
SENATE BILL 6797

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senator Gardner

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to disposition of vehicle and vessel registration
2 fees; and amending RCW 46.01.140 and 46.68.035.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.01.140 and 1996 c 315 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

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

13 (2) A county auditor appointed by the director may request that the
14 director appoint subagencies within the county. Upon authorization of
15 the director, the auditor shall advertise a request for proposals and
16 use the process for soliciting vendors under RCW 39.04.190(2), except
17 that the provision requiring the contract to be awarded to the lowest
18 responsible bidder shall not apply. The auditor shall submit all
19 proposals to the director, and shall recommend the appointment of one

1 or more subagents who have applied through the request for proposal
2 process. The director has final appointment authority.

3 (3)(a) A county auditor who is appointed as an agent by the
4 department shall enter into a standard contract provided by the
5 director, developed with the advice of the title and registration
6 advisory committee.

7 (b) A subagent appointed under subsection (2) of this section shall
8 enter into a standard contract with the county auditor, developed with
9 the advice of the title and registration advisory committee. The
10 director shall provide the standard contract to county auditors.

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

13 (i) Describe the responsibilities, and where applicable, the
14 liability, of each party relating to the service expectations and
15 levels, equipment to be supplied by the department, and equipment
16 maintenance;

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

20 (iii) Specify the amount of training that will be provided by the
21 state, the county auditor, or subagents;

22 (iv) Describe allowable costs that may be charged to vehicle
23 licensing activities as provided for in (d) of this subsection;

24 (v) Describe the causes and procedures for termination of the
25 contract, which may include mediation and binding arbitration.

26 (d) The department shall develop procedures that will standardize
27 and prescribe allowable costs that may be assigned to vehicle licensing
28 and vessel registration and title activities performed by county
29 auditors.

30 (e) The contracts may include any provision that the director deems
31 necessary to ensure acceptable service and the full collection of
32 vehicle and vessel tax revenues.

33 (f) The director may waive any provisions of the contract deemed
34 necessary in order to ensure that readily accessible service is
35 provided to the citizens of the state.

36 (4)(a) At any time any application is made to the director, the
37 county auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with
38 licenses, registration, or the right to operate any vehicle or vessel
39 upon the public highways or waters of this state, excluding applicants

1 already paying such fee under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, the applicant
2 shall pay to the director, county auditor where the vehicle or vessel
3 is registered, or other agent a fee of three dollars for each
4 application in addition to any other fees required by law.

5 (b) Counties that do not cover the expenses of vehicle licensing
6 and vessel registration and title activities may submit to the
7 department a request for cost-coverage moneys. The request must be
8 submitted on a form developed by the department. The department shall
9 develop procedures to verify whether a request is reasonable. Payment
10 shall be made on requests found to be allowable from the licensing
11 services account.

12 (c) Applicants for certificates of ownership, including applicants
13 paying fees under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, shall pay to the
14 director, county auditor where the vehicle or vessel is registered, or
15 other agent a fee of four dollars in addition to any other fees
16 required by law.

17 (d) The fees under (a) and (c) of this subsection, if paid to the
18 county auditor as agent of the director, or if paid to a subagent of
19 the county auditor, shall be paid to the county treasurer in the same
20 manner as other fees collected by the county auditor and credited to
21 the county current expense fund. If the fee is paid to another agent
22 of the director, the fee shall be used by the agent to defray his or
23 her expenses in handling the application.

24 (5) A subagent shall collect a service fee of (a) seven dollars and
25 fifty cents for changes in a certificate of ownership, with or without
26 registration renewal, or verification of record and preparation of an
27 affidavit of lost title other than at the time of the title application
28 or transfer and (b) three dollars for registration renewal only,
29 issuing a transit permit, or any other service under this section.

30 (6) If the fee is collected by the state patrol as agent for the
31 director, the fee so collected shall be certified to the state
32 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the state patrol highway
33 account. If the fee is collected by the department of transportation
34 as agent for the director, the fee shall be certified to the state
35 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. All
36 such fees collected by the director or branches of his office shall be
37 certified to the state treasurer and deposited to the credit of the
38 highway safety fund.

1 (7) Any county revenues that exceed the cost of providing vehicle
2 licensing and vessel registration and title activities in a county,
3 calculated in accordance with the procedures in subsection (3)(d) of
4 this section, shall be expended as determined by the county legislative
5 authority during the process established by law for adoption of county
6 budgets.

7 (8) The director may adopt rules to implement this section. The
8 director, in conjunction with the county auditors, will develop and
9 administer a methodology to distribute among the counties the fees
10 collected by the various county agents. Actual costs for administering
11 this section will be provided for from the fees collected by the
12 various county agents.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.68.035 and 1993 c 102 s 7 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 All proceeds from combined vehicle licensing fees received by the
16 director for vehicles licensed under RCW 46.16.070 and 46.16.085 shall
17 be forwarded to the state treasurer to be distributed into accounts
18 according to the following method:

19 (1) The sum of two dollars for each vehicle shall be deposited into
20 the highway safety fund, except that for each vehicle registered by a
21 county auditor or agent to a county auditor pursuant to RCW 46.01.140,
22 the sum of two dollars shall be credited to the current county expense
23 fund where the vehicle is registered.

24 (2) The remainder shall be distributed as follows:

25 (a) 23.677 percent shall be deposited into the state patrol highway
26 account of the motor vehicle fund;

27 (b) 1.521 percent shall be deposited into the Puget Sound ferry
28 operations account of the motor vehicle fund; and

29 (c) The remaining proceeds shall be deposited into the motor
30 vehicle fund.

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