
SENATE BILL 6120

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 1st Special Session

By Senator Mullet

Read first time 05/11/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing a registration exemption for certain
2 vessels; and amending RCW 88.02.570.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 88.02.570 and 2010 c 161 s 1018 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

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

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

11 (3) A vessel clearly identified as being:

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

13 (b) Used primarily for governmental purposes;

14 (4) A vessel either (a) registered or numbered under the laws of
15 a country other than the United States or (b) having a valid United
16 States customs service cruising license issued pursuant to 19 C.F.R.
17 Sec. 4.94. Either vessel is exempt from registration only for the
18 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the
19 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel in the
20 state under this subsection must obtain a vessel visitor permit as
21 required under RCW 88.02.610;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (9) A vessel with propulsion machinery that draws two hundred
34 fifty watts or less and propels the vessel no faster than ten miles
35 per hour or no propulsion machinery of any type for which the primary
36 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.

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