
SENATE BILL 5844

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senator Muzzall

Prefiled 12/14/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a dilapidated recreational vehicle
2 disposal program; amending RCW 46.68.170 and 46.68.175; adding a new
3 chapter to Title 70A RCW; and making appropriations.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the improper
6 disposal of recreational vehicles can threaten the environment with
7 the potential release of hazardous materials. The legislature finds
8 it is in the state's best interest to help remove and dispose of
9 recreational vehicles that are unwanted and no longer in use. As a
10 result, it is the intent of the legislature to provide financial
11 assistance to counties when individual owners wish to responsibly
12 dispose of their dilapidated recreational vehicles at county
13 facilities.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department must establish a
15 voluntary grant program providing funding to counties to administer a
16 dilapidated recreational vehicle disposal program. The purposes of
17 the program are to incentivize recreational vehicle owners to dispose
18 of such vehicles within their county when such vehicle is unwanted
19 and no longer planned for use and to provide financial assistance to

1 counties that scrap or recycle such vehicles at appropriate
2 facilities.

3 (2) Awarded funds under the program must be expended for:

4 (a) Scrapping and recycling purposes including, but not limited
5 to, capital costs related to scrapping and recycling purposes; and

6 (b) Reimbursing the dilapidated recreational vehicle owner for
7 the full or partial cost of towing and hauling the dilapidated
8 recreational vehicle to the county for disposal.

9 (3) A participating county must require the dilapidated
10 recreational vehicle owner to prove ownership or provide title when
11 disposing of such vehicle.

12 (4) The department must submit an annual report to the
13 appropriate committees of the legislature beginning January 1, 2025,
14 on the number of counties awarded grants under the program and the
15 number of dilapidated recreational vehicles disposed of and at what
16 cost under the program.

17 (5) For purposes of this section:

18 (a) "Department" means the department of ecology.

19 (b) "Dilapidated recreational vehicle" means any camper, motor
20 home, or travel trailer under chapter 46.04 RCW that is:

21 (i) At least three years old; and

22 (ii) Unwanted and no longer planned for use by the owner.

23 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.68.170 and 2013 c 306 s 705 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 There is hereby created in the motor vehicle fund the RV account.
27 All moneys hereafter deposited in said account shall be used by the
28 department of transportation for the construction, maintenance, and
29 operation of recreational vehicle sanitary disposal systems at safety
30 rest areas in accordance with the department's highway system plan as
31 prescribed in chapter 47.06 RCW, and by the department of ecology for
32 the purposes of section 2 of this act. During the 2011-2013 and
33 2013-2015 fiscal biennia, the legislature may transfer from the RV
34 account to the motor vehicle fund such amounts as reflect the excess
35 fund balance of the RV account to accomplish the purposes identified
36 in this section.

37 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.68.175 and 2018 c 287 s 6 are each amended to
38 read as follows:

1 (1) The abandoned recreational vehicle disposal account is
2 created in the state treasury. All receipts from the fee imposed in
3 RCW 46.17.380 must be deposited into the account. The account may
4 receive fund transfers and appropriations from the general fund, as
5 well as gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private sources,
6 in trust or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of
7 chapter 287, Laws of 2018 and expend any income according to the
8 terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments, provided that those terms
9 do not conflict with any provisions of this section or any guidelines
10 developed to prioritize reimbursement of removal projects associated
11 with chapter 287, Laws of 2018.

12 (2) Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
13 Expenditures from the account may be used only by the department to
14 reimburse registered tow truck operators and licensed dismantlers for
15 up to (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent of the total reasonable and
16 auditable administrative costs for transport, dismantling, and
17 disposal of abandoned recreational vehicles under RCW 46.53.010 when
18 the last registered owner is unknown after a reasonable search
19 effort. Compliance with RCW 46.55.100 is considered a reasonable
20 effort to locate the last registered owner of the abandoned
21 recreational vehicle, and by the department of ecology for the
22 purposes of section 2 of this act. Any funds received by the
23 registered tow truck operators or licensed dismantlers through
24 collection efforts from the last owner of record shall be turned over
25 to the department for vehicles reimbursed under RCW 46.53.010.

26 (3) Funds in the account resulting from transfers from the
27 general fund must be used to reimburse (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent of
28 eligible costs up to a limit of (~~ten thousand dollars~~) \$10,000 per
29 vehicle for which cost reimbursements are requested.

30 (4) In each fiscal biennium, beginning in the 2019-2021 fiscal
31 biennium, up to (~~fifteen~~) 15 percent of the expenditures from the
32 account may be used for administrative expenses of the department in
33 implementing this chapter.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The sum of \$2,500,000, or as much
35 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal biennium
36 ending June 30, 2025, from the RV account to the department of
37 ecology for the purposes of this act.

38 (2) The sum of \$2,500,000, or as much thereof as may be
39 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending June 30,

1 2025, from the abandoned recreational vehicle disposal account to the
2 department of ecology for the purposes of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
4 new chapter in Title 70A RCW.

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