

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6438

C 79 L 18
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Clarifying the collection process for existing vehicle service transactions.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators King, Palumbo and Hobbs).

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: The Department of Licensing (DOL), a county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the DOL director collects a service fee of:

- \$12 for changes in a certificate of vehicle title, with or without simultaneous registration renewal, or for verification of record and preparation of an affidavit of lost title; and
- \$5 for a registration renewal, issuing a transit permit, accepting a vessel registration, accepting a report of sale, and accepting a transitional ownership record.

The service fees collected by DOL, a county auditor, or other agent appointed by the DOL director must be deposited into the Capital Vessel Replacement Account. The service fees collected by subagents are self-retained.

When the ownership of a vehicle changes, a new registration is required by the new vehicle owner. Exceptions to this include:

- when adding or removing a lienholder from the certificate of title;
- when transferring the vehicle from one spouse or domestic partner to another;
- when removing a deceased spouse or domestic partner from the certificate of title;
- when transferring the vehicle as a gift to a member of the registered owner's immediate family;
- when a leaseholder buys out the leased vehicle; or
- when a person changes their name.

Along with most title transactions required for a change of vehicle ownership, a new registration is required as well.

Summary: DOL, a county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the DOL director can collect a total service fee of \$17 when a title transaction and a registration transaction are conducted simultaneously—\$12 for the title transaction plus \$5 for the

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registration transaction. Language is provided to clarify that service fees are collected in addition to any other taxes and fees due at the time of application for a title transaction or a registration transaction.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 47 0

House 98 0

Effective: April 1, 2019