

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2576

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Commerce & Labor

**Title:** An act relating to master license system fees.

**Brief Description:** Giving the director of the department of licensing authority to adopt master application fees by rule.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Hunt, Conway and Kenney; by request of Department of Licensing.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Commerce & Labor: 1/31/02, 2/4/02 [DPS].

<p><b>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Authorizes the department to set master license fees by rule.</li></ul>
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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Conway, Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; Clements, Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Kenney and Lysen.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative McMorris.

**Staff:** Sydney Forrester (786-7120).

**Background:**

The Master License Service is administered by the Department of Licensing, Business and Professions Division. The program functions as a central licensing service for a variety of businesses in Washington. A master license is a single license that incorporates endorsements, certificates, approvals, and registrations, and certifies state agency approval for the various regulated activities in which a business may be engaged. The program also provides information to the business community concerning state licensing and regulatory requirements, including local and federal information regarding

state-regulated activities.

Master license fees currently are set in statute and have been unchanged since 1992. The master application fee is \$15, and the renewal fee is \$9.

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**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

The department is authorized to set the handling fees by rule for master license applications and renewals in accordance with existing policy. A nonrefundable handling fee is collected from each new applicant, and from each licensee upon renewal. Fee-setting authority is granted until September 1, 2008.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The substitute bill grants the department fee-setting authority until September 1, 2008. The original bill did not provide a sunset date.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill takes effect on September 1, 2002.

**Testimony For:** The master license program is required to be self-supporting, meaning that fees must cover administrative costs. Most of the department's self-supporting program license fees already are set in rule. The bill proposes the handling fee be made nonrefundable. Occasionally a regulatory agency denies a license and the applicant wants the fee refunded. At that point the department already has processed the application and fulfilled its role and does not want to refund the fee.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Nancy Skewis, Department of Licensing, Business and Professions Division.