
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5251

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Swecker, Sheldon, Hobbs, and White)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to electric vehicle license fees; adding a new
2 section to chapter 46.17 RCW; creating new sections; and providing a
3 contingent expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the motor
6 vehicle fuel tax is the primary source of funding for the state's
7 transportation system. As the state's fleet changes from motor
8 vehicles powered by traditional sources, such as gasoline and diesel,
9 to those powered by electricity, the ability of the state to fund the
10 maintenance and preservation of the transportation system is
11 compromised. In order to mitigate the impacts of the diminishing motor
12 vehicle fuel tax, and to create a system where each driver pays for a
13 fair portion of his or her use of the road, an additional fee is
14 imposed on electric vehicles.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.17 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) Before accepting an application for a vehicle registration for
18 an electric vehicle that uses propulsion units powered solely by

1 electricity, the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
2 appointed by the director must require the applicant to pay a one
3 hundred dollar fee in addition to any other fees and taxes required by
4 law. The one hundred dollar fee is due at the time of initial vehicle
5 registration and annual registration renewal.

6 (2) This section only applies to:

7 (a) A vehicle that is designed to have the capability to drive at
8 a speed of more than thirty-five miles per hour; and

9 (b) A vehicle registration that is due on or after March 1, 2012.

10 (3)(a) The fee under this section is imposed to provide funds to
11 mitigate the impact of vehicles on state roads and highways, and is
12 separate and distinct from other vehicle license fees. Proceeds from
13 the fee must be used for highway purposes, and must be deposited in the
14 motor vehicle fund created in RCW 46.68.070, subject to (b) of this
15 subsection.

16 (b) If in any year the amount of proceeds from the fee collected
17 under this section exceeds one million dollars, the excess amount over
18 one million dollars must be deposited as follows:

19 (i) Seventy percent to the motor vehicle fund created in RCW
20 46.68.070;

21 (ii) Fifteen percent to the transportation improvement account
22 created in RCW 47.26.084; and

23 (iii) Fifteen percent to the rural arterial trust account created
24 in RCW 36.79.020.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act expires on the
26 effective date of legislation enacted by the legislature that imposes
27 a vehicle miles traveled fee or tax.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of licensing must provide
29 written notice of the expiration date of section 2 of this act to
30 affected parties, the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the
31 secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as
32 deemed appropriate by the department.

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