
HOUSE BILL 2029

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Hurst, Mitchell, Fisher, Hankins, Haigh, Anderson, Cooper, Ericksen, Ogden, Marine, Jarrett, Wood, Romero, Armstrong, Rockefeller, Mielke, Hatfield, Sump, Lovick, Simpson, Woods, Reardon, Morell, Skinner, Ahern, Jackley, Murray, Edmonds and Kenney

Read first time 02/13/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to certificates of ownership and registration;
2 reenacting and amending RCW 46.12.030; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the Washington
5 state patrol's vehicle identification number inspection program, in
6 conjunction with other law enforcement automobile theft detection and
7 deterrence efforts, protects the buyers and sellers of motor vehicles
8 in Washington and, therefore, it is in the best interest of the
9 citizens of Washington to continue the program. The legislature
10 further finds that enhancing the Washington state patrol's efforts
11 regarding automobile theft detection by using automobile theft
12 detectives, working in conjunction with a fully staffed vehicle
13 identification number inspection program, where the personnel are full-
14 time, permanent vehicle identification number inspectors and
15 specialists, will more effectively combat automobile theft throughout
16 the state.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.12.030 and 1995 c 274 s 1 and 1995 c 256 s 23 are
18 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

1 The application for (~~{a}~~) a certificate of ownership shall be
2 upon a form furnished or approved by the department and shall contain:

3 (1) A full description of the vehicle, which shall contain the
4 proper vehicle identification number, the number of miles indicated on
5 the odometer at the time of delivery of the vehicle, and any
6 distinguishing marks of identification;

7 (2) The name and address of the person who is to be the registered
8 owner of the vehicle and, if the vehicle is subject to a security
9 interest, the name and address of the secured party;

10 (3) Such other information as the department may require. The
11 department may in any instance, in addition to the information required
12 on the application, require additional information and, under the
13 circumstances set forth in this section, a physical examination of the
14 vehicle or of any class of vehicles, or either.

15 (a) A physical examination of the vehicle is mandatory if it
16 previously was registered in any other state or country or if it has
17 been rebuilt after surrender of the certificate of ownership to the
18 department under RCW 46.12.070 due to the vehicle's destruction or
19 declaration as a total loss.

20 (b) The physical inspection performed by the Washington state
21 patrol must verify that the vehicle identification number is genuine
22 and agrees with the number shown on the foreign title and registration
23 certificate. If the vehicle is from a jurisdiction that does not issue
24 titles, the inspection must verify that the vehicle identification
25 number is genuine and agrees with the number shown on the registration
26 certificate. The inspection must also confirm that the license plates
27 on the vehicle are those assigned to the vehicle by the jurisdiction in
28 which the vehicle was previously licensed. The inspection must be made
29 by a member of the Washington state patrol or other person authorized
30 by the department to make such inspections.

31 (c) Motor vehicle dealers licensed under chapter 46.70 RCW may
32 perform physical inspections on vehicles previously registered in
33 another state or country that will be sold by the dealer. Dealers
34 performing VIN inspections must have at least one full-time employee
35 whose primary responsibility is the maintenance and repair of motor
36 vehicles, to perform the VIN inspections on behalf of the vehicle
37 dealership. Dealers must complete a one-page vehicle identification
38 number inspection form designed and provided by the department and
39 submit a fifteen-dollar fee for titling purposes to the department.

1 The right to self-inspection does not include vehicles that are
2 totaled, assembled, constructed, replica vehicles, vehicles that appear
3 to have been wrecked or destroyed, or vehicles imported from another
4 country and that have not been certified as conforming to federal
5 standards. Self-inspection by dealers is an option, and does not
6 preclude licensed dealers from using either in whole or in part
7 services provided by the Washington state patrol vehicle identification
8 number inspection unit. All other vehicle identification number
9 inspections will continue to be conducted at the Washington state
10 patrol vehicle identification number inspection locations.

11 (4) The application shall be subscribed by the registered owner and
12 be sworn to by that applicant in the manner described by RCW 9A.72.085.
13 The department shall retain the application in either the original,
14 computer, or photostatic form.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The Washington state patrol must provide a
16 report to the legislature by August 1, 2004, that includes:

17 (1) The number of vehicles inspected at the Washington state patrol
18 vehicle identification number facilities subsequently determined to be
19 stolen vehicles;

20 (2) The number of vehicles inspected by Washington motor vehicle
21 dealers subsequently determined to be stolen vehicles; and

22 (3) A comparative analysis of those vehicles subsequently
23 determined to be stolen for the purpose of identifying any deficiencies
24 in the motor vehicle dealer self-inspection program.

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