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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6120**

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**State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session**

**By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senator Mullet)**

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/16.

1            AN ACT Relating to providing a registration exemption for certain  
2 vessels; amending RCW 88.02.570 and 88.02.570; providing an effective  
3 date; and providing an expiration date.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 88.02.570 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 804 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7            Vessel registration is required under this chapter except for the  
8 following:

- 9            (1) A military vessel owned by the United States government;
- 10            (2) A public vessel owned by the United States government, unless  
11 the vessel is a type used for recreation;
- 12            (3) A vessel clearly identified as being:
- 13            (a) Owned by a state, county, or city; and
- 14            (b) Used primarily for governmental purposes;
- 15            (4) A vessel either (a) registered or numbered under the laws of  
16 a country other than the United States or (b) having a valid United  
17 States customs service cruising license issued pursuant to 19 C.F.R.  
18 Sec. 4.94. Either vessel is exempt from registration only for the  
19 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the  
20 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel in the

1 state under this subsection must obtain a vessel visitor permit as  
2 required under RCW 88.02.610;

3 (5) A vessel that is currently registered or numbered under the  
4 laws of the state of principal operation or that has been issued a  
5 valid number under federal law. However, either vessel must be  
6 registered in Washington state if the state of principal operation  
7 changes to Washington state by the sixty-first day after the vessel  
8 arrives in Washington state;

9 (6)(a) A vessel owned by a nonresident if:

10 (i) The vessel is located upon the waters of this state  
11 exclusively for repairs, alteration, or reconstruction, or any  
12 testing related to these services;

13 (ii) An employee of the facility providing these services is on  
14 board the vessel during any testing; and

15 (iii) The nonresident files an affidavit with the department of  
16 revenue by the sixty-first day verifying that the vessel is located  
17 upon the waters of this state for these services.

18 (b) The nonresident must continue to file an affidavit every  
19 sixty days thereafter, as long as the vessel is located upon the  
20 waters of this state exclusively for repairs, alteration,  
21 reconstruction, or testing;

22 (7) A vessel equipped with propulsion machinery of less than ten  
23 horsepower that:

24 (a) Is owned by the owner of a vessel for which a valid vessel  
25 number has been issued;

26 (b) Displays the number of that numbered vessel followed by the  
27 suffix "1" in the manner prescribed by the department; and

28 (c) Is used as a tender for direct transportation between the  
29 numbered vessel and the shore and for no other purpose;

30 (8) A vessel under sixteen feet in overall length that has no  
31 propulsion machinery of any type or that is not used on waters  
32 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas  
33 beyond the territorial seas for vessels owned in the United States  
34 and are powered by propulsion machinery of ten or less horsepower;

35 (9) A vessel with no propulsion machinery of any type for which  
36 the primary mode of propulsion is human power;

37 (10) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that has or is  
38 required to have a valid marine document as a vessel of the United  
39 States. A commercial vessel that the department of revenue determines  
40 has the external appearance of a vessel that would otherwise be

1 required to register under this chapter, must display decals issued  
2 annually by the department of revenue that indicate the vessel's  
3 exempt status;

4 (11) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that is owned by a  
5 resident of a country other than the United States;

6 (12) A vessel owned by a nonresident person brought into the  
7 state for use or enjoyment while temporarily within the state for not  
8 more than six months in any continuous twelve-month period that (a)  
9 is currently registered or numbered under the laws of the state of  
10 principal use or (b) has been issued a valid number under federal  
11 law. This type of vessel is exempt from registration only for the  
12 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the  
13 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel under  
14 this subsection must obtain a nonresident vessel permit as required  
15 under RCW 88.02.620;

16 (13) A vessel used in this state by a nonresident individual  
17 possessing a valid use permit issued under RCW 82.08.700 or  
18 82.12.700; (~~and~~)

19 (14) A vessel held for sale by any licensed dealer; and

20 (15) A vessel with propulsion machinery that draws two hundred  
21 fifty watts or less and propels the vessel no faster than ten miles  
22 per hour.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 88.02.570 and 2010 c 161 s 1018 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 Vessel registration is required under this chapter except for the  
26 following:

27 (1) A military vessel owned by the United States government;

28 (2) A public vessel owned by the United States government, unless  
29 the vessel is a type used for recreation;

30 (3) A vessel clearly identified as being:

31 (a) Owned by a state, county, or city; and

32 (b) Used primarily for governmental purposes;

33 (4) A vessel either (a) registered or numbered under the laws of  
34 a country other than the United States or (b) having a valid United  
35 States customs service cruising license issued pursuant to 19 C.F.R.  
36 Sec. 4.94. Either vessel is exempt from registration only for the  
37 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the  
38 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel in the

1 state under this subsection must obtain a vessel visitor permit as  
2 required under RCW 88.02.610;

3 (5) A vessel that is currently registered or numbered under the  
4 laws of the state of principal operation or that has been issued a  
5 valid number under federal law. However, either vessel must be  
6 registered in Washington state if the state of principal operation  
7 changes to Washington state by the sixty-first day after the vessel  
8 arrives in Washington state;

9 (6) A vessel owned by a nonresident if:

10 (a) The vessel is located upon the waters of this state  
11 exclusively for repairs, alteration, or reconstruction, or any  
12 testing related to these services;

13 (b) An employee of the facility providing these services is on  
14 board the vessel during any testing; and

15 (c) The nonresident files an affidavit with the department of  
16 revenue by the sixty-first day verifying that the vessel is located  
17 upon the waters of this state for these services.

18 The nonresident shall continue to file an affidavit every sixty  
19 days thereafter, as long as the vessel is located upon the waters of  
20 this state exclusively for repairs, alteration, reconstruction, or  
21 testing;

22 (7) A vessel equipped with propulsion machinery of less than ten  
23 horsepower that:

24 (a) Is owned by the owner of a vessel for which a valid vessel  
25 number has been issued;

26 (b) Displays the number of that numbered vessel followed by the  
27 suffix "1" in the manner prescribed by the department; and

28 (c) Is used as a tender for direct transportation between the  
29 numbered vessel and the shore and for no other purpose;

30 (8) A vessel under sixteen feet in overall length that has no  
31 propulsion machinery of any type or that is not used on waters  
32 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas  
33 beyond the territorial seas for vessels owned in the United States  
34 and are powered by propulsion machinery of ten or less horsepower;

35 (9) A vessel with no propulsion machinery of any type for which  
36 the primary mode of propulsion is human power;

37 (10) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that has or is  
38 required to have a valid marine document as a vessel of the United  
39 States. A commercial vessel that the department of revenue determines  
40 has the external appearance of a vessel that would otherwise be

1 required to register under this chapter, must display decals issued  
2 annually by the department of revenue that indicate the vessel's  
3 exempt status;

4 (11) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that is owned by a  
5 resident of a country other than the United States;

6 (12) A vessel owned by a nonresident natural person brought into  
7 the state for use or enjoyment while temporarily within the state for  
8 not more than six months in any continuous twelve-month period that  
9 (a) is currently registered or numbered under the laws of the state  
10 of principal use or (b) has been issued a valid number under federal  
11 law. This type of vessel is exempt from registration only for the  
12 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the  
13 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel under  
14 this subsection must obtain a nonresident vessel permit as required  
15 under RCW 88.02.620;

16 (13) A vessel used in this state by a nonresident individual  
17 possessing a valid use permit issued under RCW 82.08.700 or  
18 82.12.700; (~~and~~)

19 (14) A vessel held for sale by any licensed dealer; and

20 (15) A vessel with propulsion machinery that draws two hundred  
21 fifty watts or less and propels the vessel no faster than ten miles  
22 per hour.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Section 1 of this act expires July 1,  
24 2019.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,  
26 2019.

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