
SENATE BILL 5274

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Gardner, Haugen and McCaslin

Read first time 01/17/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle licensing subagents; and
2 amending RCW 46.01.140.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.01.140 and 1996 c 315 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor, if appointed by the director of
7 licensing shall carry out the provisions of this title relating to
8 the licensing of vehicles and the issuance of vehicle license
9 number plates under the direction and supervision of the director
10 and may with the approval of the director appoint assistants as
11 special deputies and recommend subagents to accept applications
12 and collect fees for vehicle licenses and transfers and to deliver
13 vehicle license number plates.

14 (2) A county auditor appointed by the director may request that
15 the director appoint subagencies within the county. Upon
16 authorization of the director, the auditor shall (~~advertise a~~
17 ~~request for proposals and use the process for soliciting vendors~~
18 ~~under RCW 39.04.190(2), except that the provision requiring the~~

1 ~~contract to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder shall not~~
2 ~~apply))~~ use an open competitive process including, but not limited
3 to, a written business proposal and oral interview to determine
4 the qualifications of all interested applicants. The auditor shall
5 submit all proposals to the director, and shall recommend the
6 appointment of one or more subagents who have applied through the
7 (~~request for proposal~~) open competitive process. The director has
8 final appointment authority.

9 (3)(a) A county auditor who is appointed as an agent by the
10 department shall enter into a standard contract provided by the
11 director, developed with the advice of the title and registration
12 advisory committee.

13 (b) A subagent appointed under subsection (2) of this section
14 shall enter into a standard contract with the county auditor,
15 developed with the advice of the title and registration advisory
16 committee. The director shall provide the standard contract to
17 county auditors.

18 (c) The contracts provided for in (a) and (b) of this
19 subsection must contain at a minimum provisions that:

20 (i) Describe the responsibilities, and where applicable, the
21 liability, of each party relating to the service expectations and
22 levels, equipment to be supplied by the department, and equipment
23 maintenance;

24 (ii) Require the specific type of insurance or bonds so that
25 the state is protected against any loss of collected motor vehicle
26 tax revenues or loss of equipment;

27 (iii) Specify the amount of training that will be provided by
28 the state, the county auditor, or subagents;

29 (iv) Describe allowable costs that may be charged to vehicle
30 licensing activities as provided for in (d) of this subsection;

31 (v) Describe the causes and procedures for termination of the
32 contract, which may include mediation and binding arbitration.

33 (d) The department shall develop procedures that will
34 standardize and prescribe allowable costs that may be assigned to
35 vehicle licensing and vessel registration and title activities
36 performed by county auditors.

37 (e) The contracts may include any provision that the director

1 deems necessary to ensure acceptable service and the full
2 collection of vehicle and vessel tax revenues.

3 (f) The director may waive any provisions of the contract
4 deemed necessary in order to ensure that readily accessible
5 service is provided to the citizens of the state.

6 (4)(a) At any time any application is made to the director, the
7 county auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with
8 licenses, registration, or the right to operate any vehicle or
9 vessel upon the public highways or waters of this state, excluding
10 applicants already paying such fee under RCW 46.16.070 or
11 46.16.085, the applicant shall pay to the director, county
12 auditor, or other agent a fee of three dollars for each
13 application in addition to any other fees required by law.

14 (b) Counties that do not cover the expenses of vehicle
15 licensing and vessel registration and title activities may submit
16 to the department a request for cost-coverage moneys. The request
17 must be submitted on a form developed by the department. The
18 department shall develop procedures to verify whether a request is
19 reasonable. Payment shall be made on requests found to be allowable
20 from the licensing services account.

21 (c) Applicants for certificates of ownership, including
22 applicants paying fees under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, shall pay
23 to the director, county auditor, or other agent a fee of four
24 dollars in addition to any other fees required by law.

25 (d) The fees under (a) and (c) of this subsection, if paid to
26 the county auditor as agent of the director, or if paid to a
27 subagent of the county auditor, shall be paid to the county
28 treasurer in the same manner as other fees collected by the county
29 auditor and credited to the county current expense fund. If the fee
30 is paid to another agent of the director, the fee shall be used by
31 the agent to defray his or her expenses in handling the
32 application.

33 (5) A subagent shall collect a service fee of (a) seven dollars
34 and fifty cents for changes in a certificate of ownership, with or
35 without registration renewal, or verification of record and
36 preparation of an affidavit of lost title other than at the time
37 of the title application or transfer and (b) three dollars for

1 registration renewal only, issuing a transit permit, or any other
2 service under this section.

3 (6) If the fee is collected by the state patrol as agent for
4 the director, the fee so collected shall be certified to the state
5 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the state patrol highway
6 account. If the fee is collected by the department of
7 transportation as agent for the director, the fee shall be
8 certified to the state treasurer and deposited to the credit of
9 the motor vehicle fund. All such fees collected by the director or
10 branches of his office shall be certified to the state treasurer
11 and deposited to the credit of the highway safety fund.

12 (7) Any county revenues that exceed the cost of providing
13 vehicle licensing and vessel registration and title activities in
14 a county, calculated in accordance with the procedures in
15 subsection (3)(d) of this section, shall be expended as determined
16 by the county legislative authority during the process established
17 by law for adoption of county budgets.

18 (8) The director may adopt rules to implement this section.

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