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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5251

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Swecker, Sheldon, Hobbs, and White)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/12.

1 AN ACT Relating to electric vehicle license fees; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 46.17 RCW; creating new sections; and providing a  
3 contingent expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the motor  
6 vehicle fuel tax is the primary source of funding for the state's  
7 transportation system. As the state's fleet changes from motor  
8 vehicles powered by traditional sources, such as gasoline and diesel,  
9 to those powered by electricity, the ability of the state to fund the  
10 maintenance and preservation of the transportation system is  
11 compromised. In order to mitigate the impacts of the diminishing motor  
12 vehicle fuel tax, and to create a system where each driver pays for a  
13 fair portion of his or her use of the road, an additional fee is  
14 imposed on electric vehicles.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.17 RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) Before accepting an application for an annual vehicle  
18 registration renewal for an electric vehicle that uses propulsion units

1 powered solely by electricity, the department, county auditor or other  
2 agent, or subagent appointed by the director must require the applicant  
3 to pay a one hundred dollar fee in addition to any other fees and taxes  
4 required by law. The one hundred dollar fee is due only at the time of  
5 annual registration renewal.

6 (2) This section only applies to:

7 (a) A vehicle that is designed to have the capability to drive at  
8 a speed of more than thirty-five miles per hour; and

9 (b) An annual vehicle registration renewal that is due on or after  
10 February 1, 2013.

11 (3)(a) The fee under this section is imposed to provide funds to  
12 mitigate the impact of vehicles on state roads and highways, and is  
13 separate and distinct from other vehicle license fees. Proceeds from  
14 the fee must be used for highway purposes, and must be deposited in the  
15 motor vehicle fund created in RCW 46.68.070, subject to (b) of this  
16 subsection.

17 (b) If in any year the amount of proceeds from the fee collected  
18 under this section exceeds one million dollars, the excess amount over  
19 one million dollars must be deposited as follows:

20 (i) Seventy percent to the motor vehicle fund created in RCW  
21 46.68.070;

22 (ii) Fifteen percent to the transportation improvement account  
23 created in RCW 47.26.084; and

24 (iii) Fifteen percent to the rural arterial trust account created  
25 in RCW 36.79.020.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act expires on the  
27 effective date of legislation enacted by the legislature that imposes  
28 a vehicle miles traveled fee or tax.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of licensing must provide  
30 written notice of the expiration date of section 2 of this act to  
31 affected parties, the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the  
32 secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as  
33 deemed appropriate by the department.

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