

Propose to allow redaction for Driver's License Numbers

(amending RCW 42.56.230(7))

By Ramsey Ramerman

Current as amended by SSB 5591 sec. 3, Law of 2013 Ch 336

(7)(a) Any record used to prove identity, age, residential address, social security number, or other personal information required to apply for a driver's license or identicard.

(7)(a) Any record used to prove identity, age, residential address, social security number, or other personal information required to apply for a driver's license or identicard and the number issued by the Department of Licensing for that driver's license or identicard, unless otherwise authorized by law.

Currently, Federal Law limits the disclosure of information on state driver's licenses and contained in DoL databases. 18 USC §2721 to §2725. State court rules also mandate that litigants redact driver's license numbers from any court filing. General Rule 31(e)(1)(C). Most jurisdictions currently redact driver's license numbers from documents like police reports either based on the federal law or privacy under RCW 42.56.240(1). This amendment therefore will not result in a dramatic change in practice but will simply eliminate any possible ambiguity and prevent needless litigation.