
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2372

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Klippert and Clibborn)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing flexibility in penalty amounts for
2 failure to register vehicles; reenacting and amending RCW 46.16A.030;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16A.030 and 2011 c 171 s 43 and 2011 c 96 s 31 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) Vehicles must be registered as required by this chapter and
8 must display license plates or decals assigned by the department.

9 (2) It is unlawful for a person to operate any vehicle on a public
10 highway of this state without having in full force and effect a current
11 and proper vehicle registration and displaying license plates on the
12 vehicle.

13 (3) Vehicle license plates or registration certificates, whether
14 original issues or duplicates, may not be issued or furnished by the
15 department until the applicant makes satisfactory application for a
16 certificate of title or presents satisfactory evidence that a
17 certificate of title covering the vehicle has been previously issued.

18 (4) Failure to make initial registration before operating a vehicle
19 on the public highways of this state is a traffic infraction. A person

1 committing this infraction must pay a fine of five hundred twenty-nine
2 dollars, which may ~~((not))~~ be suspended, deferred, or reduced. This
3 fine is in addition to any delinquent taxes and fees that must be
4 deposited and distributed in the same manner as if the taxes and fees
5 were properly paid in a timely fashion. The ~~((five hundred twenty-nine
6 dollar))~~ fine must be deposited into the vehicle licensing fraud
7 account created in the state treasury in RCW 46.68.250.

8 (5) Failure to renew an expired registration before operating a
9 vehicle on the public highways of this state is a traffic infraction.

10 (6) It is a gross misdemeanor for a resident, as identified in RCW
11 46.16A.140, to register a vehicle in another state, evading the payment
12 of any tax or vehicle license fee imposed in connection with
13 registration. It is punishable, in lieu of the fine in subsection (4)
14 of this section, as follows:

15 (a) For a first offense:

16 (i) Up to three hundred sixty-four days in the county jail;

17 (ii) Payment of a fine of five hundred twenty-nine dollars plus any
18 applicable assessments, which may ~~((not))~~ be suspended, deferred, or
19 reduced. The fine ~~((of five hundred twenty-nine dollars))~~ must be
20 deposited into the vehicle licensing fraud account created in the state
21 treasury in RCW 46.68.250;

22 (iii) A fine of one thousand dollars to be deposited into the
23 vehicle licensing fraud account created in the state treasury in RCW
24 46.68.250, which may ~~((not))~~ be suspended, deferred, or reduced; and

25 (iv) The delinquent taxes and fees, which must be deposited and
26 distributed in the same manner as if the taxes and fees were properly
27 paid in a timely fashion, and which may ~~((not))~~ be suspended, deferred,
28 or reduced;

29 (b) For a second or subsequent offense:

30 (i) Up to three hundred sixty-four days in the county jail;

31 (ii) Payment of a fine of five hundred twenty-nine dollars plus any
32 applicable assessments, which may ~~((not))~~ be suspended, deferred, or
33 reduced. The fine ~~((of five hundred twenty-nine dollars))~~ must be
34 deposited into the vehicle licensing fraud account created in the state
35 treasury in RCW 46.68.250;

36 (iii) A fine of five thousand dollars to be deposited into the
37 vehicle licensing fraud account created in the state treasury in RCW
38 46.68.250, which may ~~((not))~~ be suspended, deferred, or reduced; and

1 (iv) The amount of delinquent taxes and fees, which must be
2 deposited and distributed in the same manner as if the taxes and fees
3 were properly paid in a timely fashion, and which may (~~not~~) be
4 suspended, deferred, or reduced.

5 (7) A vehicle with an expired registration of more than forty-five
6 days parked on a public street may be impounded by a police officer
7 under RCW 46.55.113(2).

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By June 30, 2016, the administrative office
9 of the courts must report to the legislature on the results of the fine
10 changes in section 1, chapter . . ., Laws of 2014 (section 1 of this
11 act). The report must include whether enforcement or prosecution, or
12 both, along with distributions to the vehicle licensing fraud account,
13 increased or decreased due to the changes.

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