
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5419

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Hobbs, Warnick, Brown, Bailey, Rivers, Walsh, Keiser, Fortunato, Das, Wagoner, Honeyford, Wilson, L., Sheldon, Becker, Cleveland, Dhingra, Kuderer, Liias, and Schoesler)

READ FIRST TIME 02/19/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to the adjustment of vehicle service fees;
2 amending RCW 46.17.040; creating a new section; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state's licensing system
6 depends on a partnership between the department of licensing, the
7 county auditors, and the vehicle subagents. Vehicle subagents perform
8 vehicle licensing on behalf of the state; they are small Washington
9 family businesses, not large out-of-state corporations, and therefore
10 the revenue from these businesses stays here and is invested back
11 into their Washington communities. Vehicle subagents are located in
12 most communities of the state and are open extended hours and
13 weekends to serve the public. These private businesses collect and
14 remit hundreds of millions of dollars in collected taxes and fees for
15 the state of Washington each year. The only moneys that are retained
16 by vehicle subagents are the five dollar registration renewal fee or
17 the twelve dollar title fee; all other moneys are remitted to the
18 county and state.

19 The legislature intends to keep the state licensing delivery
20 system healthy. Subagents are a critical component of the state
21 licensing delivery system. The subagent fee is set in statute and

1 must be changed by the legislature. Historically, these fees were
2 adjusted every four to five years, but it has been almost ten years
3 since the last subagent fee adjustment. With the rising costs of
4 property rents, worker benefits, and employee wages and the future
5 increases to come, subagents will not be able to continue to operate
6 without an adjustment to their fees. It is the intent of the
7 legislature that Washington keeps its vehicle subagents healthy, this
8 fee adjustment is vital to the health of vehicle subagents.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.17.040 and 2018 c 79 s 1 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
12 appointed by the director shall collect a service fee of:

13 (a) (~~Twelve~~) Fourteen dollars for changes in a certificate of
14 title, changes in ownership for nontitled vehicles, or for
15 verification of record and preparation of an affidavit of lost title
16 other than at the time of the certificate of title application or
17 transfer, in addition to any other fees or taxes due at the time of
18 application; and

19 (b) (~~Five~~) Seven dollars for a registration renewal, issuing a
20 transit permit, or any other service under this section, in addition
21 to any other fees or taxes due at the time of application.

22 (2) Service fees collected under this section by the department
23 or county auditor or other agent appointed by the director must be
24 credited to the capital vessel replacement account under RCW
25 47.60.322.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect October 1, 2019.

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