

Transcript of public hearing on rulemaking for WAC 308-56A-210 and WAC 308-93-440

Ellis Starrett (00:02):

Good morning. This is a public hearing for the ownership and doubt rulemaking with the Washington State Department of Licensing. My name is Ellis Starrett and I'm the agency rules coordinator. I'm going to introduce one of our program staff who's going to give a little bit of background information about this rulemaking. Go ahead Chante.

Chante Vernie (00:20):

Thank you, Ellis. Good morning and thank you for joining us. My name is Chante Vernie and I am the driver and vehicle records assistant administrator. I'm here to provide an update on a proposed change to the ownership in doubt process. Previously, customers were required to send a certified letter to the registered and legal owners of a vehicle or vessel as part of the process. The purpose was to request a release of interest from those prior owners. Through recent rulemaking, we're proposing updates to WAC 308-56A-210 and WAC 308-93-440. These changes will clarify that customers will no longer be required to seek releases of interest before entering ownership in doubt. This update also brings our rules in line with RCW 46.12.635, which protects the names and addresses of vehicle and vessel owners. Since customers often can't access that information, this change will use an [inaudible 00:01:25] while also maintaining privacy protections. Thank you and I will give this, or pass this off to the legislative policy team.

Ellis Starrett (01:35):

Thank you. So I am about to start administering the public hearing. I'm going to read through our public hearing script. Good morning. This is a public hearing before the Washington State Department of Licensing being held to elicit public testimony, both oral and written, with regard to proposed rules amending WAC 308-56A-210 and WAC 308-93-440: ownership and doubt. These proposed rules will update WAC to reflect DOL's current process and statutory changes related to RCW 46.12.635. This hearing is being held via Zoom and in person at 1125 Washington Street, Southeast, Olympia, Washington. This hearing is taking place at 10:00 AM on September 15th, 2025. Public notice of this hearing was given by notice number WSR 25-15-158, filed with the Code Advisor's Office on July 23rd, 2025. The department posts all of our rulemaking information on dol.wa.gov/about/rulemaking-activity. And this is where you can access all rulemaking notices and propose language for this rulemaking. The sign-in sheet, your testimony and any documents you provide are public documents. This rule is proposed pursuant to the provisions of RCW 46.01.110 and RCW 46.12.635.

(03:10):

My name is Ellis Starrett and my title is Rules and Policy Manager. The Director of Licensing has designated me to preside over this hearing. Representatives of the Washington State Department of Licensing are present today if there are questions. Chante Vernie, assistant administrator, George Price, administrator, Stacey Allen, assistant administrator, Brandon Banister, legislative and policy analyst, and Kelsey Stone, legislative and policy analyst.

(03:38):

The procedure today will be as follows, the department is required to make a record of this hearing by stenographic, mechanical or electronic means. Therefore, we are audio recording this hearing. For virtual attendees wishing to testify, please provide your name and contact information in the chat or tell us and unmute, and tell us that you'd like to testify when I call on your screen name. For those in the room, wishing to testify who have not already noted their desire to testify on the sign-in sheet, please wait for me to ask the room if there's anyone else wishing to testify and notify me at that time. I'll ask you to provide your contact information which will be added to the sign-in sheet. This sign-in sheet will be used to call forward individuals for testimony and is later used to ensure hearing participants are notified of rulemaking results and the agency's response to comments. You'll be called to testify in the order in which I collect your information.

(04:25):

To assist in preparing the record of this public hearing, individuals testifying today should state their name, who they represent if they are testifying on behalf of others, and whether they support or oppose the proposed rules. The department has not received written comments on these proposed rules. For those wishing to provide written comments, please hand them to me or email them to rulescoordinator@dol.wa.gov and we will include them in the formal record and our response to questions. Copies of these written comments will be added to the rulemaking file. Now we will hear oral statements from those present. Is there anyone here wishing to testify?

(05:07):

All right, hearing none, the department will prepare a concise, explanatory statement which will among other things, summarize all the oral and written comments received regarding the proposed rules and respond to them by category or subject matter. Copies of the concise explanatory statement will be forwarded to all those who have made oral or written comments today. This hearing is adjourned.