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SENATE BILL 5616

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Senators Horn, Spanel, Finkbeiner, Goings, Oke and Costa

Read first time 01/29/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to the extension of the validity of a driver's  
2 license that expires while the driver is outside the state or where the  
3 driver is a spouse or dependent child of a member of the armed forces;  
4 amending RCW 46.20.027 and 46.20.120; creating a new section; and  
5 declaring an emergency.

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

7            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.20.027 and 1967 c 129 s 1 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9            A Washington state motor vehicle driver's license issued to any  
10 person serving in the armed forces of the United States, if valid and  
11 in force and effect while such person is serving in the armed forces,  
12 shall remain in full force and effect so long as such service continues  
13 unless the same is sooner suspended, canceled, or revoked for cause as  
14 provided by law and for not to exceed ninety days following the date on  
15 which the holder of such driver's license is honorably separated from  
16 service in the armed forces of the United States. A Washington state  
17 driver's license issued to the spouse or dependent child of such  
18 service member likewise remains in full force and effect if the person  
19 is residing with the service member.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.120 and 1990 c 9 s 1 are each amended to read as  
2 follows:

3       (1) No new driver's license may be issued and no previously issued  
4 license may be renewed until the applicant therefor has successfully  
5 passed a driver licensing examination. However, the department may  
6 waive all or any part of the examination of any person applying for the  
7 renewal of a driver's license except when the department determines  
8 that an applicant for a driver's license is not qualified to hold a  
9 driver's license under this title. The department may also waive the  
10 actual demonstration of the ability to operate a motor vehicle by a  
11 person who surrenders a valid driver's license issued by the person's  
12 previous home state and who is otherwise qualified to be licensed. For  
13 a new license examination a fee of seven dollars shall be paid by each  
14 applicant, in addition to the fee charged for issuance of the license.  
15 A new license is one issued to a driver who has not been previously  
16 licensed in this state or to a driver whose last previous Washington  
17 license has been expired for more than four years.

18       (2) Any person renewing his or her driver's license more than sixty  
19 days after the license has expired shall pay a penalty fee of ten  
20 dollars in addition to the renewal fee under RCW 46.20.181. The  
21 penalty fee shall be deposited in the highway safety fund.

22       (3) Any person who is outside the state at the time his or her  
23 driver's license expires or who is unable to renew the license due to  
24 any incapacity may renew the license within sixty days after returning  
25 to this state or within sixty days after the termination of any such  
26 incapacity without the payment of the penalty fee.

27       (4) A person whose license expired or will expire on or after  
28 January 1, 1998, while he or she was or is living outside the state  
29 may:

30       (a) Apply to the department to extend the validity of his or her  
31 license for no more than twelve months. If the person establishes to  
32 the department's satisfaction that he or she is unable to return to  
33 Washington before the date his or her license expires, the department  
34 shall extend the person's license. The department may grant  
35 consecutive extensions, but in no event may the cumulative total of  
36 extensions exceed twelve months. An extension granted under this  
37 section does not change the expiration date of the license for purposes  
38 of RCW 46.20.181. The department shall charge a fee of five dollars  
39 for each license extension;

1       (b) Apply to the department to renew his or her license by mail.  
2 If the person establishes to the department's satisfaction that he or  
3 she is unable to return to Washington within twelve months of the date  
4 that his or her license expires, the department shall renew the  
5 person's license by mail. If a person qualifies for a mail-in renewal  
6 he or she is not required to pass an examination nor provide an updated  
7 photograph. He or she must, however, pay the fee required by RCW  
8 46.20.181 plus an additional five-dollar mail-in renewal fee. A  
9 license renewed by mail that does not include a photograph of the  
10 licensee must be labeled "not valid for identification purposes."

11       (5) The department shall provide for giving examinations at places  
12 and times reasonably available to the people of this state.

13       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) If the driver's license of a spouse or  
14 dependent of a member of the armed forces expired between January 1,  
15 1998, and the effective date of this act and the department did not  
16 renew that person's license, the department shall renew that person's  
17 license for an additional four-year term as otherwise provided under  
18 RCW 46.20.181 and shall waive the late renewal fee authorized under RCW  
19 46.20.120.

20       (2) The department shall waive the late renewal fee authorized  
21 under RCW 46.20.120 for drivers who qualify for license renewal or  
22 extension under RCW 46.20.120(4) if the driver's license expired before  
23 the effective date of this act.

24       NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
26 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
27 immediately.

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