JAY INSLEE
Governor

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-05

20-42
Department of Licensing – Driver License Suspension

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout Washington State as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Washington State, and the high risk it poses to our most vulnerable populations, I have subsequently issued amendatory Proclamations 20-06, 20-07, 20-08, 20-09, 20-10, 20-11, 20-12, 20-13, 20-14, 20-15, 20-16, 20-17, 20-18, 20-19, 20-20, 20-21, 20-22, 20-23, 20-24, 20-25, 20-26, 20-27, 20-28, 20-29, 20-30, 20-31, 20-32, 20-33, 20-34, 20-35, 20-36, 20-37, 20-38, 20-39, 20-40, and 20-41, exercising my emergency powers under RCW 43.06.220 by prohibiting certain activities and waiving and suspending specified laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State, significantly increasing the threat of serious associated health risks statewide; and

WHEREAS, the response to and impacts of the COVID-19 State of Emergency on many state and local government agencies and offices has significantly impacted their ability to adequately staff and supply various administrative and operational activities, resulting in many agencies, including the courts and the Washington State Department of Licensing, conducting limited operations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Licensing is experiencing difficulty obtaining necessary sanitation products and ensuring appropriate social distancing to mitigate spread of the COVID-19 virus to employees and members of the public while conducting even limited operations, including the ability to timely conduct administrative hearings and deferred prosecutions for driver license suspension arising from driving under the influence (DUI) arrests; and

WHEREAS, to assist the Department of Licensing in addressing these issues and to avoid DUI license suspensions from being dismissed, it is necessary to temporarily waive or suspend certain statutory time limits requiring an administrative hearing on license suspension within 30 days of a DUI arrest and for entering into a deferred prosecution within a mandated time limit; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and it's progression in Washington State continues to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remains a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, through the State Emergency Operations Center, continues coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local health officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continues coordinating with the Department of Health in assessing the impacts and long-term effects of the incident on Washington State and its people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State, that Proclamations 20-05 and all amendments thereto remain in effect and is amended to waive and suspend specific statutory time limitations that if strictly applied may result in dismissal of DUI driver license suspensions.

I again direct that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented throughout State government. State agencies and departments are directed to continue utilizing state resources and doing everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I continue to order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General to address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department in addressing the outbreak. Additionally, I continue to direct the Department of Health, the Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division, and other agencies to identify and provide appropriate personnel for conducting necessary and ongoing incident related assessments.

FURTHERMORE, based on the above noted situation and under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(2)(g), I also find that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, strict compliance with the following statutory obligations or limitations will prevent, hinder, or delay action that is necessary to prevent dismissal of DUI driver license suspension actions, and that the following language of each statutory provision specified below is hereby waived and suspended until midnight on May 3, 2020:

1. RCW 46.20.308(7), the following language only: "The hearing shall be held within thirty days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, following the date of timely receipt of such request for a formal hearing before the department or thirty days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays following the date notice has been given in the event notice is given by the department following a blood test, unless otherwise agreed to by the department and the person, in which case the action by the department shall be stayed, and any valid temporary license under subsection (5) of this section extended, if the person is otherwise eligible for licensing."; and

2. RCW 46.20.308(9), the following language only: “The stay shall not be longer than one hundred fifty days after the date charges are filed, or two years after the date of the arrest, whichever time period is shorter. If the court stays the suspension, revocation, or denial, it may impose conditions on such stay. If the person is otherwise eligible for licensing, the department shall issue a temporary license, or extend any valid temporary license under subsection (5) of this section, for the period of the stay.”

Violators of this order may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(5).

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 3rd day of April, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State