
HOUSE BILL 1779

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Roach, Wood, Lias, and Quall

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying rental car company charges,
2 surcharges, and fees to be included in rental car agreements; adding a
3 new section to chapter 48.115 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there are car
6 rental agreements entered into between car rental companies and their
7 customers that include fees in addition to the rental rate and taxes.
8 It is the intent of the legislature that such fees be clearly and
9 separately stated in such agreements.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.115 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) A rental car company may include separately stated surcharges,
13 fees, or charges in a rental agreement, which may include, but may not
14 be in any way limited to, vehicle license cost recovery fees, airport
15 access fees, airport concession fees, and all applicable taxes.

16 (2) If a rental car company includes a vehicle license cost
17 recovery fee as a separately stated charge in a rental transaction, the
18 amount of the fee must represent the rental car company's good faith

1 estimate of the rental car company's daily charge as calculated by the
2 rental car company to recover its actual total annual rental car
3 titling, registration, plating, and inspection costs.

4 (3) If the total amount of the vehicle license cost recovery fees
5 collected by a rental car company under this section in any calendar
6 year exceeds the rental car company's actual costs to license, title,
7 register, and plate rental cars and to have such rental cars inspected
8 for that calendar year, the rental car company shall do both of the
9 following:

10 (a) Retain the excess amount; and

11 (b) Adjust the estimated average per vehicle titling, licensing,
12 plating, inspecting, and registration charge for the following calendar
13 year by a corresponding amount.

14 (4) Nothing in this section prevents a rental car company from
15 making adjustments to the vehicle license cost recovery fee during the
16 calendar year.

17 (5) The following definition applies to this section unless the
18 context clearly requires otherwise: "Vehicle license cost recovery
19 fee" means a charge that may be separately stated and charged on the
20 rental contract in a car rental transaction originating in Washington
21 state to recover costs incurred by a rental car company to license,
22 title, register, plate, and inspect rental cars.

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