
HOUSE BILL 2840

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Springer and Frame; by request of Department of Revenue

Read first time 01/24/20. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing additional funding for the business
2 licensing service program administered by the department of revenue;
3 amending RCW 19.02.075; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.02.075 and 2013 c 144 s 20 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department must collect a handling fee on each business
8 license application and each renewal application filing. The
9 department must set the amount of the handling fees by rule, as
10 authorized by RCW 19.02.030. The handling fees may not exceed
11 ((nineteen dollars for each business license application, and
12 eleven)) eighty-five dollars for each business license application
13 filed by any person to open or reopen a business, ten dollars for
14 each business license renewal application filing, and nineteen
15 dollars for each business license application filed for any other
16 purpose, including obtaining a business license for an additional
17 location of a new or existing business. Handling fees collected under
18 this section must be deposited in the business license account
19 created under RCW 19.02.210.

20 (2) The department may increase all handling ((and renewal)) fees
21 within the limits provided in this section for the purposes of

1 defraying the department's costs associated with the administration
2 of this chapter, including making improvements in the business
3 licensing service program, ((including)) such as improvements in
4 technology and customer services, expanded access, and
5 infrastructure.

6 (3) Annually, by the last day of September, beginning September
7 30, 2023, the department must review the business license account
8 balance at the end of the previous fiscal year. If the balance in the
9 account exceeds one million dollars or the department projects that
10 the balance in the business license account will exceed one million
11 dollars at the end of the current fiscal year, the department must
12 reduce one or more of the handling fees authorized in subsection (1)
13 of this section. Handling fees must be reduced under this subsection
14 (3) to the extent the department determines necessary to result in a
15 balance in the business license account of no more than one million
16 dollars at the end of the next fiscal year as projected by the
17 department. This subsection (3) does not require the department to
18 reduce handling fees more than once in any fiscal year.

19 (4) In increasing or decreasing any fee under this section, the
20 department may round the adjusted fee to the nearest whole dollar
21 that does not exceed the dollar limits in subsection (1) of this
22 section.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2020.

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