

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5617

As Passed Senate, March 17, 1999

Title: An act relating to exemptions from driver's license requirements for nonresidents.

Brief Description: Providing exemptions from driver's license requirements for nonresidents.

Sponsors: Senators Horn, Goings, Finkbeiner, Oke and Costa.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/9/99, 2/17/99 [DP].
Passed Senate, 3/17/99, 46-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Goings, Vice Chair; Benton, Costa, Eide, Horn, Morton, Oke, Patterson, Prentice, Sellar, Sheahan, T. Sheldon and Shin.

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7305)

Background: A nonresident may drive legally in Washington without obtaining a Washington State driver's license if the driver is at least 16 and has a valid driver's license issued by his or her home state. A person qualifies as a nonresident if he or she is temporarily in the state for no more than six months.

Summary of Bill: Certain nonresidents are authorized to legally drive in Washington regardless of whether their stay in this state exceeds six months. The nonresident driver's license exemption is granted without a time limitation to nonresidents who have a valid driver's license from their home state and are:

- (1) members of the armed forces, their spouses, and dependents who designate a different state as their home state; or
- (2) students, their spouses, or dependents, if they maintain a legal home of record outside of Washington and carry documentation of their nonresident student status.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 4, 1999.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill codifies current administrative practice and helps certain nonresidents by not penalizing them when they come to Washington State.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Senator Horn, prime sponsor; Judith Giniger, Dept. of Licensing.