

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 6589

As Passed Senate, February 17, 1998

Title: An act relating to exemptions from driver's license requirements for nonresidents.

Brief Description: Providing exemptions from driver's license requirements for nonresidents.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Horn, Haugen and Wood; by request of Department of Licensing).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/5/98 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 2/17, 98, 47-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6589 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Prince, Chair; Benton, Vice Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; Goings, Haugen, Heavey, Horn, Jacobsen, Morton, Oke, Prentice and Rasmussen.

Staff: Paul Neal (786-7315)

Background: A nonresident may drive legally in Washington without obtaining a Washington State driver's license if the driver is at least 16 and has a valid driver's license issued by his or her home state. A person qualifies as a nonresident if he or she is temporarily in the state for no more than six months.

Summary of Bill: Certain nonresidents are authorized to legally drive in Washington regardless of whether their stay in this state exceeds six months. The nonresident driver's license exemption is granted without a time limitation to nonresidents who have a valid driver's license from their home state and are:

- (1) Students, their spouses, or dependents, if they maintain a legal home of record outside of Washington and carry documentation of their nonresident student status; or
- (2) Members of the armed forces, their spouses, and dependents who designate a different state as their home state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Passage would allow two groups of long-term nonresidents, students and military personnel, to drive in the state without having to procure a Washington license.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Senator Horn, prime sponsor; Clark Holloway, DOL.