

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2259

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Transportation, April 14, 1999

**Title:** An act relating to issuing drivers' licenses.

**Brief Description:** Extending the term of drivers' licenses.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Murray, Hankins, Ogden, K. Schmidt, Fisher, Radcliff, Hatfield and Hurst.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 4/13/99, 4/14/99 [DPA].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Goings, Vice Chair; Benton, Costa, Eide, Finkbeiner, Horn, Jacobsen, Johnson, Morton, Oke, Patterson, Prentice, Sellar, Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Shin and Swecker.

**Staff:** Paul Neal (786-7315)

**Background:** Currently, Washington State drivers' licenses, commercial drivers' licenses, and drivers' licenses containing motorcycle endorsements are valid for four years. The fee for both the initial and renewal drivers' license is \$14 (or \$3.50 per year). An additional fee, not to exceed \$12 for each class (or \$3 per year), is required for the issuance or renewal of a commercial driver's license. Finally, an additional fee for the issuance of an initial or new category motorcycle endorsement is \$6 (or \$1.50 per year), and the subsequent renewal endorsement fee is \$14 (or \$3.50 per year).

The \$3.50 yearly fee for the driver's license was last increased in 1978. The revenue generated from the current fee is insufficient to cover the cost of all the functions of the drivers' license program.

**Summary of Amended Bill:** The annual fee for drivers' licenses is increased by \$1.50 per year. The fee for both the initial and renewal driver's license is \$20 (or \$5 per year). An additional fee, not to exceed \$16 for each class (or \$4 per year), is required for the issuance or renewal of a commercial driver's license. An additional fee, not to exceed \$8 (or \$2 per year), is required for the issuance of an initial or new category motorcycle endorsement, and the subsequent renewal endorsement fee is not to exceed \$20 (or \$5 per year).

**Amended Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The amended bill no longer provides for a six-year license but retains the current four-year terms. The fee increases are at the same rate per year as the original bill. The total cost of a license or renewal is lower than in the original bill due to the four-year term.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on March 3, 1999.

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

**Testimony For:** Moving to a six-year license raises the potential for safety issues due to less frequent testing of drivers. The striker is preferable since it retains the current four-year license term.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Mel Sorensen, National Association of Independent Insurers (pro).