

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6467

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Transportation, January 28, 2000

Title: An act relating to vehicle, vessel, and aircraft license fraud.

Brief Description: Updating license fraud laws.

Sponsors: Senators Goings, Haugen, Eide, Sellar and Winsley.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/25/2000, 1/28/2000 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6467 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Goings, Vice Chair; Costa, Eide, Heavey, Jacobsen, Johnson, Morton, Oke, Sellar, T. Sheldon, Shin and Swecker.

Staff: Jennifer Ziegler (786-7316)

Background: In 1999, the Legislature decriminalized license fraud and enacted civil penalties for intentionally licensing a vehicle in another state. Individuals who license vehicles in another state to avoid paying Washington taxes or fees are liable for a minimum monetary penalty of \$1000 and a maximum penalty of \$10,000.

The Legislature also authorized the Washington State Patrol to use an administrative process to enforce the civil penalties established for license fraud. As a result of establishing this process, local law enforcement officials no longer had the authority to issue citations for license fraud.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The specific administrative process for the Washington State Patrol is eliminated. The criminal penalties for license fraud are reinstated. Intentionally registering a vehicle in another state to evade Washington taxes and fees constitutes a gross misdemeanor.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The criminal penalties for license fraud are reinstated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 17, 2000.

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

Testimony For: This legislation corrects an inadvertent result of previous legislation. It enables local law enforcement to issue license fraud citations. The bill will give law enforcement officers the authority they need to do their job.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Goings, prime sponsor; Deputy J. Sousley, Pierce County Sheriff's Office (pro); Captain Eric Robertson, Washington State Patrol (pro - sub).