
HOUSE BILL 2643

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Cooper and R. Fisher

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle licensing and registration activities;
2 amending RCW 46.01.140; adding new sections to chapter 46.01 RCW; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.68 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.01.140 and 1991 c 339 s 16 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The county auditor, if appointed by the director of licensing
8 shall carry out the provisions of this title relating to the licensing
9 of vehicles and the issuance of vehicle license number plates under the
10 direction and supervision of the director and may with the approval of
11 the director appoint assistants as special deputies (~~and subagents~~)
12 to accept applications and collect fees for vehicle licenses and
13 transfers and to deliver vehicle license number plates. A county
14 auditor appointed by the director may recommend to the director the

1 appointment of subagents of the county auditor for vehicle licensing
2 and registration activities. The director has final appointment
3 authority.

4 (a) The director shall provide a standard contract that shall be
5 entered into by any county auditor who is appointed as an agent by the
6 department.

7 (b) The director shall provide a standard contract to county
8 auditors that shall be entered into between the county auditors and any
9 subagents within the county.

10 (c) The contracts provided for in (a) and (b) of this subsection
11 must contain at a minimum provisions that:

12 (i) Describe the responsibilities, and where applicable, the
13 liability, of each party relating to the service expectations and
14 levels, ownership of equipment, and equipment maintenance;

15 (ii) Require the specific type of insurance or bonds so that the
16 state is protected against any loss of collected motor vehicle tax
17 revenues or loss of equipment;

18 (iii) Specify the amount of training that will be provided by the
19 state or the county auditor;

20 (iv) Describe allowable costs that may be charged to motor vehicle
21 licensing activities as provided for in section 3 of this act;

22 (v) Describe the causes and procedures for termination of the
23 contract.

24 (d) The contracts may include any provision that the director deems
25 necessary to ensure acceptable service and the full collection of motor
26 vehicle tax revenues.

27 (e) The director may waive any provisions deemed necessary in order
28 to ensure that readily accessible service is provided to the citizens
29 of the state.

1 (2) At any time any application is made to the director, the county
2 auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with licenses,
3 registration, or the right to operate any vehicle upon the public
4 highways of this state, excluding applicants already paying such fee
5 under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, the applicant shall pay to the
6 director, county auditor, or other agent a fee of two dollars for each
7 application in addition to any other fees required by law. Applicants
8 for certificates of ownership, including applicants paying fees under
9 RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, shall pay to the director, county auditor,
10 or other agent a fee of three dollars in addition to any other fees
11 required by law. These fees, if paid to the county auditor as agent of
12 the director, or if paid to a subagent of the county auditor, shall be
13 paid to the county treasurer in the same manner as other fees collected
14 by the county auditor and credited to the county current expense fund.
15 If the fee is paid to another agent of the director, the fee shall be
16 used by the agent to defray his or her expenses in handling the
17 application.

18 (3) ((A)) An agent or subagent (~~((is entitled to an additional~~
19 ~~service charge of two dollars. However, from July 1, 1991, through~~
20 ~~June 30, 1992, subagents))~~) shall collect a service fee of (a) five
21 dollars and fifty cents for changes in a certificate of ownership, with
22 or without registration renewal, or verification of record and
23 preparation of an affidavit of lost title other than at the time of the
24 title application or transfer and (b) two dollars and twenty-five cents
25 for registration renewal only, issuing a transit permit, or any other
26 service under this section. The additional fee under (b) of this
27 subsection shall not be charged on renewals done by mail, and expires
28 on June 30, 1995.

29 (4) An agent shall remit a service fee collected under subsection
30 (3) of this section to the department for deposit into the department

1 of licensing services account of the motor vehicle fund. However, the
2 department shall develop procedures whereby counties that do not cover
3 their expenses of motor vehicle licensing activities may keep all or
4 part of the service fee provided for in subsection (3) of this section.

5 (5) If the fee is collected by the state patrol as agent for the
6 director, the fee so collected shall be certified to the state
7 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the state patrol highway
8 account. If the fee is collected by the department of transportation
9 as agent for the director, the fee shall be certified to the state
10 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. All
11 such fees collected by the director or branches of his office shall be
12 certified to the state treasurer and deposited to the credit of the
13 highway safety fund.

14 (6) Any county revenues that exceed the cost of providing motor
15 vehicle licensing activities in a county, calculated in accordance with
16 the procedures in section 2 of this act, shall be used exclusively for
17 transportation purposes under RCW 82.80.070, motor vehicle licensing
18 activities of the county auditor, and traffic enforcement activities of
19 the county sheriff.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 46.01 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 The department shall develop procedures that will standardize and
23 prescribe allowable costs that may be assigned to motor vehicle
24 licensing activities performed by county auditors and subagents.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 46.01 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The title and registration advisory committee is created within the
28 department. The committee consists of the director, who shall serve as

1 chair, the assistant director for vehicle services, the administrator
2 of title and registration services, two members from each of the house
3 and senate transportation committees, two county auditors, and two
4 subagents. The committee shall meet at least twice a year, and may
5 meet as often as is necessary.

6 The committee's purpose is to foster communication between the
7 legislature, the department, county auditors, and subagents. The
8 committee shall make recommendations when requested by the legislative
9 transportation committee, or on its own initiative, about revisions to
10 fee structures and implications of fee revisions on cost sharing.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.68 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 The department of licensing services account is created in the
14 motor vehicle fund. All receipts from service fees received under RCW
15 46.01.140(4) shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the
16 account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the
17 account may be used only for information and service systems for the
18 department.