
HOUSE BILL 2278

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representative Wylie

Prefiled 12/24/19. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to off-road vehicle registrations; amending RCW
2 46.09.420, 46.09.442, 46.93.210, and 46.09.495; and prescribing
3 penalties.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.09.420 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 23 s 14 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 ORV registrations and decals are required under this chapter
8 except for the following:

9 (1) Off-road vehicles owned and operated by the United States,
10 another state, or a political subdivision of the United States or
11 another state.

12 (2) Off-road vehicles owned and operated by this state, a
13 municipality, or a political subdivision of this state or the
14 municipality.

15 (3) Off-road vehicles operated on and across agricultural and
16 timberlands owned, leased, or managed by the off-road vehicle owner
17 or operator or operator's employer.

18 (4) (a) Off-road vehicles owned by a resident of another state
19 that have a valid ORV use permit or vehicle registration issued in
20 accordance with the laws of the other state. This exemption applies

1 only to the extent that a similar exemption or privilege is granted
2 under the laws of that state.

3 (b) The exemption in (a) of this subsection does not apply to an
4 off-road vehicle owned by a resident of a state that borders
5 Washington and that does not impose a retail sales and use tax on the
6 sales or use of off-road vehicles.

7 (5) Off-road vehicles while being used for emergency management
8 purposes under the authority or direction of an appropriate agency
9 that engages in emergency management, as defined in RCW 46.09.310, or
10 search and rescue, as defined in RCW 38.52.010, or a law enforcement
11 agency as defined in RCW 16.52.011.

12 (6) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.16A RCW or, in the case
13 of nonresidents, vehicles validly registered for operation over
14 public highways in the jurisdiction of the owner's residence.

15 (7) Off-road vehicles operated by persons who, in good faith,
16 render emergency care or assistance with respect to an incident
17 involving off-road vehicles. Persons who operate off-road vehicles to
18 render such care, assistance, or advice are not liable for civil
19 damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such
20 care, assistance, or advice, other than acts or omissions
21 constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.09.442 and 2016 c 84 s 3 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (1) Any wheeled all-terrain vehicle operated within this state
25 must display a metal tag to be affixed to the rear of the wheeled
26 all-terrain vehicle. The initial metal tag must be issued with an
27 original off-road vehicle registration and upon payment of the
28 initial vehicle license fee under RCW 46.17.350(1)(s). The metal tag
29 must be replaced every seven years at a cost of two dollars. Revenue
30 from replacement metal tags must be deposited into the nonhighway and
31 off-road vehicle activities program account. The department must
32 design the metal tag, which must:

33 (a) Be the same size as a motorcycle license plate;

34 (b) Have the words "RESTRICTED VEHICLE" listed at the top of the
35 tag;

36 (c) Contain designated identification through a combination of
37 letters and numbers;

38 (d) Leave space at the bottom left corner of the tag for an off-
39 road tab issued under subsection (2) of this section; and

1 (e) Leave space at the bottom right corner of the tag for an on-
2 road tab, when required, issued under subsection (3) of this section.

3 (2) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b) of this section, a
4 person who operates a wheeled all-terrain vehicle must have a current
5 and proper off-road vehicle registration, with the appropriate off-
6 road tab, and pay the annual vehicle license fee as provided in RCW
7 46.17.350(1)(s), which must be deposited into the nonhighway and off-
8 road vehicle activities program account. The off-road tab must be
9 issued annually by the department upon payment of initial and renewal
10 vehicle license fees under RCW 46.17.350(1)(s).

11 (3) Except as provided in subsection (6)(a) of this section, a
12 person who operates a wheeled all-terrain vehicle upon a public
13 roadway must have a current and proper on-road vehicle registration,
14 with the appropriate on-road tab, which must be of a bright color
15 that can be seen from a reasonable distance, and pay the annual
16 vehicle license fee as provided in RCW 46.17.350(1)(r). The on-road
17 tab must be issued annually by the department upon payment of initial
18 and renewal vehicle license fees under RCW 46.17.350(1)(r).

19 (4) Beginning July 1, 2017, for purposes of subsection (3) of
20 this section, a special year tab issued pursuant to chapter 46.19 RCW
21 to a person with a disability may be displayed on a wheeled all-
22 terrain vehicle in lieu of an on-road tab.

23 (5) A wheeled all-terrain vehicle may not be registered for
24 commercial use.

25 (6)(a) A wheeled all-terrain vehicle registration and a metal tag
26 are not required under this chapter for a wheeled all-terrain vehicle
27 that meets the definition in RCW 46.09.310(19), is owned by a
28 resident of another state, and has a vehicle registration and metal
29 tag or license plate issued in accordance with the laws of the other
30 state allowing for on-road travel in that state. This exemption
31 applies only to the extent that: (i) A similar exemption or privilege
32 is granted under the laws of that state for wheeled all-terrain
33 vehicles registered in Washington, and (ii) the other state has
34 equipment requirements for on-road use that meet or exceed the
35 requirements listed in RCW 46.09.457. The department may publish on
36 its web site a list of states that meet the exemption requirements
37 under this subsection. The exemption in this subsection does not
38 apply to a wheeled all-terrain vehicle owned by a resident of a state
39 that borders Washington and that does not impose a retail sales and
40 use tax on the sales or use of wheeled all-terrain vehicles.

1 (b) Off-road operation in Washington state of a wheeled all-
2 terrain vehicle owned by a resident of another state and meeting the
3 definition in RCW 46.09.310(19) is governed (~~by~~) in the same manner
4 as for other off-road vehicles under RCW 46.09.420(4).

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.93.210 and 2017 c 218 s 4 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) By the first business day in February of each year, beginning
8 in 2018, motorsports vehicle manufacturers must report to the
9 department of licensing a listing of all motorsports vehicle
10 warranties for off-road vehicles under chapter 46.09 RCW and
11 snowmobiles under chapter 46.10 RCW sold to Washington residents by
12 out-of-state motorsports vehicle dealers in the previous calendar
13 year. The report must be transmitted such that the department
14 receives the listing no later than the first business day in
15 February. Failure to report a complete listing as required under this
16 subsection results in an administrative fine of one hundred dollars
17 for each day after the first business day in February that the
18 department has not received the report.

19 (2) The department of licensing shall examine the listing
20 reported in subsection (1) of this section to verify whether the
21 vehicles are properly registered in the state and shall transmit the
22 results of its analysis to the department of revenue. Beginning in
23 2018, and to the extent that it has received the listing required
24 under subsection (1) of this section, the department and the
25 department of revenue shall jointly notify by certified mail from the
26 United States postal service, with return receipt requested, by the
27 end of February of each year, the purchasers of the warranties of the
28 off-road vehicles and snowmobiles that are not properly registered in
29 the state of the owner's obligations under state law regarding
30 vehicle titling, registration, and use tax payment, as well as of the
31 penalties for failure to comply with the law.

32 (3) Fines received under this section must be paid into the state
33 treasury and credited to the nonhighway and off-road vehicle
34 activities program account under RCW 46.09.510 and to the snowmobile
35 account under RCW 46.68.350. The state treasurer must apportion the
36 fines between the accounts according to the pro rata share of the
37 number of off-road vehicle and snowmobile registrations in the
38 previous calendar year. The department must provide the state
39 treasurer with the information needed to determine the apportionment.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.09.495 and 2017 c 218 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) It is a gross misdemeanor, punishable as provided under
4 chapter 9A.20 RCW, for a resident, as identified in RCW 46.16A.140,
5 to (~~knowingly~~):

6 (a) Knowingly fail to apply for a Washington state certificate of
7 title for, or to knowingly fail to register, an off-road vehicle
8 within fifteen days of receiving or refusing a notice issued by the
9 department under RCW 46.93.210; or

10 (b) Register an off-road vehicle in another state to avoid retail
11 sales and use taxes under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW.

12 (2) For a second or subsequent offense, the person convicted is
13 also subject to a fine equal to four times the amount of avoided
14 taxes and fees, which may not be suspended, except as provided in RCW
15 10.05.180.

16 (3) Excise taxes owed and fines assessed must be deposited in the
17 manner provided under RCW 46.16A.030(6).

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