
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2198

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Hudgins, Hinkle, Van De Wege, Hasegawa, Takko, Jacks, Appleton, Williams, Chase, Eddy, Morris, Roberts, and White)

READ FIRST TIME 03/03/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the availability of child restraint
2 systems by rental car businesses; amending RCW 46.87.023; and providing
3 an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.87.023 and 1994 c 227 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Rental car businesses must register with the department of
8 licensing. This registration must be renewed annually by the rental
9 car business.

10 (2) Rental cars must be titled and registered under the provisions
11 of chapters 46.12 and 46.16 RCW. The vehicle must be identified at the
12 time of application with the rental car company business number issued
13 by the department.

14 (3) Use of rental cars is restricted to the rental customer unless
15 otherwise provided by rule.

16 (4) The department may suspend or cancel the exemptions, benefits,
17 or privileges granted under this section to a rental car business that
18 violates the laws of this state relating to the operation or
19 registration of vehicles or rules lawfully adopted thereunder. The

1 department may initiate and conduct audits, investigations, and
2 enforcement actions as may be reasonably necessary for administering
3 this section.

4 (5) Rental car businesses must at all times have a sufficient
5 number of child restraint systems, as defined in RCW 46.61.687,
6 available to meet the reasonably expected demand by rental car
7 customers. The requirement for the availability of a sufficient number
8 of child restraint systems may be met through contractual agreements
9 between rental car businesses regarding the shared use of child
10 restraint systems, so long as the child restraint systems are provided
11 to rental car customers in a timely manner. If a child restraint
12 system has been reserved and is not available in a timely manner, as
13 determined by the rental car customer, but in no case less than one
14 hour after the arrival of the customer at the location where the
15 customer receives the vehicle or vehicles, (a) the customer may cancel
16 any reservation or other agreement for the rental of the vehicle or
17 vehicles, (b) any costs or penalties associated with the cancellation
18 are void, and (c) the customer is entitled to a full refund of any
19 costs associated with the rental of the vehicle or vehicles.

20 (6) The department shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to
21 administer and enforce the provisions of this section.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2010.

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