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**Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee**

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**SSB 5786**

**Brief Description:** Requiring certain information in commercial fishing guide license applications.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senator Hargrove).

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Requires all applicants for a Food Fish Guide License or a Game Fish Guide License to provide certain personal, business, insurance, and safety information.

**Hearing Date:** 3/20/13

**Staff:** Jason Callahan (786-7117).

**Background:**

A person must be licensed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in order to, for a fee, serve as a fishing guide. There are various licenses available from the WDFW depending on what service a fishing guide plans to provide and where the service will be provided.

A Game Fish Guide License allows the holder to offer or perform the services of a game fish guide. The fee for this license is \$180 for residents and \$600 for nonresidents. A Food Fish Guide License is available for those offering guide services for food fish in freshwater rivers and streams. The fee for this license is \$130 for residents and \$360 for nonresidents. Finally, a Charter Boat License is available for those interested in offering guide services in offshore waters including: Puget Sound, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, the Pacific Ocean, Lake Washington, and the Columbia River below the bridge at Longview. The fee for a Charter Boat

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License is either \$225 or \$380 for state residents and \$375 or \$685 for nonresidents. All of these licenses are subject to a \$70 application fee.

A person can be convicted of a gross misdemeanor if he or she operates a charter boat or acts as a fish guide without the proper licensure.

**Summary of Bill:**

Any application for a Food Fish Guide License or a Game Fish Guide License must be accompanied by certain information. This information includes a copy of the applicant's driver's license and Unified Business License, proof of current first aid and CPR certification, and proof of general liability insurance coverage of at least \$300,000.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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