

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESB 5689

As Passed Senate, March 5, 2025

Title: An act relating to adding blood type information to drivers' licenses and identicards.

Brief Description: Adding blood type information to drivers' licenses and identicards.

Sponsors: Senators Harris, Nobles, Riccelli and Short.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/20/25, 2/27/25 [DP].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 3/5/25, 49-0.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill

- Allows individuals to apply for the inclusion of blood type on a driver's license or identicard.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Liias, Chair; Lovick, Vice Chair; Ramos, Vice Chair; King, Ranking Member; Goehner, Assistant Ranking Member; Alvarado, Chapman, Christian, Cortes, Fortunato, Harris, Krishnadasan, Lovelett, MacEwen, Nobles, Shewmake, Valdez and Wilson, J..

Staff: Bryon Moore (786-7726)

Background: The Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) issues driver's licenses and identicards that are valid for up to eight years. The fee is \$72 for an eight-year driver's license or identicard, and \$54 for a six-year driver's license or identicard. An additional \$1 fee is imposed on each issuance or renewal of a driver's license or identicard.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Any person may apply to obtain a medical alert designation, a developmentally disabled designation, or a deafness designation on a driver's license or identicard based on specific self-attestation and verification requirements. The self-attestation is not disclosable and is for the confidential use by DOL, the Washington State Patrol, law enforcement, and emergency medical service providers.

Summary of Engrossed Bill: At the option of the applicant, a driver's license and identicard may include the individual's blood type if the applicant has provided documentation verifying the blood type from a licensed physician, medical facility, or blood donation organization.

DOL is given rulemaking authority and direction to develop processes and documentation requirements for individuals to submit blood type information. DOL is given authority to impose a one-time administrative fee not to exceed \$2 for processing the initial blood type designation request.

DOL must coordinate with health care providers, emergency responders, and blood donation organizations to educate the public about the availability and potential benefits of including blood type information on state-issued identification.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2026.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a lifesaving approach that will improve emergency response by making blood type information available to first responders and medical staff sooner. In an emergency, every second counts. The high level of traffic accidents highlights the importance of having blood type information in these types of situations. Most people do not know their blood type and this will allow individuals to get that information. By increasing public awareness of their blood type, this may also have the added benefit of increasing blood donation where there is a critical need. By having blood type information on driver's license and identicards, this will decrease the error rate of blood transfusions.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Juan Cotto, BloodworksNW; Dan Fazio, BloodworksNW; Diane Calmus, America's Blood Centers; Ellen Hong; Addison Thornton; Sumi Rasiah; Liana Khachatouriansoradehi.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.