
HOUSE BILL 3370

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunn, McCune, McDonald, Schindler, Ahern, Crouse, and Campbell

Read first time 02/15/08. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting senior citizens from certain licensing
2 fees for motor homes; amending RCW 46.01.140, 46.16.063, 46.16.237,
3 46.16.270, and 46.17.020; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.01.140 and 2005 c 343 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

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

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

16 (a) Upon authorization of the director, the auditor shall use an
17 open competitive process including, but not limited to, a written
18 business proposal and oral interview to determine the qualifications of
19 all interested applicants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (i) Describe the responsibilities, and where applicable, the
37 liability, of each party relating to the service expectations and

1 levels, equipment to be supplied by the department, and equipment
2 maintenance;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (4)(a) At any time any application is made to the director, the
23 county auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with
24 licenses, registration, or the right to operate any vehicle or vessel
25 upon the public highways or waters of this state, excluding applicants
26 already paying such fee under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, the applicant
27 shall pay to the director, county auditor, or other agent a fee of
28 three dollars for each application in addition to any other fees
29 required by law. Any applicant who is sixty-five years of age or older
30 is exempt from the fee imposed under this subsection on an application
31 for any motor home for which the applicant is the registered owner.

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, must pay an additional seventy-five
14 cents, which must be collected and remitted to the state treasurer and
15 distributed as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.063 and 1996 c 237 s 1 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) In addition to other fees for the licensing of vehicles there
11 shall be paid and collected annually for each camper, travel trailer,
12 and motor home as the same are defined in RCW 82.50.010 a fee of three
13 dollars to be deposited in the RV account of the motor vehicle fund.
14 Under RCW 43.135.055, the department of transportation may increase RV
15 account fees by a percentage that exceeds the fiscal growth factor.
16 After consultation with citizen representatives of the recreational
17 vehicle user community, the department of transportation may implement
18 RV account fee adjustments no more than once every four years. RV
19 account fee adjustments must be preceded by evaluation of the following
20 factors: Maintenance of a self-supporting program, levels of service
21 at existing RV sanitary disposal facilities, identified needs for
22 improved RV service at safety rest areas statewide, sewage treatment
23 costs, and inflation. If the department chooses to adjust the RV
24 account fee, it shall notify the department of licensing six months
25 before implementation of the fee increase. Adjustments in the RV
26 account fee must be in increments of no more than fifty cents per
27 biennium.

28 (2) Any individual who is sixty-five years of age or older is
29 exempt from the RV account fee imposed under this section on a motor
30 home for which the individual is the registered owner.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.237 and 2005 c 314 s 301 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) All vehicle license number plates issued after January 1, 1968,
34 or such earlier date as the director may prescribe with respect to
35 plates issued in any county, shall be treated with fully reflectorized
36 materials designed to increase the visibility and legibility of such

1 plates at night. In addition to all other fees prescribed by law,
2 there shall be paid and collected for each vehicle license number plate
3 treated with such materials, the sum of two dollars and for each set of
4 two plates, the sum of four dollars. However, one plate is available
5 only to those vehicles that by law require only one plate. Such fees
6 shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund.

7 (2) Any individual who is sixty-five years of age or older is
8 exempt from the fee imposed under this section on a plate or plates for
9 a motor home for which the individual is the registered owner.

10 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16.270 and 2005 c 314 s 302 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 The total replacement plate fee shall be deposited in the motor
13 vehicle fund.

14 Upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of one or both of the
15 vehicle license number plates issued for any vehicle where more than
16 one plate was originally issued or where one or both have become so
17 illegible or in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish, or
18 upon the owner's option, the owner of the vehicle shall make
19 application for new vehicle license number plates upon a form furnished
20 by the director. The application shall be filed with the director or
21 the director's authorized agent, accompanied by the certificate of
22 license registration of the vehicle and a fee in the amount of ten
23 dollars per plate, whereupon the director, or the director's authorized
24 agent, shall issue new vehicle license number plates to the applicant.
25 It shall be accompanied by a fee of two dollars for a new motorcycle
26 license number plate. In the event the director has issued license
27 period tabs or a windshield emblem instead of vehicle license number
28 plates, and upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of the tabs or
29 windshield emblem, application shall be made on a form provided by the
30 director and in the same manner as above described, and shall be
31 accompanied by a fee of one dollar for each pair of tabs or for each
32 windshield emblem, whereupon the director shall issue to the applicant
33 a duplicate pair of tabs, year tabs, and when necessary month tabs or
34 a windshield emblem to replace those lost, defaced, or destroyed. For
35 vehicles owned, rented, or leased by the state of Washington or by any
36 county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision of
37 the state of Washington or United States government, or owned or leased

1 by the governing body of an Indian tribe as defined in RCW 46.16.020,
2 a fee shall be charged for replacement of a vehicle license number
3 plate only to the extent required by the provisions of RCW 46.16.020,
4 46.16.237, and 46.01.140. For vehicles owned, rented, or leased by
5 foreign countries or international bodies to which the United States
6 government is a signatory by treaty, the payment of any fee for the
7 replacement of a vehicle license number plate shall not be required.
8 Any applicant who is sixty-five years of age or older is exempt from
9 the fee imposed under this subsection on a plate or plates for any
10 motor home for which the applicant is the registered owner.

11 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.17.020 and 2005 c 314 s 202 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) In addition to any other fees or charges, there shall be paid
14 and collected annually for motor homes a vehicle weight fee of seventy-
15 five dollars. This fee is due at the time of initial and renewal of
16 vehicle registration. The fee collected under this section shall be
17 deposited in the multimodal transportation account.

18 (2) Any individual who is sixty-five years of age or older is
19 exempt from the fee imposed by this section on a motor home for which
20 the individual is the registered owner.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2008.

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