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** It is a violation of this chapter for a
13 person to practice or represent himself or herself as a travel agent
14 without a certificate of registration as a travel agent.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In addition to any other authority provided
16 by law, the director may:

17 (1) Adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary
18 to implement this chapter;

19 (2) Establish forms and procedures as necessary to administer this
20 chapter;

21 (3) Register applicants and assign each registrant a registration
22 number;

23 (4) Hire clerical, administrative, and investigative staff as
24 needed to implement and administer this chapter;

25 (5) Maintain the official departmental record of all applicants and
26 registrants; and

27 (6) Set all registration, renewal, and late renewal fees in
28 accordance with RCW 43.24.086.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) A travel agent shall file with the
30 department a disclosure statement which contains all of the following:

31 (a) The business name and address of each travel agency represented
32 by the travel agent;

33 (b) A record of all felony convictions relating to the travel
34 business or consumer fraud; and

35 (c) A list of all travel industry associations of which the travel
36 agent is a certified member.

1 (2) A travel agent shall file an updated disclosure statement with
2 the department within thirty days of a change in the information
3 required under subsection (1) of this section.

4 (3) The department shall make disclosure statements available to
5 the public for inspection and copying.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** All advertising of travel agent services in
7 any medium shall include the travel agent's registration number in the
8 form prescribed by department rule.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The regulation of travel agents is a matter
10 affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying chapter 19.86
11 RCW. Activities of travel agents prohibited under this chapter are not
12 reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business.
13 A violation of any requirement of this chapter or any rule adopted by
14 the department pursuant to the authority granted by this chapter
15 constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or practice in trade or commerce
16 for the purpose of applying chapter 19.86 RCW.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act shall
18 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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