

## JTC Subagent Study--Work Group Meeting August 15, 2013

### Study Reference---ESSB 5024, Section 204(2); 2013-2015 Transportation Budget

“(2) The joint transportation committee shall coordinate a work group comprised of the department of licensing, the department of revenue, county auditors or other agents, and subagents to identify possible issues relating to the administration of, compliance with, and enforcement of the existing statutory requirement for a person to provide an unexpired driver's license when registering a vehicle. The work group shall provide recommendations on how administration and enforcement may be modified, as needed, to address any identified issues, including whether statutory changes may be needed. A report presenting the recommendations must be presented to the house of representatives and senate transportation committees by December 31, 2013”.

### \*RCW 46.16A.140---Resident Defined

"Resident" defined -- Natural person residency requirements -- Vehicle registration required.

(1) For the purposes of vehicle registration, a resident is a person who manifests an intent to live or be located in this state on more than a temporary or transient basis. Evidence of residency includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Becoming a registered voter in this state;
- (b) Receiving benefits under one of the Washington public assistance programs; or
- (c) Declaring residency for the purpose of obtaining a state license or tuition fees at resident rates.

(2) A natural person may be a resident of this state even though that person has or claims residency or domicile in another state or intends to leave this state at some future time. A natural person is presumed a resident if the natural person meets at least two of the following conditions:

- (a) Maintains a residence in this state for personal use;
- (b) Has a Washington state driver's license or a Washington state resident hunting or fishing license;
- (c) Uses a Washington state address for federal income tax or state tax purposes;
- (d) Has previously maintained a residence in this state for personal use and has not established a permanent residence outside the state of Washington, such as a person who retires and lives in a motor home or vessel that is not permanently attached to any property;
- (e) Claims this state as his or her residence for obtaining eligibility to hold a public office or for judicial actions;
- (f) Is a custodial parent with a child attending public schools in this state.

(3) "Washington public assistance programs," as referred to in subsection (1)(b) of this section, includes only public assistance programs for which more than fifty percent of the combined costs of benefits and administration are paid from state funds. "Washington public assistance programs" does not include: The food stamp program under the federal food stamp act of 1964; programs under the child nutrition act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. Secs. 1771 through 1788; and temporary assistance for needy families.

(4) A resident of the state shall apply for a certificate of title under chapter 46.12 RCW and register under this chapter a vehicle to be operated on the highways of the state. New Washington residents are allowed thirty days from the date they become residents as defined in this section to obtain Washington registration for their vehicles. This thirty-day period may not be combined with any other period of reciprocity provided for in this chapter or chapter 46.85 RCW.

### **RCW 46.16A.050---Requires presentation of WSDL / Exceptions**

Registration -- Requirements before issuance -- Penalty -- Rules.

(1) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director shall not issue an initial or renewal registration certificate for a motor vehicle to a natural person under this chapter unless the natural person at time of application:

(a) Presents an unexpired Washington state driver's license; or

(b) Certifies that he or she is:

(i) A Washington state resident who does not operate a motor vehicle on public roads; or

(ii) Exempt from the requirement to obtain a Washington state driver's license under **RCW 46.20.025**.

(2) The department must set up procedures to verify that all owners meet the requirements of this section.

(3) A person falsifying residency is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable only by a fine of five hundred twenty-nine dollars.

(4) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules under which a natural person applying for registration may be exempt from the requirements of this section if the person provides evidence satisfactory to the department that he or she has a valid and compelling reason for not being able to meet the requirements of this section. [2010 c 161 § 405.]

### **RCW 46.20.025---Exemptions for Driver's License**

The following persons may operate a motor vehicle on a Washington highway without a valid Washington driver's license:

(1) A member of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or in the service of the National Guard of this state or any other state, if licensed by the military to operate an official motor vehicle in such service;

(2) A nonresident driver who is at least:

(a) Sixteen years of age and has immediate possession of a valid driver's license issued to the driver by his or her home state; or

(b) Fifteen years of age with:

(i) A valid instruction permit issued to the driver by his or her home state; and

(ii) A licensed driver who has had at least five years of driving experience occupying a seat beside the driver; or

(c) Sixteen years of age and has immediate possession of a valid driver's license issued to the driver by his or her home country. A nonresident driver may operate a motor vehicle in this state under this subsection (2)(c) for up to one year;

(3) Any person operating special highway construction equipment as defined in RCW 46.04.551;

(4) Any person while driving or operating any farm tractor or implement of husbandry that is only incidentally operated or moved over a highway; or

(5) An operator of a locomotive upon rails, including a railroad crossing over a public highway. A locomotive operator is not required to display a driver's license to any law enforcement officer in connection with the operation of a locomotive or train within this state.