
SENATE BILL 5146

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator McCaslin

Read first time 01/12/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the basis of vehicle excise taxes; amending RCW
2 82.44.020, 82.44.041, 82.50.410, 82.50.425, and 82.50.530; creating a
3 new section; and repealing RCW 82.44.065 and 82.44.130.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.44.020 and 1993 sp.s. c 23 s 61 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) An excise tax is imposed for the privilege of using in the
8 state any motor vehicle, except those operated under reciprocal
9 agreements, the provisions of RCW 46.16.160 as now or hereafter
10 amended, or dealer's licenses. The annual amount of such excise tax
11 shall be two percent of the ((value)) depreciated purchase price of
12 such vehicle.

13 (2) An additional excise tax is imposed, in addition to any other
14 tax imposed by this section, for the privilege of using in the state
15 any such motor vehicle, and the annual amount of such additional excise
16 shall be two-tenths of one percent of the ((value)) depreciated
17 purchase price of such vehicle.

18 (3) ((Effective with October 1992 motor vehicle registration
19 expirations,)) A clean air excise tax is imposed in addition to any

1 other tax imposed by this section for the privilege of using in the
2 state any motor vehicle as defined in RCW 82.44.010, except that farm
3 vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.181 shall not be subject to the tax
4 imposed by this subsection. The annual amount of the additional excise
5 tax shall be (~~two dollars and twenty five cents. Effective with July~~
6 ~~1994 motor vehicle registration expirations, the annual amount of~~
7 ~~additional excise tax shall be~~) two dollars.

8 (4) An additional excise tax is imposed on truck-type power units
9 that are used in combination with a trailer to transport loads in
10 excess of forty thousand pounds combined gross weight. The annual
11 amount of such additional excise tax shall be fifty-eight one-
12 hundredths of one percent of the ((value)) depreciated purchase price
13 of the vehicle.

14 The department shall distribute the additional tax collected under
15 this subsection as follows:

16 (a) For each trailing unit subject to subsection (5) of this
17 section, an amount equal to the clean air excise tax prescribed in
18 subsection (3) of this section shall be distributed in the manner
19 prescribed in RCW 82.44.110(3);

20 (b) Of the remainder of the additional excise tax collected under
21 this subsection, ten percent shall be distributed in the manner
22 prescribed in RCW 82.44.110(2) and ninety percent shall be distributed
23 in the manner prescribed in RCW 82.44.110(1). This tax shall not apply
24 to power units used exclusively for hauling logs.

25 (5) The excise taxes imposed by subsections (1) through (3) of this
26 section shall not apply to trailing units which are used in combination
27 with a power unit subject to the additional excise tax imposed by
28 subsection (4) of this section. This subsection shall not apply to
29 trailing units used for hauling logs.

30 (6) In no case shall the total tax be less than two dollars except
31 for proportionally registered vehicles.

32 (7) Washington residents, as defined in RCW 46.16.028, who license
33 motor vehicles in another state or foreign country and avoid Washington
34 motor vehicle excise taxes are liable for such unpaid excise taxes.
35 The department of revenue may assess and collect the unpaid excise
36 taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, including the penalties and interest
37 provided therein.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.44.041 and 1990 c 42 s 303 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) For the purpose of determining the tax under this chapter, the
4 ~~((value))~~ depreciated purchase price of a ~~((truck-type power or~~
5 ~~trailing unit shall be))~~ vehicle is the latest purchase price of the
6 vehicle, including all trade-in allowances and excluding applicable
7 federal excise taxes, state and local sales or use taxes,
8 transportation or shipping costs, or preparatory or delivery costs,
9 multiplied by the following percentage based on year of service of the
10 vehicle since last sale. The latest purchase year shall be considered
11 the first year of service.

12	YEAR OF SERVICE	PERCENTAGE
13	1	100
14	2	90
15	3	83
16	4	75
17	5	67
18	6	59
19	7	52
20	8	44
21	9	36
22	10	28
23	11	21
24	12	13
25	13 or older	10

26 (2) The reissuance of title and registration for a truck-type power
27 or trailing unit because of the installation of body or special
28 equipment shall be treated as a sale, and the ~~((value))~~ depreciated
29 purchase price of the truck-type power or trailing unit at that time,
30 as determined by the department from such information as may be
31 available, shall be considered the latest purchase price.

32 ~~((For the purpose of determining the tax under this chapter,~~
33 ~~the value of a motor vehicle other than a truck-type power or trailing~~
34 ~~unit shall be the manufacturer's base suggested retail price of the~~
35 ~~vehicle when first offered for sale as a new vehicle, excluding any~~
36 ~~optional equipment, applicable federal excise taxes, state and local~~
37 ~~sales or use taxes, transportation or shipping costs, or preparatory or~~

1 delivery costs, multiplied by the applicable percentage listed in this
2 subsection based on year of service of the vehicle.

3 If the manufacturer's base suggested retail price is unavailable or
4 otherwise unascertainable at the time of initial registration in this
5 state, the department shall determine a value equivalent to a
6 manufacturer's base suggested retail price as follows:

7 (a) The department shall determine a value using any information
8 that may be available, including any guidebook, report, or compendium
9 of recognized standing in the automotive industry or the selling price
10 and year of sale of the vehicle. The department may use an appraisal
11 by the county assessor. In valuing a vehicle for which the current
12 value or selling price is not indicative of the value of similar
13 vehicles of the same year and model, the department shall establish a
14 value that more closely represents the average value of similar
15 vehicles of the same year and model.

16 (b) The value determined in (a) of this subsection shall be divided
17 by the applicable percentage listed in this subsection to establish a
18 value equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price. The
19 applicable percentage shall be based on the year of service of the
20 vehicle for which the value is determined.

21	YEAR OF SERVICE	PERCENTAGE
22	1	100
23	2	100
24	3	91
25	4	83
26	5	74
27	6	65
28	7	57
29	8	48
30	9	40
31	10	31
32	11	22
33	12	14
34	13 or older	10

35 (4)) For purposes of this chapter, ((value shall)) depreciated
36 purchase price excludes value attributable to modifications of a motor
37 vehicle and equipment that are designed to facilitate the use or
38 operation of the motor vehicle by a handicapped person.

1 (4) For purposes of establishing the depreciated purchase price on
2 vehicles, except truck-type power or trailing units, already titled or
3 registered on July 1, 1996, the title year or if the vehicle is not
4 titled in this state, the year the vehicle was first registered in this
5 state is considered the first year of service. The department shall
6 determine the purchase price by using the current method for
7 determining the value of the vehicle on the date of first year of
8 service as determined in this subsection. For truck-type power or
9 trailing units, the department shall use the purchase price of record.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.50.410 and 1991 c 199 s 225 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 The rate and measure of tax imposed by RCW 82.50.400 for each
13 registration year shall be one percent, and a surcharge of one-tenth of
14 one percent, of the ((value)) depreciated purchase price of the travel
15 trailer or camper, as determined in the manner provided in this
16 chapter: PROVIDED, That the excise tax upon a travel trailer or camper
17 licensed for the first time in this state after the last day of any
18 registration month may only be levied for the remaining months of the
19 registration year including the month in which the travel trailer or
20 camper is first licensed: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the minimum amount of
21 tax payable shall be two dollars: PROVIDED FURTHER, That every dealer
22 in mobile homes or travel trailers, for the privilege of using any
23 mobile home or travel trailer eligible to be used under a dealer's
24 license plate, shall pay an excise tax of two dollars, and such tax
25 shall be collected upon the issuance of each original dealer's license
26 plate, and also a similar tax shall be collected upon the issuance of
27 each dealer's duplicate license plate, which taxes shall be in addition
28 to any tax otherwise payable under this chapter.

29 A travel trailer or camper shall be deemed licensed for the first
30 time in this state when such vehicle was not previously licensed by
31 this state for the registration year or any part thereof immediately
32 preceding the registration year in which application for license is
33 made or when it has been registered in another jurisdiction subsequent
34 to any prior registration in this state.

35 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.50.425 and 1990 c 42 s 323 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

1 For the purpose of determining the tax under this chapter, the
2 ((value)) depreciated purchase price of a travel trailer or camper is
3 the ((manufacturer's base suggested retail)) latest purchase price,
4 including all trade-in allowances, of the travel trailer or camper
5 ((when first offered for sale as new)), excluding ((any optional
6 equipment,)) applicable federal excise taxes, state and local sales or
7 use taxes, transportation or shipping costs, ((or)) and preparatory or
8 delivery costs, multiplied by the ((applicable)) following percentage
9 ((listed in this section)) based on the year of service of the travel
10 trailer or camper since its latest ownership transfer. The latest
11 ownership transfer year is considered the first year of service.

12 ((If the manufacturer's base suggested retail price is unavailable
13 or otherwise unascertainable at the time of initial registration in
14 this state, the department shall determine a value equivalent to a
15 manufacturer's base suggested retail price as follows:))

16	<u>YEAR OF SERVICE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
17	<u>1</u>	<u>100</u>
18	<u>2</u>	<u>90</u>
19	<u>3</u>	<u>83</u>
20	<u>4</u>	<u>75</u>
21	<u>5</u>	<u>67</u>
22	<u>6</u>	<u>59</u>
23	<u>7</u>	<u>52</u>
24	<u>8</u>	<u>44</u>
25	<u>9</u>	<u>36</u>
26	<u>10</u>	<u>28</u>
27	<u>11</u>	<u>21</u>
28	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
29	<u>13 or more</u>	<u>10</u>

30 (1) ((The department shall determine a value using any information
31 that may be available, including any guidebook, report, or compendium
32 of recognized standing in the automotive industry or the selling price
33 and year of sale of the travel trailer or camper. The department may
34 use an appraisal by the county assessor. In valuing a travel trailer
35 or camper for which the current value or selling price is not
36 indicative of the value of similar travel trailers or campers of the
37 same year and model, the department shall establish a value that more
38 closely represents the average value of similar travel trailers or

1 campers of the same year and model.)) If the travel trailer or camper
2 is home-built, the ((value)) purchase price for first registration
3 shall not be less than the cost of construction.

4 (2) ((The value determined in subsection (1) of this section shall
5 be divided by the applicable percentage listed in this section to
6 establish a value equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail
7 price. The applicable percentage shall be based on the year of service
8 of the travel trailer or camper for which the value is determined.

9	<u>YEAR OF SERVICE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
10	1	100
11	2	90
12	3	84
13	4	79
14	5	73
15	6	65
16	7	60
17	8	55
18	9	50
19	10	45
20	11	41
21	12	37
22	13	33
23	14	28
24	15	24
25	16 or older	20))

26 For purposes of establishing the depreciated purchase price on travel
27 trailers and campers already titled or registered on July 1, 1996, the
28 title year or if the vehicle is not titled in this state, the year the
29 vehicle was first registered in this state is considered the first year
30 of service. The department shall determine the purchase price by using
31 the current method for determining the value of the vehicle on the date
32 of first year of service as determined in this subsection.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 82.50.530 and 1993 c 32 s 1 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 No mobile home, travel trailer, or camper which is a part of the
36 inventory of mobile homes, travel trailers, or campers held for sale by
37 a dealer in the course of his or her business ((and no travel trailer

1 ~~or camper as defined in RCW 82.50.010~~) shall be listed and assessed
2 for ad valorem taxation. However, if a park trailer as defined in RCW
3 46.04.622 has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by
4 virtue of its being permanently fixed in location upon land owned or
5 leased by the owner of the park trailer and placed on a permanent
6 foundation of either posts or blocks with fixed pipe connections with
7 sewer, water, or other utilities it will be considered real property
8 and will be subject to ad valorem property taxation imposed in
9 accordance with the provisions of Title 84 RCW, including the
10 provisions with respect to omitted property, except that a park trailer
11 located on land leased by the owner of the park trailer shall be
12 subject to the personal property provisions of chapter 84.56 RCW and
13 RCW 84.60.040.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
15 repealed:

- 16 (1) RCW 82.44.065 and 1990 c 42 s 305; and
17 (2) RCW 82.44.130 and 1961 c 15 s 82.44.130.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act first applies to vehicle excise
19 taxes that are due or become due on July 1, 1996, and thereafter.

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