
SENATE BILL 5860

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Swecker and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle licensing fees; amending RCW 46.01.140,
2 46.16.085, 46.16.135, 46.68.030, and 46.68.035; reenacting and amending
3 RCW 46.16.0621 and 46.16.070; creating a new section; and repealing RCW
4 46.16.071.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.01.140 and 2003 c 370 s 3 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

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

15 (2) A county auditor appointed by the director may request that the
16 director appoint subagencies within the county.

17 (a) Upon authorization of the director, the auditor shall use an
18 open competitive process including, but not limited to, a written

1 business proposal and oral interview to determine the qualifications of
2 all interested applicants.

3 (b) A subagent may recommend a successor who is either the
4 subagent's sibling, spouse, or child, or a subagency employee, as long
5 as the recommended successor participates in the open, competitive
6 process used to select an applicant. In making successor
7 recommendation and appointment determinations, the following provisions
8 apply:

9 (i) If a subagency is held by a partnership or corporate entity,
10 the nomination must be submitted on behalf of, and agreed to by, all
11 partners or corporate officers.

12 (ii) No subagent may receive any direct or indirect compensation or
13 remuneration from any party or entity in recognition of a successor
14 nomination. A subagent may not receive any financial benefit from the
15 transfer or termination of an appointment.

16 (iii) (a) and (b) of this subsection are intended to assist in the
17 efficient transfer of appointments in order to minimize public
18 inconvenience. They do not create a proprietary or property interest
19 in the appointment.

20 (c) The auditor shall submit all proposals to the director, and
21 shall recommend the appointment of one or more subagents who have
22 applied through the open competitive process. The auditor shall
23 include in his or her recommendation to the director, not only the name
24 of the successor who is a relative or employee, if applicable and if
25 otherwise qualified, but also the name of one other applicant who is
26 qualified and was chosen through the open competitive process. The
27 director has final appointment authority.

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

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

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

1 (i) Describe the responsibilities, and where applicable, the
2 liability, of each party relating to the service expectations and
3 levels, equipment to be supplied by the department, and equipment
4 maintenance;

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

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

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

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

14 (d) The department shall develop procedures that will standardize
15 and prescribe allowable costs that may be assigned to vehicle licensing
16 and vessel registration and title activities performed by county
17 auditors.

18 (e) The contracts may include any provision that the director deems
19 necessary to ensure acceptable service and the full collection of
20 vehicle and vessel tax revenues.

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

24 (4)(a) At any time any application is made to the director, the
25 county auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with
26 licenses, registration, or the right to operate any vehicle or vessel
27 upon the public highways or waters of this state, (~~excluding~~
28 ~~applicants already paying such fee under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085,~~)
29 the applicant shall pay to the director, county auditor, or other agent
30 a fee of three dollars for each application in addition to any other
31 fees required by law.

32 (b) Counties that do not cover the expenses of vehicle licensing
33 and vessel registration and title activities may submit to the
34 department a request for cost-coverage moneys. The request must be
35 submitted on a form developed by the department. The department shall
36 develop procedures to verify whether a request is reasonable. Payment
37 shall be made on requests found to be allowable from the licensing
38 services account.

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

5 (d) The fees under (a) and (c) of this subsection, if paid to the
6 county auditor as agent of the director, or if paid to a subagent of
7 the county auditor, shall be paid to the county treasurer in the same
8 manner as other fees collected by the county auditor and credited to
9 the county current expense fund. If the fee is paid to another agent
10 of the director, the fee shall be used by the agent to defray his or
11 her expenses in handling the application.

12 (e) Applicants required to pay the three-dollar fee established
13 under (a) of this subsection, except those applicants required to be
14 licensed under RCW 46.16.070 and 46.16.085, must pay an additional
15 seventy-five cents, which must be collected and remitted to the state
16 treasurer and distributed as follows:

17 (i) Fifty cents must be deposited into the department of licensing
18 services account of the motor vehicle fund and must be used for agent
19 and subagent support, which is to include but not be limited to the
20 replacement of department-owned equipment in the possession of agents
21 and subagents.

22 (ii) Twenty-five cents must be deposited into the license plate
23 technology account created under RCW 46.16.685.

24 (5) A subagent shall collect a service fee of (a) eight dollars and
25 fifty cents for changes in a certificate of ownership, with or without
26 registration renewal, or verification of record and preparation of an
27 affidavit of lost title other than at the time of the title application
28 or transfer and (b) three dollars and fifty cents for registration
29 renewal only, issuing a transit permit, or any other service under this
30 section.

31 (6) If the fee is collected by the state patrol as agent for the
32 director, the fee so collected shall be certified to the state
33 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the state patrol highway
34 account. If the fee is collected by the department of transportation
35 as agent for the director, the fee shall be certified to the state
36 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. All
37 such fees collected by the director or branches of his office shall be

1 certified to the state treasurer and deposited to the credit of the
2 highway safety fund.

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

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

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.0621 and 2003 c 1 s 2 and 2002 c 352 s 7 are
11 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

12 ~~((1) License tab fees are required to be \$30 per year for motor
13 vehicles, regardless of year, value, make, or model.~~

14 ~~(2) For the purposes of this section, "license tab fees" are
15 defined as the general fees paid annually for licensing motor vehicles
16 and trailers as defined in RCW 46.04.620 and 46.04.623, including cars,
17 sport utility vehicles, motorcycles, and motor homes. Trailers
18 licensed under RCW 46.16.068 or 46.16.085 and campers licensed under
19 RCW 46.16.505 are not required to pay license tab fees under this
20 section.)~~ (1) The annual vehicle licensing fee for motor vehicles and
21 trailers, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, shall
22 be based on the scale weight set forth in schedule B provided in RCW
23 46.16.070. The department shall rely on the vehicle empty scale
24 weights as provided by vehicle manufacturers, or other sources defined
25 by the department, to determine the weight of each vehicle. The
26 department shall adopt rules for determining weight for vehicles
27 without manufacturer empty scale weights.

28 (2) When the scale weight of a motor home is 6,667 pounds or
29 greater, the scale weight shall be multiplied by one hundred fifty
30 percent to determine the annual vehicle licensing fee.

31 (3) If the resultant weight according to this section is not listed
32 in RCW 46.16.070, it shall be increased to the next higher weight
33 pursuant to chapter 46.44 RCW.

34 (4) Trailers licensed under RCW 46.16.068 or 46.16.085 are not
35 required to pay annual fees under this section. Private use trailers
36 of two thousand pounds scale weight or less are subject to a vehicle

1 licensing fee of fifteen dollars. This fee shall not apply to trailers
2 held for rental to the public or used in any commercial or business
3 endeavor.

4 (5) Proceeds from the fees collected under this section shall be
5 distributed in accordance with RCW 46.68.035.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.070 and 2003 c 361 s 201 and 2003 c 1 s 3 are
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) In lieu of all other vehicle licensing fees, unless
9 specifically exempt, and in addition to the mileage fees prescribed for
10 buses and stages in RCW 46.16.125, there shall be paid and collected
11 annually for each truck, motor truck, truck tractor, road tractor,
12 tractor, bus, auto stage, or for hire vehicle with seating capacity of
13 more than six, based upon the declared combined gross weight or
14 declared gross weight under chapter 46.44 RCW, the following licensing
15 fees by ~~((such gross))~~ weight:

16

17	((DECLARED GROSS)) WEIGHT	SCHEDULE A	SCHEDULE B
18	4,000 lbs.	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
19	6,000 lbs.	\$ ((30.00))	\$ ((30.00))
20		<u>40.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>
21	8,000 lbs.	\$ ((30.00))	\$ ((30.00))
22		<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
23	10,000 lbs.	\$ 62.00	\$ 62.00
24	12,000 lbs.	\$ 79.00	\$ 79.00
25	14,000 lbs.	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
26	16,000 lbs.	\$ 102.00	\$ 102.00
27	18,000 lbs.	\$ 154.00	\$ 154.00
28	20,000 lbs.	\$ 171.00	\$ 171.00
29	22,000 lbs.	\$ 185.00	\$ 185.00
30	24,000 lbs.	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
31	26,000 lbs.	\$ 211.00	\$ 211.00
32	28,000 lbs.	\$ 249.00	\$ 249.00
33	30,000 lbs.	\$ 287.00	\$ 287.00
34	32,000 lbs.	\$ 346.00	\$ 346.00
35	34,000 lbs.	\$ 368.00	\$ 368.00
36	36,000 lbs.	\$ 399.00	\$ 399.00
37	38,000 lbs.	\$ 438.00	\$ 438.00
38	40,000 lbs.	\$ 501.00	\$ 501.00

1	42,000 lbs.	\$ 521.00	\$ 611.00
2	44,000 lbs.	\$ 532.00	\$ 622.00
3	46,000 lbs.	\$ 572.00	\$ 662.00
4	48,000 lbs.	\$ 596.00	\$ 686.00
5	50,000 lbs.	\$ 647.00	\$ 737.00
6	52,000 lbs.	\$ 680.00	\$ 770.00
7	54,000 lbs.	\$ 734.00	\$ 824.00
8	56,000 lbs.	\$ 775.00	\$ 865.00
9	58,000 lbs.	\$ 806.00	\$ 896.00
10	60,000 lbs.	\$ 859.00	\$ 949.00
11	62,000 lbs.	\$ 921.00	\$ 1,011.00
12	64,000 lbs.	\$ 941.00	\$ 1,031.00
13	66,000 lbs.	\$ 1,048.00	\$ 1,138.00
14	68,000 lbs.	\$ 1,093.00	\$ 1,183.00
15	70,000 lbs.	\$ 1,177.00	\$ 1,267.00
16	72,000 lbs.	\$ 1,259.00	\$ 1,349.00
17	74,000 lbs.	\$ 1,368.00	\$ 1,458.00
18	76,000 lbs.	\$ 1,478.00	\$ 1,568.00
19	78,000 lbs.	\$ 1,614.00	\$ 1,704.00
20	80,000 lbs.	\$ 1,742.00	\$ 1,832.00
21	82,000 lbs.	\$ 1,863.00	\$ 1,953.00
22	84,000 lbs.	\$ 1,983.00	\$ 2,073.00
23	86,000 lbs.	\$ 2,104.00	\$ 2,194.00
24	88,000 lbs.	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 2,315.00
25	90,000 lbs.	\$ 2,346.00	\$ 2,436.00
26	92,000 lbs.	\$ 2,466.00	\$ 2,556.00
27	94,000 lbs.	\$ 2,587.00	\$ 2,677.00
28	96,000 lbs.	\$ 2,708.00	\$ 2,798.00
29	98,000 lbs.	\$ 2,829.00	\$ 2,919.00
30	100,000 lbs.	\$ 2,949.00	\$ 3,039.00
31	102,000 lbs.	\$ 3,070.00	\$ 3,160.00
32	104,000 lbs.	\$ 3,191.00	\$ 3,281.00
33	105,500 lbs.	\$ 3,312.00	\$ 3,402.00

34 Schedule A less two dollars applies to vehicles either used
35 exclusively for hauling logs or that do not tow trailers. Schedule B
36 less two dollars applies to vehicles that tow trailers and are not
37 covered under Schedule A.

38 Every truck, motor truck, truck tractor, and tractor exceeding
39 6,000 pounds empty scale weight registered under chapter 46.16, 46.87,
40 or 46.88 RCW shall be licensed for not less than one hundred fifty
41 percent of its empty weight unless the amount would be in excess of the
42 legal limits prescribed for such a vehicle in RCW 46.44.041 or
43 46.44.042, in which event the vehicle shall be licensed for the maximum

1 weight authorized for such a vehicle or unless the vehicle is used only
2 for the purpose of transporting any well drilling machine, air
3 compressor, rock crusher, conveyor, hoist, donkey engine, cook house,
4 tool house, bunk house, or similar machine or structure attached to or
5 made a part of such vehicle.

6 The following provisions apply when increasing gross or combined
7 gross weight for a vehicle licensed under this section:

8 (a) The new license fee will be one-twelfth of the fee listed above
9 for the new gross weight, multiplied by the number of months remaining
10 in the period for which licensing fees have been paid, including the
11 month in which the new gross weight is effective.

12 (b) Upon surrender of the current certificate of registration or
13 cab card, the new licensing fees due shall be reduced by the amount of
14 the licensing fees previously paid for the same period for which new
15 fees are being charged.

16 (2) The proceeds from the fees collected under subsection (1) of
17 this section shall be distributed in accordance with RCW 46.68.035.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16.085 and 1991 c 163 s 3 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 In lieu of all other licensing fees, an annual license fee of
21 (~~thirty-six~~) thirty-four dollars shall be collected in addition to
22 the excise tax prescribed in chapter 82.44 RCW for: (1) Each trailer
23 and semitrailer (~~(not subject to the license fee under RCW 46.16.065 or~~
24 ~~the capacity fees under RCW 46.16.080)~~); (2) every pole trailer. The
25 proceeds from this fee shall be distributed in accordance with RCW
26 46.68.035. This section does not pertain to travel trailers or
27 personal use trailers that are not used for commercial purposes or
28 owned by commercial enterprises.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.16.135 and 1986 c 18 s 12 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 The annual vehicle licensing fees as provided in RCW 46.16.070 for
32 any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, except motor homes,
33 having a declared gross weight in excess of twelve thousand pounds may
34 be paid for any full registration month or months at one-twelfth of the
35 usual annual fee plus two dollars, this sum to be multiplied by the

1 number of full months for which the fees are paid if for less than a
2 full year. An additional fee of two dollars shall be collected each
3 time a license fee is paid.

4 Operation of a vehicle licensed under the provisions of this
5 section by any person upon the public highways after the expiration of
6 the monthly license is a traffic infraction, and in addition the person
7 shall be required to pay a license fee for the vehicle involved
8 covering an entire registration year's operation, less the fees for any
9 registration month or months of the registration year already paid.
10 If, within five days, no license fee for a full registration year has
11 been paid as required aforesaid, the Washington state patrol, county
12 sheriff, or city police shall impound such vehicle in such manner as
13 may be directed for such cases by the chief of the Washington state
14 patrol, until such requirement is met.

15 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.68.030 and 2002 c 352 s 22 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 Except (~~for proceeds from fees for vehicle licensing for vehicles~~
18 ~~paying such fees under RCW 46.16.070 and 46.16.085, and~~) as otherwise
19 provided for in chapter 46.16 RCW, all fees received by the director
20 for vehicle licenses under the provisions of chapter 46.16 RCW shall be
21 forwarded to the state treasurer, accompanied by a proper identifying
22 detailed report, and be deposited to the credit of the motor vehicle
23 (~~fund, except that the proceeds from the vehicle license fee and~~
24 ~~renewal license fee shall be deposited by the state treasurer as~~
25 ~~hereinafter provided. After July 1, 2002, \$20.35 of each original or~~
26 ~~renewal license fee must be deposited in the state patrol highway~~
27 ~~account in the motor vehicle fund, hereby created. Vehicle license~~
28 ~~fees, renewal license fees, and all other funds in the state patrol~~
29 ~~highway account shall be for the sole use of the Washington state~~
30 ~~patrol for highway activities of the Washington state patrol, subject~~
31 ~~to proper appropriations and reappropriations therefor. \$2.02 of each~~
32 ~~original vehicle license fee and \$0.93 of each renewal license fee~~
33 ~~shall be deposited each biennium in the Puget Sound ferry operations~~
34 ~~account. Any remaining amounts of vehicle license fees and renewal~~
35 ~~license fees that are not distributed otherwise under this section must~~
36 ~~be deposited in the motor vehicle fund~~) account.

1 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.68.035 and 2003 c 361 s 202 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 All proceeds from (~~combined~~) vehicle licensing fees received by
4 the director for vehicles licensed under RCW 46.16.0621, 46.16.070, and
5 46.16.085 shall be forwarded to the state treasurer to be distributed
6 into accounts according to the following method:

7 (1) (~~The sum of two dollars for each vehicle shall be deposited~~
8 ~~into the multimodal transportation account, except that for each~~
9 ~~vehicle registered by a county auditor or agent to a county auditor~~
10 ~~pursuant to RCW 46.01.140, the sum of two dollars shall be credited to~~
11 ~~the current county expense fund.~~

12 ~~(2) The remainder shall be distributed as follows:~~

13 ~~(a) 21.963 percent shall be deposited into the state patrol highway~~
14 ~~account of the motor vehicle fund;~~

15 ~~(b) 1.411)~~ 2.309 percent shall be deposited into the Puget Sound
16 ferry operations account of the motor vehicle fund;

17 ~~((c) 7.240))~~ (2) 3.269 percent shall be deposited into the
18 transportation 2003 account (nickel account); and

19 ~~((d))~~ (3) The remaining proceeds shall be deposited into the
20 motor vehicle fund.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.16.071 (Additional fees) and 1996 c
22 315 s 4 are each repealed.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act applies to vehicle registrations
24 that are due or become due on or after January 1, 2006.

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