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HOUSE BILL 1940

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Goodman, Orcutt, Springer, Klippert, Lovick, Orwall, Appleton, Hayes, Hargrove, Muri, Pollet, and Ormsby

Read first time 02/03/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to proof of financial responsibility before the  
2 issuance of vehicle registrations; amending RCW 46.16A.130,  
3 46.16A.110, 46.16A.040, and 46.30.040; prescribing penalties; and  
4 providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16A.130 and 2010 c 161 s 429 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall notify motor vehicle owners, in paper or  
9 electronic form, of the liability insurance requirements described in  
10 RCW 46.16A.110, 46.16A.040, and 46.30.020 through 46.30.040 at the  
11 time of issuance of an original motor vehicle registration and when  
12 the department sends a motor vehicle registration renewal notice.

13 (2) The department must not issue an original vehicle  
14 registration on or after July 1, 2018, or a renewal vehicle  
15 registration due on or after July 1, 2018, unless the applicant  
16 attests to having, and provides proof of meeting, the financial  
17 responsibility requirements for operating a motor vehicle as provided  
18 in RCW 46.30.020 through 46.30.040.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16A.110 and 2014 c 80 s 3 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1 (1) A registered owner or the registered owner's authorized  
2 representative must apply for a renewal vehicle registration to the  
3 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by  
4 the director on a form approved by the director. The application for  
5 a renewal vehicle registration must be accompanied by a draft, money  
6 order, certified bank check, or cash for all fees and taxes required  
7 by law for the application for a renewal vehicle registration. On or  
8 after July 1, 2018, the application, either in paper or electronic  
9 form, must include a field designating the applicant's liability  
10 insurance policy information.

11 (2)(a) When a vehicle changes ownership, the person taking  
12 ownership or his or her authorized representative must apply for a  
13 renewal vehicle registration as provided in subsection (1) of this  
14 section and, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, pay all  
15 the taxes and fees that are due at the time of registration renewal.  
16 For the purposes of this section, when a vehicle is sold to a vehicle  
17 dealer for resale, the application for a renewal registration need  
18 not be made until the vehicle is sold by the vehicle dealer.

19 (b) The person taking ownership or his or her authorized  
20 representative must be given credit for the portion of a motor  
21 vehicle excise tax, including the motor vehicle excise tax collected  
22 under RCW 81.104.160, that reflects the remaining period for which  
23 the tax was initially paid by the previous owner.

24 (3) An application and the fees and taxes for a renewal vehicle  
25 registration must be handled in the same manner as an original  
26 vehicle registration application. The registration does not need to  
27 show the name of the lien holder when the application for renewal  
28 vehicle registration becomes the renewal registration upon  
29 validation.

30 (4) A person expecting to be out of state during the normal  
31 renewal period of a vehicle registration may renew a vehicle  
32 registration and have license plates or tabs preissued by applying  
33 for a renewal as described in subsection (1) of this section. A  
34 vehicle registration may be renewed for the subsequent registration  
35 year up to eighteen months before the current expiration date and  
36 must be displayed from the date of issue or from the day of the  
37 expiration of the current registration year, whichever date is later.

38 (5) The department must reimburse its agents, including county  
39 auditors, for the costs associated with returning vehicle  
40 registration renewal applications that are submitted without proof of

1 financial responsibility as required in subsection (1) of this  
2 section.

3 (6) An application for a renewal vehicle registration is not  
4 required for those vehicles owned, rented, or leased by:

5 (a) The state of Washington, or by any county, city, town, school  
6 district, or other political subdivision of the state of Washington;  
7 or

8 (b) A governing body of an Indian tribe located within this state  
9 and recognized as a governmental entity by the United States  
10 department of the interior.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16A.040 and 2010 c 161 s 413 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1) An owner or the owner's authorized representative must apply  
14 for an original vehicle registration to the department, county  
15 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director on a  
16 form furnished by the department. The application must contain:

17 (a) A description of the vehicle, including its make, model,  
18 vehicle identification number, type of body, and power to be used;

19 (b) The name and address of the person who is the registered  
20 owner of the vehicle and, if the vehicle is subject to a security  
21 interest, the name and address of the secured party;

22 (c) Current proof of financial responsibility for the owner to  
23 operate a vehicle as required in RCW 46.30.020. The application,  
24 either in paper or electronic form, must also include a field  
25 designating the applicant's liability insurance policy information;

26 (d) The purpose for which the vehicle is to be used;

27 (~~(d)~~) (e) The licensed gross weight for the vehicle, which is:

28 (i) The adult seating capacity, including the operator, as  
29 provided for in RCW 46.16A.455(1) if the vehicle will be operated as  
30 a for hire vehicle or auto stage and has a seating capacity of more  
31 than six; or

32 (ii) The gross weight declared by the applicant as required in  
33 RCW 46.16A.455(2) if the vehicle will be operated as a motor truck,  
34 tractor, or truck tractor;

35 (~~(e)~~) (f) The empty scale weight of the vehicle; and

36 (~~(f)~~) (g) Other information that the department may require.

37 (2) The registered owner or the registered owner's authorized  
38 representative shall sign the application for an original vehicle

1 registration and certify that the statements on the application are  
2 true to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

3 (3) The application for an original vehicle registration must be  
4 accompanied by a draft, money order, certified bank check, or cash  
5 for all fees and taxes due for the application for an original  
6 vehicle registration.

7 (4) The department must reimburse its agents, including county  
8 auditors, for the costs associated with returning original vehicle  
9 registration applications that are submitted without proof of  
10 financial responsibility.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.30.040 and 1991 sp.s. c 25 s 2 are each amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 Any person who knowingly provides false evidence of financial  
14 responsibility to a law enforcement officer (~~(or)~~), to a court, or to  
15 the department on an application for an original vehicle registration  
16 or a renewal vehicle registration, including an expired or canceled  
17 insurance policy, bond, or certificate of deposit, is guilty of a  
18 misdemeanor.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

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