

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6603**

---

**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Horn, Spanel, Oke and Wood)

Read first time 02/06/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to exceptions from vessel registration; amending  
2 RCW 88.02.030; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 88.02.030 and 1997 c 83 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Vessel registration is required under this chapter except for the  
7 following:

8 (1) Military or public vessels of the United States, except  
9 recreational-type public vessels;

10 (2) Vessels owned by a state or subdivision thereof, used  
11 principally for governmental purposes and clearly identifiable as such;

12 (3) Vessels either (a) registered or numbered under the laws of a  
13 country other than the United States; or (b) having a valid United  
14 States customs service cruising license issued pursuant to 19 C.F.R.  
15 Sec. 4.94;

16 (4) Vessels that have been issued a valid number under federal law  
17 or by an approved issuing authority of the state of principal  
18 operation. However, a vessel that is validly registered in another  
19 state but that is removed to this state for principal use is subject to

1 registration under this chapter. The issuing authority for this state  
2 shall recognize the validity of the numbers previously issued for a  
3 period of sixty days after arrival in this state;

4 (5) Vessels owned by a nonresident if the vessel is located upon  
5 the waters of this state exclusively for repairs, alteration, or  
6 reconstruction, or any testing related to the repair, alteration, or  
7 reconstruction conducted in this state if an employee of the repair,  
8 alteration, or construction facility is on board the vessel during any  
9 testing: PROVIDED, That any vessel owned by a nonresident is located  
10 upon the waters of this state exclusively for repairs, alteration,  
11 reconstruction, or testing for a period longer than sixty days, that  
12 the nonresident shall file an affidavit with the department of revenue  
13 verifying the vessel is located upon the waters of this state for  
14 repair, alteration, reconstruction, or testing and shall continue to  
15 file such affidavit every sixty days thereafter, while the vessel is  
16 located upon the waters of this state exclusively for repairs,  
17 alteration, reconstruction, or testing;

18 (6) Vessels equipped with propulsion machinery of less than ten  
19 horsepower that:

20 (a) Are owned by the owner of a vessel for which a valid vessel  
21 number has been issued;

22 (b) Display the number of that numbered vessel followed by the  
23 suffix "1" in the manner prescribed by the department; and

24 (c) Are used as a tender for direct transportation between that  
25 vessel and the shore and for no other purpose;

26 (7) Vessels under sixteen feet in overall length which have no  
27 propulsion machinery of any type or which are not used on waters  
28 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas  
29 beyond the territorial seas for vessels owned in the United States and  
30 are powered by propulsion machinery of ten or less horsepower;

31 (8) Vessels with no propulsion machinery of any type for which the  
32 primary mode of propulsion is human power;

33 (9) Vessels primarily engaged in commerce which have or are  
34 required to have a valid marine document as a vessel of the United  
35 States. Commercial vessels which the department of revenue determines  
36 have the external appearance of vessels which would otherwise be  
37 required to register under this chapter, must display decals issued  
38 annually by the department of revenue that indicate the vessel's exempt  
39 status;

1 (10) Vessels primarily engaged in commerce which are owned by a  
2 resident of a country other than the United States; and

3 (11) On and after January 1, 1998, vessels owned by a nonresident  
4 individual brought into the state for his or her use or enjoyment while  
5 temporarily within the state for not more than six months in any  
6 continuous twelve-month period, unless the vessel is used in conducting  
7 a nontransitory business activity within the state. However, the  
8 vessel must (~~(a) be registered or numbered under the laws of a country~~  
9 ~~other than the United States, (b) have a valid United States customs~~  
10 ~~service cruising license issued under 19 C.F.R. Sec. 4.94, or (c))~~)  
11 have been issued a valid number under federal law or by an approved  
12 issuing authority of the state of principal operation. On or before  
13 the sixty-first day of use in the state, any vessel temporarily in the  
14 state under this subsection shall obtain an identification document  
15 from the department of licensing, its agents, or subagents indicating  
16 when the vessel first came into the state. An identification document  
17 shall be valid for a period of two months. At the time of any issuance  
18 of an identification document, a twenty-five dollar identification  
19 document fee shall be paid by the vessel owner to the department of  
20 licensing for the cost of providing the identification document by the  
21 department of licensing. Any moneys remaining from the fee after  
22 payment of costs shall be allocated to counties by the state treasurer  
23 for approved boating safety programs under RCW 88.02.045. The  
24 department of licensing shall adopt rules to implement its duties under  
25 this subsection, including issuing and displaying the identification  
26 document and collecting the twenty-five dollar fee.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
29 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
30 immediately.

--- END ---