
SENATE BILL 6288

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators King and Lias

Read first time 01/22/26. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle dealer license requirements; and
2 amending RCW 46.70.023.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.70.023 and 2021 c 201 s 4 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) An "established place of business" requires a permanent,
7 enclosed commercial building located within the state of Washington
8 easily accessible at all reasonable times. The business of a vehicle
9 dealer must be lawfully carried on at an established place of
10 business in accordance with the terms of all applicable building
11 code, zoning, and other land-use regulatory ordinances. A vehicle
12 dealer may display a vehicle for sale only at its established place
13 of business, licensed subagency, or temporary subagency site, except
14 at auction, however a vehicle dealer may deliver a vehicle for
15 inspection, a test drive, lease, or purchase and have a customer sign
16 agreements over the internet or at a location other than the vehicle
17 dealer's established place of business or licensed or temporary
18 subagency. The dealer shall keep the building open to the public so
19 that the public may contact the vehicle dealer or the dealer's
20 salespersons at all reasonable times. The books, records, and files
21 necessary to conduct the business shall be kept and maintained at

1 that place. The established place of business shall display an
2 exterior sign with the business name and nature of the business, such
3 as auto sales, permanently affixed to the land or building, with
4 letters clearly visible to the major avenue of traffic. A room or
5 rooms in a hotel, rooming house, or apartment house building or part
6 of a single or multiple-unit dwelling house may not be considered an
7 "established place of business" unless the ground floor of such a
8 dwelling is devoted principally to and occupied for commercial
9 purposes and the dealer offices are located on the ground floor. A
10 mobile office or mobile home may be used as an office if it is
11 connected to utilities and is set up in accordance with state law. A
12 statewide trade association representing manufactured housing dealers
13 shall be permitted to use a manufactured home as an office if the
14 office complies with all other applicable building code, zoning, and
15 other land-use regulatory ordinances. This subsection does not apply
16 to auction companies that do not own vehicle inventory or sell
17 vehicles from an auction yard.

18 (2) An auction company shall have office facilities within the
19 state. The books, records, and files necessary to conduct the
20 business shall be maintained at the office facilities. All storage
21 facilities for inventory shall be listed with the department, and
22 shall meet local zoning and land use ordinances. An auction company
23 shall maintain a telecommunications system.

24 (3) Auction companies shall post their vehicle dealer license at
25 each auction where vehicles are offered, and shall provide the
26 department with the address of the auction at least three days before
27 the auction.

28 (4) If a dealer maintains a place of business at more than one
29 location or under more than one name in this state, he or she shall
30 designate one location as the principal place of business of the
31 firm, one name as the principal name of the firm, and all other
32 locations or names as subagencies. A subagency license is required
33 for each and every subagency: PROVIDED, That the department may grant
34 an exception to the subagency requirement in the specific instance
35 where a licensed dealer is unable to locate their used vehicle sales
36 facilities adjacent to or at the established place of business. This
37 exception shall be granted and defined under the promulgation of
38 rules consistent with the administrative procedure act.

39 (5) All vehicle dealers shall maintain ownership or leasehold
40 throughout the license year of the real property from which they do

1 business. The dealer shall provide the department with evidence of
2 ownership or leasehold whenever the ownership changes or the lease is
3 terminated.

4 (6) A subagency shall comply with all requirements of an
5 established place of business, except that subagency records may be
6 kept at the principal place of business designated by the dealer.
7 Auction companies shall comply with the requirements in subsection
8 (2) of this section.

9 (7) A temporary subagency shall meet all local zoning and
10 building codes for the type of merchandising being conducted. The
11 dealer license certificate shall be posted at the location. No other
12 requirements of an established place of business apply to a temporary
13 subagency. Auction companies are not required to obtain a temporary
14 subagency license.

15 (8) A wholesale vehicle dealer shall have office facilities in a
16 commercial building within this state, with no more than two other
17 wholesale or retail vehicle dealers in the same building, and all
18 storage facilities for inventory shall be listed with the department,
19 and shall meet local zoning and land use ordinances. A wholesale
20 vehicle dealer shall maintain a telecommunications system. An
21 exterior sign visible from the nearest street shall identify the
22 business name and the nature of business. When two or more vehicle
23 dealer businesses share a location, all records, office facilities,
24 and inventory, if any, must be physically segregated and clearly
25 identified.

26 (9) (a) A retail vehicle dealer shall be open during normal
27 business hours, maintain office and display facilities in a
28 commercially zoned location or in a location complying with all
29 applicable building and land use ordinances, and maintain a business
30 telephone listing in the local directory. (~~When two or more~~)

31 (b) No more than two vehicle dealer businesses may share a
32 location(, all records, office facilities, and inventory shall be
33 physically segregated and clearly identified)). Until July 1, 2026,
34 two or more vehicle dealer businesses may share a location where all
35 records, office facilities, and inventory are physically segregated
36 and clearly identified. Beginning July 1, 2026, vehicle dealer
37 businesses sharing such a location may renew their licenses one time.
38 After the one-time renewal, more than two vehicle dealer businesses
39 may not share a location. This subsection (9) (b) does not apply to

1 franchise new motor vehicle dealers, as defined in RCW 46.96.020, or
2 dealers of new recreational vehicles.

3 (10) A subagency license is not required for a mobile home dealer
4 to display an on-site display model, a consigned mobile home not
5 relocated from its site, or a repossessed mobile home if sales are
6 handled from a principal place of business or subagency. A mobile
7 home dealer shall identify on-site display models, repossessed mobile
8 homes, and those consigned at their sites with a sign that includes
9 the dealer's name and telephone number.

10 (11) Every vehicle dealer shall advise the department of the
11 location of each and every place of business of the firm and the name
12 or names under which the firm is doing business at such location or
13 locations. If any name or location is changed, the dealer shall
14 notify the department of such change within (~~ten~~) 10 days. The
15 license issued by the department shall reflect the name and location
16 of the firm and shall be posted in a conspicuous place at that
17 location by the dealer.

18 (12) A vehicle dealer's license shall upon the death or
19 incapacity of an individual vehicle dealer authorize the personal
20 representative of such dealer, subject to payment of license fees, to
21 continue the business for a period of six months from the date of the
22 death or incapacity.

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