
SENATE BILL 5616

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Sheldon, Smith, Schoesler, Hargrove, Hatfield, Hewitt, and Shin

Read first time 02/05/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of farm vehicles on public highways;
2 amending RCW 46.16A.080 and 46.04.181; and reenacting and amending RCW
3 46.16A.420.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16A.420 and 2010 c 161 s 409 and 2010 c 8 s 9010
6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) A farmer shall apply to the department, county auditor or other
8 agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a farm exempt decal
9 for a farm vehicle if the farm vehicle is exempt under RCW
10 46.16A.080(3). The farm exempt decal:

11 (a) Allows the farm vehicle to be operated (~~(within a radius of~~
12 ~~fifteen miles of the farm where it is principally used or garaged)) on~~
13 public highways as identified under RCW 46.16A.080(3);

14 (b) Must be displayed on the farm vehicle so that it is clearly
15 visible from outside of the farm vehicle; and

16 (c) Must identify that the farm vehicle is exempt from the
17 registration requirements of this chapter.

18 (2) A farmer or the farmer's representative must apply for a farm

1 exempt decal on a form furnished or approved by the department. The
2 application must show:

3 (a) The name and address of the person who is the owner of the
4 vehicle;

5 (b) A full description of the vehicle, including its make, model,
6 year, the motor number or the vehicle identification number if the
7 vehicle is a motor vehicle, or the serial number if the vehicle is a
8 trailer;

9 (c) The purpose for which the vehicle is principally used;

10 (d) The place where the farm vehicle is principally used or
11 garaged; and

12 (e) Other information as required by the department upon
13 application.

14 (3) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
15 appointed by the director shall collect the fee required under RCW
16 46.17.325 when issuing a farm exempt decal.

17 (4) A farm exempt decal may not be renewed. The status as an
18 exempt vehicle continues until suspended or revoked for misuse, or when
19 the vehicle is no longer used as a farm vehicle.

20 (5) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16A.080 and 2011 c 171 s 45 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 The following vehicles are not required to be registered under this
24 chapter:

25 (1) Converter gears used to convert a semitrailer into a trailer or
26 a two-axle truck or tractor into a three or more axle truck or tractor
27 or used in any other manner to increase the number of axles of a
28 vehicle;

29 (2) Electric-assisted bicycles;

30 (3)(a) (~~Farm implements, tractors, trailers, and other~~) Farm
31 vehicles ((+i)) operated incidentally on public highways within ((a
32 radius of fifteen miles)) the vicinity of the farm where it is
33 principally used or garaged for the purposes of traveling between farms
34 or other locations to engage in activities that support farming
35 operations, (b) farm tractors and farm implements including trailers
36 designed as cook or bunk houses(~~, (ii))~~ used exclusively for animal
37 herding(~~, and (iii))~~ temporarily operating or drawn upon the public

1 highways, and (~~(b)~~) (c) trailers used exclusively to transport farm
2 implements from one farm to another during daylight hours or at night
3 when the trailer is equipped with lights that comply with applicable
4 law;

5 (4) Forklifts operated during daylight hours on public highways
6 adjacent to and within five hundred feet of the warehouses they serve;

7 (5) Golf carts, as defined in RCW 46.04.1945, operating within a
8 designated golf cart zone as described in RCW 46.08.175;

9 (6) Motor vehicles operated solely within a national recreation
10 area that is not accessible by a state highway, including motorcycles,
11 motor homes, passenger cars, and sport utility vehicles. This
12 exemption applies only after initial registration;

13 (7) Motorized foot scooters;

14 (8) Nurse rigs or equipment auxiliary for the use of and designed
15 or modified for the fueling, repairing, or loading of spray and
16 fertilizer applicator rigs and not used, designed, or modified
17 primarily for the purpose of transportation;

18 (9) Off-road vehicles operated on a street, road, or highway as
19 authorized under RCW 46.09.360, or nonhighway roads under RCW
20 46.09.450;

21 (10) Special highway construction equipment;

22 (11) Dump trucks and tractor-dump trailer combinations that are:

23 (a) Designed and used primarily for construction work on highways;

24 (b) Not designed or used primarily for the transportation of
25 persons or property on a public highway; and

26 (c) Only incidentally operated or moved over the highways;

27 (12) Spray or fertilizer applicator rigs designed and used
28 exclusively for spraying or fertilization in the conduct of
29 agricultural operations and not primarily for the purpose of
30 transportation;

31 (13) Tow dollies;

32 (14) Trams used for transporting persons to and from facilities
33 related to the horse racing industry as regulated in chapter 67.16 RCW,
34 as long as the public right-of-way routes over which the trams operate
35 are not more than one mile from end to end, the public rights-of-way
36 over which the tram operates have average daily traffic of not more
37 than fifteen thousand vehicles per day, and the activity is in
38 conformity with federal law. The operator must be a licensed driver

1 and at least eighteen years old. For the purposes of this section,
2 "tram" also means a vehicle, or combination of vehicles linked together
3 with a single mode of propulsion, used to transport persons from one
4 location to another; and

5 (15) Vehicles used by the state parks and recreation commission
6 exclusively for park maintenance and operations upon public highways
7 within state parks.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.04.181 and 2012 c 130 s 1 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 "Farm vehicle" means any vehicle other than a farm tractor or farm
11 implement which is: (1) Designed and/or used primarily in agricultural
12 pursuits on farms for the purpose of transporting machinery, equipment,
13 implements, farm products, supplies and/or farm labor thereon and is
14 only incidentally operated on or moved along public highways for the
15 purpose of going from one farm to another or between locations
16 supporting farming operations; or (2) for purposes of RCW 46.25.050,
17 used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies,
18 or any combination of these materials to or from a farm.

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