
SENATE BILL 5510

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senator Braun

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the current backlog of vehicle
2 inspections; amending RCW 46.12.560 and 46.68.410; adding a new
3 section to chapter 46.09 RCW; creating a new section; providing an
4 effective date; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.12.560 and 2011 c 114 s 7 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1)(a) (~~Before~~) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this
10 section, before accepting an application for a certificate of title,
11 the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed
12 by the director shall require an applicant to provide a certificate
13 of vehicle inspection completed by the Washington state patrol or
14 other authorized inspector if the vehicle:

15 (i) Was declared a total loss or salvage vehicle under the laws
16 of this state;

17 (ii) Has been rebuilt after the certificate of title was returned
18 to the department under RCW 46.12.600 and the vehicle was not kept by
19 the registered owner at the time of the vehicle's destruction or
20 declaration as a total loss; or

1 (iii) Is presented with documents from another state showing that
2 the vehicle was a total loss or salvage vehicle and has not been
3 reissued a valid registration certificate from that state after the
4 declaration of total loss or salvage.

5 (b) A vehicle presented for inspection must have all damaged
6 major component parts replaced or repaired to meet all requirements
7 in law and rule before the Washington state patrol will inspect the
8 vehicle. The inspection must verify that the vehicle identification
9 number is genuine and agrees with the number shown on the certificate
10 of title and registration certificate.

11 (c) A Washington state patrol vehicle identification number
12 specialist must ensure that all major component parts used for the
13 reconstruction of a salvage or rebuilt vehicle were obtained legally,
14 and must securely attach a marking at the driver's door latch pillar
15 indicating the vehicle was previously destroyed or declared a total
16 loss. It is a class C felony for a person to remove the marking
17 indicating that the vehicle was previously destroyed or declared a
18 total loss.

19 (2) A person presenting a vehicle for inspection under subsection
20 (1) of this section must provide original invoices for new and used
21 parts from:

22 (a) A vendor that is registered with the department of revenue or
23 a comparable agency in the jurisdiction where the major component
24 parts were purchased for the collection of retail sales or use taxes.
25 The invoices must include:

26 (i) The name and address of the business;

27 (ii) A description of the part or parts sold;

28 (iii) The date of sale; and

29 (iv) The amount of sale to include all taxes paid unless exempted
30 by the department of revenue or a comparable agency in the
31 jurisdiction where the major component parts were purchased;

32 (b) A vehicle wrecker licensed under chapter 46.80 RCW or a
33 comparable business in the jurisdiction outside Washington state
34 where the major component part was purchased; and

35 (c) Private individuals. The private individual must have the
36 certificate of title to the vehicle where the parts were taken from
37 unless the parts were obtained from a parts car owned by a collector.
38 Bills of sale for parts must be notarized and include:

39 (i) The names and addresses of the sellers and purchasers;

1 (ii) A description of the vehicle and the part or parts being
2 sold, including the make, model, year, and identification or serial
3 number;

4 (iii) The date of sale; and

5 (iv) The purchase price of the vehicle part or parts.

6 (3) A person presenting a vehicle for inspection under this
7 section who is unable to provide an acceptable release of interest or
8 proof of ownership for a vehicle or major component part as described
9 in this section shall apply for an ownership in doubt application
10 described in RCW 46.12.680.

11 (4) All-terrain vehicles, wheeled all-terrain vehicles, and
12 utility-type vehicles are exempt from the vehicle identification
13 number inspection required in subsections (1) through (3) of this
14 section.

15 (5)(a) Before accepting an application for a certificate of
16 title, the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
17 appointed by the director shall require an applicant to provide a
18 certificate of vehicle inspection completed by the Washington state
19 patrol or other authorized inspector when the application is for a
20 vehicle being titled for the first time as:

21 (i) Assembled;

22 (ii) Glider kit;

23 (iii) Homemade;

24 (iv) Kit vehicle;

25 (v) Street rod vehicle;

26 (vi) Custom vehicle; or

27 (vii) Subject to ownership in doubt under RCW 46.12.680.

28 (b) The inspection must verify that the vehicle identification
29 number is genuine and agrees with the number shown on the certificate
30 of title and registration certificate.

31 (~~(5)~~) (6)(a) Before accepting an application for a certificate
32 of title, the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
33 appointed by the director shall require an applicant to provide a
34 certificate of vehicle inspection completed by the Washington state
35 patrol when the application is for a vehicle with a vehicle
36 identification number that has been:

37 (i) Altered;

38 (ii) Defaced;

39 (iii) Obliterated;

40 (iv) Omitted;

- 1 (v) Removed; or
- 2 (vi) Otherwise absent.

3 (b) The application must include payment of the fee required in
4 RCW 46.17.135.

5 (c) The Washington state patrol shall assign a new vehicle
6 identification number to the vehicle and place or stamp the new
7 number in a conspicuous position on the vehicle.

8 (d) The department shall use the new vehicle identification
9 number assigned by the Washington state patrol as the official
10 vehicle identification number assigned to the vehicle.

11 ~~((6))~~ (7) The department may adopt rules as necessary to
12 implement this section.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.09
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 Vehicles titled under this chapter are exempt from the vehicle
16 identification number inspection required in RCW 46.12.560.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state patrol and the
18 department of licensing, in collaboration with an outside consultant,
19 must examine the vehicle identification number inspection program and
20 make recommendations for improvements to the program, including the
21 timeliness of completed inspections. The study must:

22 (a) Review current underlying statutes and compare with best
23 practices of other states;

24 (b) Examine the types of statutorily and administratively
25 required inspections, and prioritize to ones that have a direct
26 impact on public safety and actually reduce the number of stolen
27 vehicles and parts in the state;

28 (c) Recommend changes to the existing program to increase
29 financial sustainability, customer satisfaction, and the overall
30 efficiency of the program; and

31 (d) Identify staffing and technology needs to optimize service
32 delivery, including improved inspection scheduling and completions.

33 (2)(a) The Washington state patrol and the department of
34 licensing must jointly provide a preliminary report of their findings
35 and recommendations to the joint transportation committee by November
36 1, 2023.

37 (b) The Washington state patrol and the department of licensing
38 must jointly submit a final report of their findings and

1 recommendations to the governor and the transportation committees of
2 the legislature by January 1, 2024.

3 (3) This section expires January 2, 2024.

4 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.68.410 and 2022 c 186 s 706 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 ~~((1))~~ The vehicle identification number inspection fee
7 collected under RCW 46.17.130 must be distributed ~~((as follows:~~

8 ~~(a) \$15))~~ to the state patrol highway account created in RCW
9 46.68.030 ~~(; and~~

10 ~~(b) \$50 to the motor vehicle fund created in RCW 46.68.070.~~

11 ~~(2) During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, the entire vehicle~~
12 ~~identification number inspection fee collected under RCW 46.17.130~~
13 ~~must be distributed to the state patrol highway account created in~~
14 ~~RCW 46.68.030)).~~

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act is necessary for the
16 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or
17 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
18 and takes effect July 1, 2023.

--- END ---