

---

SENATE BILL 5153

---

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Fain, Lillas, and Hobbs

1 AN ACT Relating to proof of financial responsibility before the  
2 issuance of vehicle registrations; amending RCW 46.16A.130,  
3 46.16A.110, 46.16A.040, and 46.30.040; prescribing penalties; and  
4 providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16A.130 and 2010 c 161 s 429 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall notify motor vehicle owners, in paper or  
9 electronic form, of the liability insurance requirements described in  
10 RCW 46.16A.110, 46.16A.040, and 46.30.020 through 46.30.040 at the  
11 time of issuance of an original motor vehicle registration and when  
12 the department sends a motor vehicle registration renewal notice.

13 (2) The department must not issue an original vehicle  
14 registration on or after July 1, 2018, or a renewal vehicle  
15 registration due on or after July 1, 2018, unless the applicant  
16 attests to having, and provides proof of meeting, the financial  
17 responsibility requirements for operating a motor vehicle as provided  
18 in RCW 46.30.020 through 46.30.040.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16A.110 and 2014 c 80 s 3 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

1 (1) A registered owner or the registered owner's authorized  
2 representative must apply for a renewal vehicle registration to the  
3 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by  
4 the director on a form approved by the director. The application for  
5 a renewal vehicle registration must be accompanied by a draft, money  
6 order, certified bank check, or cash for all fees and taxes required  
7 by law for the application for a renewal vehicle registration. On or  
8 after July 1, 2018, the application must be accompanied by current  
9 proof of financial responsibility for the registered owner to operate  
10 a vehicle as required in RCW 46.30.020. The application, either in  
11 paper or electronic form, must also include a field designating the  
12 applicant's liability insurance policy information.

13 (2)(a) When a vehicle changes ownership, the person taking  
14 ownership or his or her authorized representative must apply for a  
15 renewal vehicle registration as provided in subsection (1) of this  
16 section and, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, pay all  
17 the taxes and fees that are due at the time of registration renewal.  
18 For the purposes of this section, when a vehicle is sold to a vehicle  
19 dealer for resale, the application for a renewal registration need  
20 not be made until the vehicle is sold by the vehicle dealer.

21 (b) The person taking ownership or his or her authorized  
22 representative must be given credit for the portion of a motor  
23 vehicle excise tax, including the motor vehicle excise tax collected  
24 under RCW 81.104.160, that reflects the remaining period for which  
25 the tax was initially paid by the previous owner.

26 (3) An application and the fees and taxes for a renewal vehicle  
27 registration must be handled in the same manner as an original  
28 vehicle registration application. The registration does not need to  
29 show the name of the lien holder when the application for renewal  
30 vehicle registration becomes the renewal registration upon  
31 validation.

32 (4) A person expecting to be out of state during the normal  
33 renewal period of a vehicle registration may renew a vehicle  
34 registration and have license plates or tabs preissued by applying  
35 for a renewal as described in subsection (1) of this section. A  
36 vehicle registration may be renewed for the subsequent registration  
37 year up to eighteen months before the current expiration date and  
38 must be displayed from the date of issue or from the day of the  
39 expiration of the current registration year, whichever date is later.

1       (5) The department must reimburse its agents, including county  
2 auditors, for the costs associated with returning vehicle  
3 registration renewal applications that are submitted without proof of  
4 financial responsibility as required in subsection (1) of this  
5 section.

6       (6) An application for a renewal vehicle registration is not  
7 required for those vehicles owned, rented, or leased by:

8       (a) The state of Washington, or by any county, city, town, school  
9 district, or other political subdivision of the state of Washington;  
10 or

11       (b) A governing body of an Indian tribe located within this state  
12 and recognized as a governmental entity by the United States  
13 department of the interior.

14       **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16A.040 and 2010 c 161 s 413 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16       (1) An owner or the owner's authorized representative must apply  
17 for an original vehicle registration to the department, county  
18 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director on a  
19 form furnished by the department. The application must contain:

20       (a) A description of the vehicle, including its make, model,  
21 vehicle identification number, type of body, and power to be used;

22       (b) The name and address of the person who is the registered  
23 owner of the vehicle and, if the vehicle is subject to a security  
24 interest, the name and address of the secured party;

25       (c) Current proof of financial responsibility for the owner to  
26 operate a vehicle as required in RCW 46.30.020. The application,  
27 either in paper or electronic form, must also include a field  
28 designating the applicant's liability insurance policy information;

29       (d) The purpose for which the vehicle is to be used;

30       ~~((d))~~ (e) The licensed gross weight for the vehicle, which is:

31       (i) The adult seating capacity, including the operator, as  
32 provided for in RCW 46.16A.455(1) if the vehicle will be operated as  
33 a for hire vehicle or auto stage and has a seating capacity of more  
34 than six; or

35       (ii) The gross weight declared by the applicant as required in  
36 RCW 46.16A.455(2) if the vehicle will be operated as a motor truck,  
37 tractor, or truck tractor;

38       ~~((e))~~ (f) The empty scale weight of the vehicle; and

39       ~~((f))~~ (g) Other information that the department may require.

1 (2) The registered owner or the registered owner's authorized  
2 representative shall sign the application for an original vehicle  
3 registration and certify that the statements on the application are  
4 true to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

5 (3) The application for an original vehicle registration must be  
6 accompanied by a draft, money order, certified bank check, or cash  
7 for all fees and taxes due for the application for an original  
8 vehicle registration.

9 (4) The department must reimburse its agents, including county  
10 auditors, for the costs associated with returning original vehicle  
11 registration applications that are submitted without proof of  
12 financial responsibility.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.30.040 and 1991 sp.s. c 25 s 2 are each amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 Any person who knowingly provides false evidence of financial  
16 responsibility to a law enforcement officer (~~(or)~~), to a court, or to  
17 the department on an application for an original vehicle registration  
18 or a renewal vehicle registration, including an expired or canceled  
19 insurance policy, bond, or certificate of deposit, is guilty of a  
20 misdemeanor.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

--- END ---