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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5689

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State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2025 Regular Session

By Senators Harris, Nobles, Riccelli, and Short

Read first time 02/06/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to adding blood type information to drivers'  
2 licenses and identicards; amending RCW 46.20.161; reenacting and  
3 amending RCW 46.20.117; adding new sections to chapter 46.20 RCW;  
4 creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that including blood  
7 type information on drivers' licenses and identification cards can  
8 enhance emergency medical response, saving time and potentially lives  
9 in critical situations. This act is intended to provide individuals  
10 the option to voluntarily include their blood type on their state-  
11 issued identification documents.

12            **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.117 and 2024 c 315 s 4 and 2024 c 162 s 3 are  
13 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

14            (1)    **Issuance.** The department shall issue an identicard,  
15 containing a picture, if the applicant:

16            (a) Does not hold a valid Washington driver's license;

17            (b) Proves the applicant's identity as required by RCW 46.20.035;  
18 and

19            (c) Pays the required fee. Except as provided in subsection (7)  
20 of this section, the fee is \$72, unless an applicant is:

1 (i) A recipient of continuing public assistance grants under  
2 Title 74 RCW, or a participant in the Washington women, infants, and  
3 children program. Any applicant under this subsection must be  
4 verified by documentation sufficient to demonstrate eligibility;

5 (ii) Under the age of 25 and does not have a permanent residence  
6 address as determined by the department by rule; or

7 (iii) An individual who is scheduled to be released from an  
8 institution as defined in RCW 13.40.020, a community facility as  
9 defined in RCW 72.05.020, a correctional facility as defined in RCW  
10 72.09.015, or other juvenile rehabilitation facility operated by the  
11 department of social and health services or the department of  
12 children, youth, and families; or an individual who has been released  
13 from such an institution or facility within 30 calendar days before  
14 the date of the application.

15 For those persons under (c)(i) through (iii) of this subsection,  
16 the fee must be the actual cost of production of the identicard.

17 (2)(a) **Design and term.** The identicard must:

18 (i) Be distinctly designed so that it will not be confused with  
19 the official driver's license; and

20 (ii) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, expire  
21 on the eighth anniversary of the applicant's birthdate after  
22 issuance.

23 (b) The identicard may include the person's status as a veteran,  
24 consistent with RCW 46.20.161(4).

25 (c) If applicable, the identicard may include a medical alert  
26 designation as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

27 (d) If applicable, the identicard may include an optional blood  
28 type designation consistent with RCW 46.20.161(2)(j).

29 (3) **Renewal.** An application for identicard renewal may be  
30 submitted by means of:

31 (a) Personal appearance before the department;

32 (b) Mail or electronic commerce, if permitted by rule of the  
33 department and if the applicant did not renew the identicard by mail  
34 or by electronic commerce when it last expired; or

35 (c) From January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2024, electronic commerce,  
36 if permitted by rule of the department.

37 An identicard may not be renewed by mail or by electronic  
38 commerce unless the renewal issued by the department includes a  
39 photograph of the identicard holder.

1 (4) **Cancellation.** The department may cancel an identicard if the  
2 holder of the identicard used the card or allowed others to use the  
3 card in violation of RCW 46.20.0921.

4 (5) Any person may apply to the department to obtain a medical  
5 alert designation, a developmental disability designation, or a  
6 deafness designation on an identicard issued under this chapter by  
7 providing:

8 (a) Self-attestation that the individual:

9 (i) Has a medical condition that could affect communication or  
10 account for a health emergency;

11 (ii) Is deaf or hard of hearing; or

12 (iii) Has a developmental disability as defined in RCW  
13 71A.10.020;

14 (b) A statement from the person that they have voluntarily  
15 provided the self-attestation and other information verifying the  
16 condition; and

17 (c) For persons under 18 years of age or who have a developmental  
18 disability, the signature of a parent or legal guardian.

19 (6) A self-attestation or data contained in a self-attestation  
20 provided under this section:

21 (a) Shall not be disclosed; and

22 (b) Is for the confidential use of the director, the chief of the  
23 Washington state patrol, and law enforcement and emergency medical  
24 service providers as designated by law.

25 (7) **Alternative issuance/renewal/extension.** The department may  
26 issue or renew an identicard for a period other than eight years, or  
27 may extend by mail or electronic commerce an identicard that has  
28 already been issued. The fee for an identicard issued or renewed for  
29 a period other than eight years, or that has been extended by mail or  
30 electronic commerce, is \$9 for each year that the identicard is  
31 issued, renewed, or extended. The department must offer the option to  
32 issue or renew an identicard for six years in addition to the eight  
33 year issuance. The department may adopt any rules as are necessary to  
34 carry out this subsection.

35 (8) Identicard photos must be updated in the same manner as  
36 driver's license photos under RCW 46.20.120(5).

37 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.161 and 2024 c 146 s 29 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 (1) The department, upon receipt of a fee of (~~seventy-two~~  
2 ~~dollars~~) \$72, unless the driver's license is issued for a period  
3 other than eight years, in which case the fee shall be (~~nine~~  
4 ~~dollars~~) \$9 for each year that the license is issued, which includes  
5 the fee for the required photograph, shall issue to every qualifying  
6 applicant a driver's license. A driver's license issued to a person  
7 under the age of (~~eighteen~~) 18 is an intermediate license, subject  
8 to the restrictions imposed under RCW 46.20.075, until the person  
9 reaches the age of (~~eighteen~~) 18.

10 (2) The license must include:

11 (a) A distinguishing number assigned to the licensee;

12 (b) The name of record;

13 (c) Date of birth;

14 (d) Washington residence address;

15 (e) Photograph;

16 (f) A brief description of the licensee;

17 (g) Either a facsimile of the signature of the licensee or a  
18 space upon which the licensee shall write the licensee's usual  
19 signature with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license;

20 (h) If applicable, the person's status as a veteran as provided  
21 in subsection (4) of this section; (~~and~~)

22 (i) If applicable, a medical alert designation as provided in  
23 subsection (5) of this section; and

24 (j) At the option of the licensee, the inclusion of the  
25 licensee's blood type, provided that the licensee presents  
26 documentation verifying the blood type from a licensed physician,  
27 medical facility, or blood donation organization.

28 (3) No license is valid until it has been signed by the licensee.

29 (4)(a) A veteran, as defined in RCW 41.04.007, may apply to the  
30 department to obtain a veteran designation on a driver's license  
31 issued under this section by providing:

32 (i) A United States department of veterans affairs identification  
33 card or proof of service letter;

34 (ii) A United States department of defense discharge document, DD  
35 Form 214 or DD Form 215, as it exists on June 7, 2018, or such  
36 subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule,  
37 consistent with the purposes of this section, or equivalent or  
38 successor discharge paperwork, that establishes the person's service  
39 in the armed forces of the United States and qualifying discharge as  
40 defined in RCW 73.04.005;

1 (iii) A national guard state-issued report of separation and  
2 military service, NGB Form 22, as it exists on June 7, 2018, or such  
3 subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule,  
4 consistent with the purposes of this section, or equivalent or  
5 successor discharge paperwork, that establishes the person's active  
6 duty or reserve service in the national guard and qualifying  
7 discharge as defined in RCW 73.04.005; or

8 (iv) A United States uniformed services identification card, DD  
9 Form 2, that displays on its face that it has been issued to a  
10 retired member of any of the armed forces of the United States,  
11 including the national guard and armed forces reserves.

12 (b) The department may permit a veteran, as defined in RCW  
13 41.04.007, to submit alternate forms of documentation to apply to  
14 obtain a veteran designation on a driver's license.

15 (5) Any person may apply to the department to obtain a medical  
16 alert designation, a developmental disability designation, or a  
17 deafness designation on a driver's license issued under this chapter  
18 by providing:

19 (a) Self-attestation that the individual:

20 (i) Has a medical condition that could affect communication or  
21 account for a driver health emergency;

22 (ii) Is deaf or hard of hearing; or

23 (iii) Has a developmental disability as defined in RCW  
24 71A.10.020;

25 (b) A statement from the person that they have voluntarily  
26 provided the self-attestation and other information verifying the  
27 condition; and

28 (c) For persons under (~~eighteen~~) 18 years of age or who have a  
29 developmental disability, the signature of a parent or legal  
30 guardian.

31 (6) A self-attestation or data contained in a self-attestation  
32 provided under this section:

33 (a) Shall not be disclosed;

34 (b) Is for the confidential use of the director, the chief of the  
35 Washington state patrol, and law enforcement and emergency medical  
36 service providers as designated by law; and

37 (c) Is subject to the privacy protections of the driver's privacy  
38 protection act, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2725.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.20  
2 RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The department shall develop processes and forms to enable  
4 individuals to submit blood type documentation when applying for or  
5 renewing a driver's license or identicard.

6        (2) The department may charge a one-time administrative fee not  
7 to exceed \$2 for processing the initial blood type designation  
8 request for an individual.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.20  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11        The department shall coordinate with health care providers,  
12 emergency responders, and blood donation organizations to educate the  
13 public about the availability and potential benefits of including  
14 blood type information on state-issued identification.

15        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.20  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17        The department is authorized to adopt rules necessary to  
18 implement this act including, but not limited to, specifying  
19 acceptable forms of blood type documentation and updating existing  
20 systems.

21        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    This act takes effect January 1, 2026.

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