
Transportation Committee

ESSB 5428

Brief Description: Allowing alternative means of renewing driver's licenses.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Highways & Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Finkbeiner, Haugen, Horn and Shin; by request of Department of Licensing).

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Allows individuals to renew their driver's license or identicard via mail, electronic commerce or other electronic means, under certain circumstances.
- Defines "Electronic commerce" to include transactions conducted over the Internet, by telephone or by other electronic means.

Hearing Date: 2/24/04

Staff: Jill Satran (786-7315).

Background:

Individuals renewing their driver's license or identicard must present their application to the Department of Licensing (DOL) in person. The exception to this requirement is that a driver's license may be extended or renewed by mail when the applicant is living out of the state at the time the license expires. A \$5 fee is assessed on mail-in renewals

Summary of Bill:

"Electronic commerce" is defined as including transactions conducted over the Internet, by telephone or by other electronic means.

A driver's license or identicard may be renewed by mail, electronic commerce or other electronic means, if the DOL establishes rules to allow these alternative renewal methods. A driver or identicard holder would be limited to one alternative renewal before having to renew in person and an identicard holder could only renew through an alternative method if his or her existing identicard includes a photograph.

A person whose license has expired, or will expire, while he or she is living outside the state may apply for renewal by electronic commerce, regardless of whether the applicant renewed his or her driver's license by mail or electronic commerce when it last expired, if the DOL establishes rules to permit such renewal by mail.

Persons applying to renew an instruction permit, an agricultural driving permit, or a commercial driver license must submit their applications to the DOL in person.

The DOL is required to establish procedures to ensure that individuals renewing by mail or electronic commerce would be given the opportunity to register to vote. The DOL's authority to issue drivers' licenses and indenticards by alternative methods is subject to funding being provided by June 30, 2004 in the omnibus transportation appropriations act. The DOL is authorized to accept credit card payment for drivers' licenses and indenticards.

The \$5 fee for mail-in renewals and the exam required of individuals returning to the state who have renewed by mail are both eliminated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.