

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5274

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Transportation, March 7, 2001

Title: An act relating to motor vehicle licensing subagents.

Brief Description: Revising the appointment of vehicle licensing subagents.

Sponsors: Senators Gardner, Haugen and McCaslin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/19/01, 3/7/01 [DPS].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5274 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Benton, Eide, Horn, Jacobsen, Kastama, McAuliffe, Oke, Patterson, Prentice, T. Sheldon, Shin and Swecker.

Staff: Jennifer Strus (786-7484)

Background: Subagents have a contract with the county auditor to conduct vehicle licensing functions for the auditor. Recently, concerns have been raised by some subagents who have invested many years in their business and want a process to pass along their business to a family member or trusted employee.

Currently, subagents are appointed after being chosen through a request for proposals process. The county auditor submits all subagent proposals received to the director of the Department of Licensing (DOL) and recommends the appointment of one or more subagents. The director of DOL has the final appointment authority.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The county auditor must use an open competitive process including but not limited to a written business proposal and an oral interview to determine the quality of all interested applicants. A subagent may recommend to the auditor a successor who is either the subagent's sibling, spouse, child, or a subagency employee. If the successor recommended by the subagent is otherwise qualified, the auditor must include in his or her recommendation to the director not only the name provided by the subagent, but also one other applicant drawn through the open competitive process, unless the person recommended by the subagent is the only qualified applicant.

The service fees collected by subagents are increased as follows: (1) from \$7.50 to \$8.50 for certificate of ownership changes or verification of title; and (2) from \$3.00 to \$3.50 for registration renewal.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The provisions allowing the subagent to recommend a successor, and the auditor's responsibility with regard to that recommendation are added. The increase in subagent service fees is added.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: The bill provides an objective method by which to choose a successor. It assures that the best service to the public is given.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Don Burrell, Bill Cox, George Cohee, Joseph Kqnthara, Washington Association of Vehicle Subagents; Al Brochet, Washington Auditor's Association.