
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5281

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

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

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the vessel length requirement in obtaining
2 nonresident vessel permits; amending RCW 88.02.620 and 88.02.640;
3 providing an effective date; and providing 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) The department must adopt rules to implement this section,
4 including rules on issuing and displaying the nonresident vessel
5 permit. Until May 1, 2026, the department must process the
6 application for a nonresident vessel permit, with respect to a vessel
7 that exceeds 200 feet in length, as if the vessel were 200 feet in
8 length.

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

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

14 FEE	AMOUNT	AUTHORITY	DISTRIBUTION
15 (a) Dealer temporary permit	\$5.00	RCW 88.02.800(2)	General fund
16 (b) Derelict vessel and 17 invasive species 18 removal	Subsection (3) of this section	Subsection (3) of this section	Subsection (3) of this section
19 (c) Derelict vessel removal 20 surcharge	\$1.00	Subsection (4) of this section	Subsection (4) of this section
21 (d) Duplicate certificate of 22 title	\$1.25	RCW 88.02.530(1)(c)	General fund
23 (e) Duplicate registration	\$1.25	RCW 88.02.590(1)(c)	General fund
24 (f) Filing	RCW 46.17.005	RCW 88.02.560(2)	RCW 46.68.400
25 (g) License plate technology	RCW 46.17.015	RCW 88.02.560(2)	RCW 46.68.370
26 (h) License service	RCW 46.17.025	RCW 88.02.560(2)	RCW 46.68.220
27 (i) Nonresident vessel 28 permit	Subsection (5) of this section	RCW 88.02.620(4)	Subsection (5) of this section
29 (j) Quick title service 30	\$50.00	RCW 88.02.540(3)	Subsection (7) of this section
31 (k) Registration	\$10.50	RCW 88.02.560(2)	RCW 88.02.650
32 (l) Replacement decal	\$1.25	RCW 88.02.595(1)(c)	General fund
33 (m) Service fee 34	RCW 46.17.040	RCW 88.02.515 and 88.02.560(2)	RCW 46.17.040
35 (n) Title application	\$5.00	RCW 88.02.515	General fund

1	(o) Transfer	\$1.00	RCW 88.02.560(7)	General fund
2	(p) Vessel visitor permit	\$30.00	RCW 88.02.610(3)	Subsection (6) of this
3				section

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (C) (~~Thirty seven dollars and fifty cents~~) \$37.50 per foot for
33 vessels between (~~one hundred twenty one~~) 121 and (~~two hundred~~)
34 200 feet in length. The fee must be multiplied by the extreme length
35 of the vessel in feet, rounded up to the nearest whole foot; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (c) Any moneys remaining must be allocated to counties by the
22 state treasurer for approved boating safety programs under RCW
23 88.02.650; and

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

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

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

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

36 (iii) If the fee is paid to a subagent appointed by the director,
37 (~~twenty-five-dollars~~) \$25 must be deposited to the general fund.
38 The remaining (~~twenty-five-dollars~~) \$25 must be distributed as
39 follows: (~~Twelve-dollars-and-fifty-cents~~) \$12.50 must be retained
40 by the county treasurer in the same manner as other fees collected by

1 the county auditor and (~~twelve dollars and fifty cents~~) \$12.50 must
2 be retained by the subagent.

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

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

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

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

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