

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1343

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### As Amended by the Senate

**Title:** An act relating to examination requirements for a certificate of ownership.

**Brief Description:** Adding a physical examination requirement for certificate of ownership applications.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives Takko and Armstrong; by request of Washington State Patrol.

#### Brief History:

##### Committee Activity:

Transportation: 2/13/07, 2/22/07 [DP].

##### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/6/07, 97-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/3/07, 45-2.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the requirement for rebuilt vehicle inspections for owner-retained vehicles after destruction or being declared as a total loss.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 21 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Jarrett, Ranking Minority Member; Schindler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Armstrong, Campbell, Dickerson, Eddy, Ericksen, Hailey, Hankins, Hudgins, Lovick, Rodne, Rolfes, Sells, Simpson, Springer, Takko, Wallace and Wood.

**Staff:** Jerry Long (786-7306).

#### Background:

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) performs Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) inspections in Washington. Mandatory inspections prior to the Department of Licensing (DOL) issuing a title are: rebuilt vehicles after being destroyed or declared a total loss by an insurance company. They also perform physical inspections on vehicles reported stolen,

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homemade vehicles, or other vehicles without a proper VIN, when there is a VIN discrepancy, when there is a recorded dispute, when ownership is in doubt, or other special cases. The fee for a rebuilt vehicle or an assembled vehicle is \$50.

Upon the destruction of any vehicle that was issued a title or a license registration, the registered owner and the legal owner will surrender the certificate to the DOL, together with a statement for the reason for the surrender and the date and place of the loss. The registered/legal owner of the vehicle at the time of the loss may keep the vehicle and have the vehicle rebuilt. The WSP will perform an inspection of the salvage rebuilt vehicle prior to the re-issuance of a Washington title in order to verify that the VIN is genuine and that the parts used to repair the vehicle are not stolen.

In 2006, the WSP performed 11,731 owner-retained inspections, which account for approximately 25 percent of the VIN inspections.

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**Summary of Bill:**

The owner of a vehicle that has been rebuilt after being declared a total loss is not required to present the vehicle for physical inspection prior to title re-issuance if the person retained ownership after the vehicle was declared a total loss.

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**EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):**

The Washington State Patrol's physical vehicle inspection fee is raised from fifty dollars to sixty five dollars. The additional fifteen dollars will be deposited into the State Patrol Highway Account. Clarifies that as long as the Washington State Patrol has a backlog of vehicles to inspect, nothing in the act will be construed to reduce the agency's Vin inspection workload.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) The owner-rebuilt vehicles are inspected to verify that the VIN is genuine and the parts used to repair the vehicle are not stolen. In the last three years only one vehicle was found to be stolen. These inspections represent 25 percent of the vehicle inspections. Some vehicles are not totaled or destroyed, but insurance companies may total a vehicle because the repairs are more than the vehicle is worth. Presently the wait time for an inspection is 28 days. This would reduce the wait time for the other required inspections to 20 days. The owner-built inspections are not needed since problems have not been identified.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Representative Takko, prime sponsor; Jeff Devere, Washington State Patrol; and Mike Gable, Department of Licensing.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.