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SENATE BILL 5978

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Johnson, Shin and Winsley

Read first time 02/26/2003. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to identifying the use of illegal drivers' licenses  
2 when renting a vehicle; adding a new section to chapter 43.43 RCW; and  
3 creating new sections.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that fraudulent or  
6 fictitious drivers' licenses are sometimes used to obtain the use of  
7 rental vehicles. Unlicensed drivers are operating rental vehicles on  
8 state highways and roads. Often these drivers have lost their licenses  
9 because of various driving offenses. It is a public safety benefit to  
10 the state that these drivers not have access to rental vehicles. The  
11 legislature also finds that criminal activity is often facilitated by  
12 the use of rental vehicles which are often obtained through the use of  
13 illegal drivers' licenses. The legislature declares that existing  
14 technology can allow rental car companies to determine in real time  
15 only the validity of a driver's license which will allow vehicle rental  
16 companies to prevent the illegal rental of vehicles in this state.

17            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1       The state patrol and department of licensing shall develop and  
2 adopt through joint rule making, in consultation and cooperation with  
3 the car and truck renting and leasing association, a program, at no  
4 cost to the state, that provides vehicle rental companies with the  
5 means to determine in real time only the validity of this state's and  
6 other states' drivers' licenses.

7       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   The state patrol and department of licensing  
8 shall report to the legislature by December 31, 2003, on the details of  
9 the program developed under section 2 of this act.

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