
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2660

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooper, Prince, Zellinsky and Mielke; by request of Department of Licensing)

Read first time 02/07/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle licenses; and amending RCW 46.12.160,
2 46.16.006, 46.70.090, and 82.80.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.12.160 and 1975 c 25 s 12 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 If the director determines at any time that an applicant for
7 certificate of ownership or for a certificate of license registration
8 for a vehicle is not entitled thereto, ((he)) the department may refuse
9 to issue such certificate or to license the vehicle and ((he)) may, for
10 like reason, after notice, and in the exercise of discretion, cancel
11 license registration already acquired or any outstanding certificate of
12 ownership. The notice ((shall be served personally or sent by
13 certified mail return receipt requested)) of cancellation shall be sent
14 by mail to the registered and/or legal owner at his or her last known

1 address. In addition to sending notice of cancellation the director
2 shall execute an affidavit certifying service of the notice by mail.
3 The affidavit of service by mail shall be attached to a copy of the
4 notice of cancellation and shall be substantially in the following
5 form:

6 AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY MAIL

7 I, _____, hereby certify that on the
8 _____ day of _____, 19____, a copy of the Notice of
9 Cancellation was served on _____ by mailing
10 via the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, at
11 _____ Olympia, Washington.

12 The affidavit shall be retained with a copy of the cancellation notice.
13 It shall then be unlawful for any person to remove, drive, or operate
14 the vehicle until a proper certificate of ownership or license
15 registration has been issued and any person removing, driving, or
16 operating such vehicle after the refusal of the director to issue
17 certificates or the revocation thereof shall be guilty of a gross
18 misdemeanor.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.006 and 1983 c 27 s 1 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) The term "registration year" for the purposes of chapters
22 46.16, 82.44, and 82.50 RCW means the effective period of a vehicle
23 license issued by the department. Such year commences at 12:01 a.m. on
24 the date of the calendar year designated by the department and ends at
25 12:01 a.m. on the same date of the next succeeding calendar year. If
26 a vehicle license previously issued in this state has ((been)) expired

1 ((for more than thirty days)) and is renewed with a different
2 registered owner, a new registration year is deemed to commence upon
3 the date the expired license is renewed in order that the renewed
4 license be useable for a full twelve-month period.

5 (2) Each registration year may be divided into twelve registration
6 months. Each registration month commences on the day numerically
7 corresponding to the day of the calendar month on which the
8 registration year begins, and terminates on the numerically
9 corresponding day of the next succeeding calendar month.

10 (3) Where the term "last day of the month" is used in chapters
11 46.16, 82.44, and 82.50 RCW in lieu of a specified day of any calendar
12 month it means the last day of such calendar month or months
13 irrespective of the numerical designation of that day.

14 (4) If the final day of a registration year or month falls on a
15 Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, such period extends through the end
16 of the next business day.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.70.090 and 1991 c 140 s 1 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 (1) The department shall issue a vehicle dealer license plate which
20 shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle only and which is capable
21 of distinguishing the classification of the dealer, to vehicle dealers
22 properly licensed pursuant to this chapter and shall, upon application,
23 issue manufacturer's license plates to manufacturers properly licensed
24 pursuant to this chapter.

25 (2) The department shall not issue a vehicle dealer license plate
26 to any vehicle dealer selling fewer than five vehicles annually. After
27 the first dealer plate is issued, the department shall limit the number
28 of dealer plates to six percent of the vehicles sold during the
29 preceding license period. For an original license the vehicle dealer

1 license applicant shall estimate the first year's sales. The director
2 or director's designee may waive these dealer plate issuance
3 restrictions for a vehicle dealer if the waiver both serves the
4 purposes of this chapter and is essential to the continuation of the
5 business. The director shall adopt rules to implement this waiver.

6 (3) Motor vehicle dealer license plates may be used:

7 (a) To demonstrate motor vehicles held for sale when operated by an
8 individual holding a valid operator's license, if a dated demonstration
9 permit, valid for no more than seventy-two hours, is carried in the
10 vehicle at all times it is operated by any such individual.

11 (b) On motor vehicles owned, held for sale, and which are in fact
12 available for sale by the firm when operated by an officer of the
13 corporation, partnership, or proprietorship or by their spouses, or by
14 a bona fide full-time employee of the firm, if a card so identifying
15 any such individual is carried in the vehicle at all times it is
16 operated by such individual. Any such vehicle so operated may be used
17 to transport the dealer's own tools, parts, and equipment of a total
18 weight not to exceed five hundred pounds.

19 (c) On motor vehicles being tested for repair.

20 (d) On motor vehicles being moved to or from a motor vehicle
21 dealer's place of business for sale.

22 (e) On motor vehicles being moved to or from motor vehicle service
23 and repair facilities before sale.

24 (f) On motor vehicles being moved to or from motor vehicle
25 exhibitions within the state of Washington, if any such exhibition does
26 not exceed a period of twenty days.

27 (4) Mobile home and travel trailer dealer license plates may be
28 used:

1 (a) On units hauled to or from the place of business of the
2 manufacturer and the place of business of the dealer or to and from
3 places of business of the dealer.

4 (b) On mobile homes hauled to a customer's location for set-up
5 after sale.

6 (c) On travel trailers held for sale to demonstrate the towing
7 capability of the vehicle if a dated demonstration permit, valid for
8 not more than seventy-two hours, is carried with the vehicle at all
9 times.

10 (d) On mobile homes being hauled from a customer's location if the
11 requirements of RCW 46.44.170 and 46.44.175 are met.

12 (e) On any motor vehicle owned by the dealer which is used only to
13 move vehicles legally bearing mobile home and travel trailer dealer
14 license plates of the dealer so owning any such motor vehicle.

15 (f) On vehicles being moved to or from vehicle exhibitions within
16 the state of Washington, if any such exhibition does not exceed a
17 period of twenty days.

18 (5) Miscellaneous vehicle dealer license plates may be used:

19 (a) To demonstrate any miscellaneous vehicle: PROVIDED, That:

20 (i) No such vehicle may be demonstrated on a public highway unless
21 the customer has an appropriate endorsement on his driver's license, if
22 such endorsement is required to operate such vehicle; and

23 (ii) A dated demonstration permit, valid for no more than seventy-
24 two hours, is carried with the vehicle at all times it is operated by
25 any such individual.

26 (b) On vehicles owned, held for sale, and which are in fact
27 available for sale, by the firm when operated by an officer of the
28 corporation, partnership, or proprietorship or by a bona fide full-time
29 employee of the firm, if a card so identifying such individual is
30 carried in the vehicle at all times it is operated by him.

1 (c) On vehicles being tested for repair.

2 (d) On vehicles being transported to or from the place of business
3 of the manufacturer and the place of business of the dealer or to and
4 from places of business of the dealer.

5 (e) On vehicles on which any other item sold or to be sold by the
6 dealer is transported from the place of business of the manufacturer to
7 the place of business of the dealer or to and from places of business
8 of the dealer if such vehicle and such item are purchased or sold as
9 one package.

10 (6) Manufacturers properly licensed pursuant to this chapter may
11 apply for and obtain manufacturer license plates and may be used:

12 (a) On vehicles being moved to or from the place of business of a
13 manufacturer to a vehicle dealer within this state who is properly
14 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

15 (b) To test vehicles for repair.

16 (7) Vehicle dealer license plates and manufacturer license plates
17 shall not be used for any purpose other than set forth in this section
18 and specifically shall not be:

19 (a) Used on any vehicle not within the class for which the vehicle
20 dealer or manufacturer license plates are issued unless specifically
21 provided for in this section.

22 (b) Loaned to any person for any reason not specifically provided
23 for in this section.

24 (c) Used on any vehicles for the transportation of any person,
25 produce, freight, or commodities unless specifically provided for in
26 this section, except there shall be permitted the use of such vehicle
27 dealer license plates on a vehicle transporting commodities in the
28 course of a demonstration over a period not to exceed seventy-two
29 consecutive hours from the commencement of such demonstration, if a

1 representative of the dealer is present and accompanies such vehicle
2 during the course of the demonstration.

3 (d) Used on any vehicle sold to a resident of another state to
4 transport such vehicle to that other state in lieu of a trip permit or
5 in lieu of vehicle license plates obtained from that other state.

6 (e) Used on any new vehicle unless the vehicle dealer has provided
7 the department a current service agreement with the manufacturer or
8 distributor of that vehicle as provided in RCW 46.70.041(1)(k).

9 (8) In addition to or in lieu of any sanction imposed by the
10 director pursuant to RCW 46.70.101 for unauthorized use of vehicle
11 dealer license plates or manufacturer license plates, the director may
12 order that any or all vehicle dealer license plates or manufacturer
13 license plates issued pursuant to this chapter be confiscated for such
14 period as he deems appropriate.

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.80.020 and 1991 c 318 s 13 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) The legislative authority of a county may fix and impose an
18 additional fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars per vehicle, for each
19 vehicle that is subject to license fees under RCW 46.16.060 and is
20 determined by the department of licensing to be registered within the
21 boundaries of the county.

22 (2) The department of licensing shall administer and collect the
23 fee. The department shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by
24 contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected, for
25 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
26 proceeds shall be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer for
27 monthly distribution under RCW 82.80.080.

28 (3) The proceeds of this fee shall be used strictly for
29 transportation purposes in accordance with RCW 82.80.070.

1 (4) A county imposing this fee shall delay the effective date at
2 least six months from the date the ordinance is enacted to allow the
3 department of licensing to implement administration and collection of
4 the fee.

5 (5) The legislative authority of a county may develop and initiate
6 ~~((a refund))~~ an exemption process of the fifteen dollar fee ~~((to))~~ for
7 the registered owners of vehicles residing within the boundaries of the
8 county who ~~((are sixty one years old or older at the time of payment of~~
9 ~~the fee and whose household income for the previous calendar year is~~
10 ~~eighteen thousand dollars or less or who has a physical disability and~~
11 ~~who has paid the fifteen dollar additional fee))~~ meet the standards for
12 the property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.381.