
**Criminal Justice & Corrections
Committee**

SSB 6676

Brief Description: Prohibiting fraudulent filings of vehicle reports of sale.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, Kline, Mulliken, Fairley and Rasmussen).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Creates the crime of fraudulent filing of a vehicle report of sale when a person files a vehicle report of sale without the knowledge of the transferee.
- Make the crime of fraudulent filing of a vehicle report an unranked felony.

Hearing Date: 2/23/06

Staff: Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

Background:

Washington law requires submission of a report of sale by any person or business that transfers their interest in a Washington titled vehicle to anyone else. Transferring interest in a vehicle includes selling, gifting, trading, privately or into a dealer, or disposing of the vehicle. A properly completed report of sale releases the seller from personal liability for vehicle towing and storage charges if the vehicle is abandoned or towed after the sale.

A purchaser or transferee of a vehicle is required to make application to transfer the certificate of ownership and license registration within 15 days after the date of delivery of the vehicle. After the 15-day period, he or she will be assessed a \$25 penalty on the 16th day and a \$2 penalty for each additional day thereafter, not to exceed \$100. This penalty may be waived when an application for transfer is delayed for reasons beyond the control of the purchaser.

Summary of Bill:

A person who files a vehicle report of sale without the knowledge of the transferee is guilty of fraudulent filing of a vehicle report of sale. If the unknowing transferee, or victim, incurred damages in an amount less than \$250, the offender is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If the monetary damage to the victim is more than \$250 but less than \$1,500, the offender is guilty of an

unranked class C felony. Fraudulent filing of a vehicle report of sale is an unranked class B felony if the victim incurred damages in an amount greater than \$1,500.

The penalty for delay of application of transfer will be waived if the transferee had no knowledge of the filing of the vehicle report of sale and signs an affidavit to that fact. When a transferee had no knowledge of the filing of the vehicle report of sale, he or she is relieved of civil or criminal liability for the operation of the vehicle and liability is transferred to the seller shown on the report of sale.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available.

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