

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6120

Chapter 114, Laws of 2016

64th Legislature
2016 Regular Session

VESSEL REGISTRATION--EXEMPTION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/9/2016 - Except for section 2, which takes effect 7/1/2019.

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2016
Yeas 46 Nays 2

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 3, 2016
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved March 31, 2016 11:27 AM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6120** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

Secretary

FILED

April 1, 2016

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6120

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senator Mullet)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing a registration exemption for certain
2 vessels; amending RCW 88.02.570 and 88.02.570; providing an effective
3 date; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 88.02.570 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 804 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Vessel registration is required under this chapter except for the
8 following:

9 (1) A military vessel owned by the United States government;

10 (2) A public vessel owned by the United States government, unless
11 the vessel is a type used for recreation;

12 (3) A vessel clearly identified as being:

13 (a) Owned by a state, county, or city; and

14 (b) Used primarily for governmental purposes;

15 (4) A vessel either (a) registered or numbered under the laws of
16 a country other than the United States or (b) having a valid United
17 States customs service cruising license issued pursuant to 19 C.F.R.
18 Sec. 4.94. Either vessel is exempt from registration only for the
19 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the
20 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel in the

1 state under this subsection must obtain a vessel visitor permit as
2 required under RCW 88.02.610;

3 (5) A vessel that is currently registered or numbered under the
4 laws of the state of principal operation or that has been issued a
5 valid number under federal law. However, either vessel must be
6 registered in Washington state if the state of principal operation
7 changes to Washington state by the sixty-first day after the vessel
8 arrives in Washington state;

9 (6)(a) A vessel owned by a nonresident if:

10 (i) The vessel is located upon the waters of this state
11 exclusively for repairs, alteration, or reconstruction, or any
12 testing related to these services;

13 (ii) An employee of the facility providing these services is on
14 board the vessel during any testing; and

15 (iii) The nonresident files an affidavit with the department of
16 revenue by the sixty-first day verifying that the vessel is located
17 upon the waters of this state for these services.

18 (b) The nonresident must continue to file an affidavit every
19 sixty days thereafter, as long as the vessel is located upon the
20 waters of this state exclusively for repairs, alteration,
21 reconstruction, or testing;

22 (7) A vessel equipped with propulsion machinery of less than ten
23 horsepower that:

24 (a) Is owned by the owner of a vessel for which a valid vessel
25 number has been issued;

26 (b) Displays the number of that numbered vessel followed by the
27 suffix "1" in the manner prescribed by the department; and

28 (c) Is used as a tender for direct transportation between the
29 numbered vessel and the shore and for no other purpose;

30 (8) A vessel under sixteen feet in overall length that has no
31 propulsion machinery of any type or that is not used on waters
32 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas
33 beyond the territorial seas for vessels owned in the United States
34 and are powered by propulsion machinery of ten or less horsepower;

35 (9) A vessel with no propulsion machinery of any type for which
36 the primary mode of propulsion is human power;

37 (10) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that has or is
38 required to have a valid marine document as a vessel of the United
39 States. A commercial vessel that the department of revenue determines
40 has the external appearance of a vessel that would otherwise be

1 required to register under this chapter, must display decals issued
2 annually by the department of revenue that indicate the vessel's
3 exempt status;

4 (11) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that is owned by a
5 resident of a country other than the United States;

6 (12) A vessel owned by a nonresident person brought into the
7 state for use or enjoyment while temporarily within the state for not
8 more than six months in any continuous twelve-month period that (a)
9 is currently registered or numbered under the laws of the state of
10 principal use or (b) has been issued a valid number under federal
11 law. This type of vessel is exempt from registration only for the
12 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the
13 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel under
14 this subsection must obtain a nonresident vessel permit as required
15 under RCW 88.02.620;

16 (13) A vessel used in this state by a nonresident individual
17 possessing a valid use permit issued under RCW 82.08.700 or
18 82.12.700; (~~and~~)

19 (14) A vessel held for sale by any licensed dealer; and

20 (15) A vessel with propulsion machinery that draws two hundred
21 fifty watts or less and propels the vessel no faster than ten miles
22 per hour and is not used on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the
23 United States or on the high seas beyond the territorial seas for
24 vessels owned in the United States.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 88.02.570 and 2010 c 161 s 1018 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Vessel registration is required under this chapter except for the
28 following:

29 (1) A military vessel owned by the United States government;

30 (2) A public vessel owned by the United States government, unless
31 the vessel is a type used for recreation;

32 (3) A vessel clearly identified as being:

33 (a) Owned by a state, county, or city; and

34 (b) Used primarily for governmental purposes;

35 (4) A vessel either (a) registered or numbered under the laws of
36 a country other than the United States or (b) having a valid United
37 States customs service cruising license issued pursuant to 19 C.F.R.
38 Sec. 4.94. Either vessel is exempt from registration only for the
39 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the

1 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel in the
2 state under this subsection must obtain a vessel visitor permit as
3 required under RCW 88.02.610;

4 (5) A vessel that is currently registered or numbered under the
5 laws of the state of principal operation or that has been issued a
6 valid number under federal law. However, either vessel must be
7 registered in Washington state if the state of principal operation
8 changes to Washington state by the sixty-first day after the vessel
9 arrives in Washington state;

10 (6) A vessel owned by a nonresident if:

11 (a) The vessel is located upon the waters of this state
12 exclusively for repairs, alteration, or reconstruction, or any
13 testing related to these services;

14 (b) An employee of the facility providing these services is on
15 board the vessel during any testing; and

16 (c) The nonresident files an affidavit with the department of
17 revenue by the sixty-first day verifying that the vessel is located
18 upon the waters of this state for these services.

19 The nonresident shall continue to file an affidavit every sixty
20 days thereafter, as long as the vessel is located upon the waters of
21 this state exclusively for repairs, alteration, reconstruction, or
22 testing;

23 (7) A vessel equipped with propulsion machinery of less than ten
24 horsepower that:

25 (a) Is owned by the owner of a vessel for which a valid vessel
26 number has been issued;

27 (b) Displays the number of that numbered vessel followed by the
28 suffix "1" in the manner prescribed by the department; and

29 (c) Is used as a tender for direct transportation between the
30 numbered vessel and the shore and for no other purpose;

31 (8) A vessel under sixteen feet in overall length that has no
32 propulsion machinery of any type or that is not used on waters
33 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or on the high seas
34 beyond the territorial seas for vessels owned in the United States
35 and are powered by propulsion machinery of ten or less horsepower;

36 (9) A vessel with no propulsion machinery of any type for which
37 the primary mode of propulsion is human power;

38 (10) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that has or is
39 required to have a valid marine document as a vessel of the United
40 States. A commercial vessel that the department of revenue determines

1 has the external appearance of a vessel that would otherwise be
2 required to register under this chapter, must display decals issued
3 annually by the department of revenue that indicate the vessel's
4 exempt status;

5 (11) A vessel primarily engaged in commerce that is owned by a
6 resident of a country other than the United States;

7 (12) A vessel owned by a nonresident natural person brought into
8 the state for use or enjoyment while temporarily within the state for
9 not more than six months in any continuous twelve-month period that
10 (a) is currently registered or numbered under the laws of the state
11 of principal use or (b) has been issued a valid number under federal
12 law. This type of vessel is exempt from registration only for the
13 first sixty days of use on Washington state waters. On or before the
14 sixty-first day of use on Washington state waters, any vessel under
15 this subsection must obtain a nonresident vessel permit as required
16 under RCW 88.02.620;

17 (13) A vessel used in this state by a nonresident individual
18 possessing a valid use permit issued under RCW 82.08.700 or
19 82.12.700; (~~and~~)

20 (14) A vessel held for sale by any licensed dealer; and

21 (15) A vessel with propulsion machinery that draws two hundred
22 fifty watts or less and propels the vessel no faster than ten miles
23 per hour and is not used on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the
24 United States or on the high seas beyond the territorial seas for
25 vessels owned in the United States.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires July 1,
27 2019.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,
29 2019.

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2016.
Passed by the House March 3, 2016.
Approved by the Governor March 31, 2016.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 1, 2016.