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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5281**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Chapman, King, Liias, Harris, Nobles, and Shewmake)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/25.

1       AN ACT Relating to nonresident vessel permits; amending RCW  
2 88.02.620 and 88.02.640; providing an effective date; and providing  
3 an expiration date.

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

5       **Sec. 1.** RCW 88.02.620 and 2023 c 374 s 23 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7       (1) A vessel owner who is a nonresident person must obtain a  
8 nonresident vessel permit on or before the 61st day of use in  
9 Washington state if the vessel:

10       (a) Is currently registered or numbered under the laws of the  
11 state or country of principal operation, has been issued a valid  
12 number under federal law, or has a valid United States customs  
13 service cruising license issued under 19 C.F.R. Sec. 4.94; and

14       (b) Has been brought into Washington state for not more than six  
15 months in any continuous 12-month period, and is used:

16       (i) For personal use; or

17       (ii) For the purposes of chartering a vessel with a captain or  
18 crew, as long as individual charters are for at least three or more  
19 consecutive days in duration. The permit also applies for the  
20 purposes of necessary transit to or from the start or end point of

1 such a charter, but that transit time is not counted toward the  
2 duration of the charter.

3 (2) In addition to the requirements in subsection (1) of this  
4 section, a nonresident vessel owner that is not a natural person, or  
5 a nonresident vessel owner who is a natural person who intends to  
6 charter the vessel with a captain or crew as provided in subsection  
7 (1)(b)(ii) of this section, may only obtain a nonresident vessel  
8 permit if:

9 (a) The vessel is at least 30 feet in length, but no more than  
10 ~~((200))~~ 300 feet in length;

11 (b) No Washington state resident owns the vessel or is a  
12 principal, as defined in RCW 82.32.865, of the nonresident person  
13 which owns the vessel; and

14 (c) The department of revenue has provided the nonresident vessel  
15 owner written approval authorizing the permit as provided in RCW  
16 82.32.865.

17 (3) A nonresident vessel permit:

18 (a) May be obtained from the department, county auditor or other  
19 agent, or subagent appointed by the director;

20 (b) Must show the date the vessel first came into Washington  
21 state; and

22 (c) Is valid for two months.

23 (4) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent  
24 appointed by the director must collect the fee required in RCW  
25 88.02.640(1)(i) when issuing nonresident vessel permits.

26 (5) A nonresident vessel permit is not required under this  
27 section if the vessel is used in conducting temporary business  
28 activity within Washington state.

29 (6) For any permits issued under this section to a nonresident  
30 vessel owner that is not a natural person, or for any permits issued  
31 to a natural person who intends to charter the vessel with a captain  
32 or crew as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii) of this section, the  
33 department must maintain a record of the following information and  
34 provide it to the department of revenue quarterly or as otherwise  
35 mutually agreed to by the department and department of revenue:

36 (a) The name of the record owner of the vessel;

37 (b) The vessel's hull identification number;

38 (c) The amount of the fee paid under RCW 88.02.640(5);

39 (d) The date the vessel first entered the waters of this state;

40 (e) The expiration date for the permit; and

1 (f) Any other information mutually agreed to by the department  
2 and department of revenue.

3 (7) A vessel operating under a nonresident vessel permit must be  
4 operated in compliance with the quiet sound program and the  
5 department of fish and wildlife's safe whale distance guidelines.

6 (8) The department must adopt rules to implement this section,  
7 including rules on issuing and displaying the nonresident vessel  
8 permit. Until May 1, 2026, the department must process the  
9 application for a nonresident vessel permit, with respect to a vessel  
10 that exceeds 200 feet in length, as if the vessel were 200 feet in  
11 length.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 88.02.640 and 2021 c 150 s 2 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (1) In addition to any other fees and taxes required by law, the  
15 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by  
16 the director must charge the following vessel fees and surcharge:

| FEE  | AMOUNT                            | AUTHORITY                         | DISTRIBUTION                      |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Dealer temporary permit                            | \$5.00                            | RCW 88.02.800(2)                  | General fund                      |
| (b) Derelict vessel and<br>invasive species<br>removal | Subsection (3) of this<br>section | Subsection (3) of this<br>section | Subsection (3) of this<br>section |
| (c) Derelict vessel removal<br>surcharge               | \$1.00                            | Subsection (4) of this<br>section | Subsection (4) of this<br>section |
| (d) Duplicate certificate of<br>title                  | \$1.25                            | RCW 88.02.530(1)(c)               | General fund                      |
| (e) Duplicate registration                             | \$1.25                            | RCW 88.02.590(1)(c)               | General fund                      |
| (f) Filing   | RCW 46.17.005                     | RCW 88.02.560(2)                  | RCW 46.68.400                     |
| (g) License plate technology                           | RCW 46.17.015                     | RCW 88.02.560(2)                  | RCW 46.68.370                     |
| (h) License service                                    | RCW 46.17.025                     | RCW 88.02.560(2)                  | RCW 46.68.220                     |
| (i) Nonresident vessel<br>permit                       | Subsection (5) of this<br>section | RCW 88.02.620(4)                  | Subsection (5) of this<br>section |
| (j) Quick title service                                | \$50.00                           | RCW 88.02.540(3)                  | Subsection (7) of this<br>section |
| (k) Registration                                       | \$10.50                           | RCW 88.02.560(2)                  | RCW 88.02.650                     |
| (l) Replacement decal                                  | \$1.25                            | RCW 88.02.595(1)(c)               | General fund                      |

|   |                           |               |                   |                        |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | (m) Service fee           | RCW 46.17.040 | RCW 88.02.515 and | RCW 46.17.040          |
| 2 |                           |               | 88.02.560(2)      |                        |
| 3 | (n) Title application     | \$5.00        | RCW 88.02.515     | General fund           |
| 4 | (o) Transfer              | \$1.00        | RCW 88.02.560(7)  | General fund           |
| 5 | (p) Vessel visitor permit | \$30.00       | RCW 88.02.610(3)  | Subsection (6) of this |
| 6 |                           |               |                   | section                |

7 (2) The five dollar dealer temporary permit fee required in  
8 subsection (1) of this section must be credited to the payment of  
9 registration fees at the time application for registration is made.

10 (3) The derelict vessel and invasive species removal fee required  
11 in subsection (1) of this section is five dollars and must be  
12 distributed as follows:

13 (a) Two dollars must be deposited in the aquatic invasive species  
14 management account created in RCW 77.135.200;

15 (b) One dollar must be deposited into the aquatic algae control  
16 account created in RCW 43.21A.667; and

17 (c) Two dollars must be deposited in the derelict vessel removal  
18 account created in RCW 79.100.100.

19 (4) In addition to other fees required in this section, an annual  
20 derelict vessel removal surcharge of one dollar must be charged with  
21 each vessel registration. The surcharge is to address the significant  
22 backlog of derelict vessels accumulated in Washington waters that  
23 pose a threat to the health and safety of the people and to the  
24 environment and must be deposited into the derelict vessel removal  
25 account created in RCW 79.100.100.

26 (5) (a) The amount of the nonresident vessel permit fee is:

27 (i) For a vessel owned by a nonresident natural person, (~~twenty-~~  
28 ~~five dollars~~) \$25; and

29 (ii) For a nonresident vessel owner that is not a natural person,  
30 the fee is equal to:

31 (A) (~~Twenty-five dollars~~) \$25 per foot for vessels between  
32 (~~thirty~~) 30 and (~~ninety-nine~~) 99 feet in length;

33 (B) (~~Thirty dollars~~) \$30 per foot for vessels between (~~one~~  
34 ~~hundred~~) 100 and (~~one hundred twenty~~) 120 feet in length; (~~and~~)

35 (C) (~~Thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents~~) \$37.50 per foot for  
36 vessels between (~~one hundred twenty-one~~) 121 and (~~two hundred~~)  
37 200 feet in length. The fee must be multiplied by the extreme length  
38 of the vessel in feet, rounded up to the nearest whole foot; and

1 (D)(I) \$100 per foot for vessels between 201 and 300 feet in  
2 length, except as provided in (a)(ii)(D)(II) of this subsection. The  
3 fee must be multiplied by the extreme length of the vessel in feet,  
4 rounded up to the nearest whole foot.

5 (II) Until May 1, 2026, the fee for vessels between 201 and 300  
6 feet in length is the same as that for a vessel 200 feet in length.

7 (b) The fee must be paid by the vessel owner to the department.  
8 Any moneys remaining from the fee after the payment of costs to  
9 administer the permit must be allocated to counties by the state  
10 treasurer for approved boating safety programs under RCW 88.02.650,  
11 except that all revenues generated from the fees established in  
12 (a)(ii)(D) of this subsection must be allocated to the Washington  
13 state recreation and conservation office for a grant program to  
14 support youth swim lessons in overburdened communities.

15 (c) In addition to the applicable fees under this section, vessel  
16 owners who obtain a nonresident vessel permit for the purposes of  
17 chartering their vessel with a captain or crew are subject to use tax  
18 as provided in RCW 82.12.799.

19 (6) The ~~((thirty-dollar))~~ \$30 vessel visitor permit fee must be  
20 distributed as follows:

21 (a) Five dollars must be deposited in the derelict vessel removal  
22 account created in RCW 79.100.100;

23 (b) The department may keep an amount to cover costs for  
24 providing the vessel visitor permit;

25 (c) Any moneys remaining must be allocated to counties by the  
26 state treasurer for approved boating safety programs under RCW  
27 88.02.650; and

28 (d) Any fees required for licensing agents under RCW 46.17.005  
29 are in addition to any other fee or tax due for the titling and  
30 registration of vessels.

31 (7)(a) The ~~((fifty-dollar))~~ \$50 quick title service fee must be  
32 distributed as follows:

33 (i) If the fee is paid to the director, the fee must be deposited  
34 to the general fund.

35 (ii) If the fee is paid to the participating county auditor or  
36 other agent appointed by the director, ~~((twenty-five-dollars))~~ \$25  
37 must be deposited to the general fund. The remainder must be retained  
38 by the county treasurer in the same manner as other fees collected by  
39 the county auditor.

1 (iii) If the fee is paid to a subagent appointed by the director,  
2 (~~twenty-five dollars~~) \$25 must be deposited to the general fund.  
3 The remaining (~~twenty-five dollars~~) \$25 must be distributed as  
4 follows: (~~Twelve dollars and fifty cents~~) \$12.50 must be retained  
5 by the county treasurer in the same manner as other fees collected by  
6 the county auditor and (~~twelve dollars and fifty cents~~) \$12.50 must  
7 be retained by the subagent.

8 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "quick title" has the  
9 same meaning as in RCW 88.02.540.

10 (8) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent  
11 appointed by the director shall charge the service fee under  
12 subsection (1)(m) of this section beginning January 1, 2016.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire  
14 January 1, 2029.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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