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**SENATE BILL 5419**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**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 01/21/19. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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

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

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

18 The legislature intends to keep the state licensing delivery  
19 system healthy. Subagents are a critical component of the state  
20 licensing delivery system. The subagent fee is set in statute and  
21 must be changed by the legislature. Historically, these fees were

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

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

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

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

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

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

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