
SENATE BILL 5990

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 2nd Special Session

By Senators Haugen, King, and Eide

Read first time 12/09/11. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to state flower special license plates; reenacting
2 and amending RCW 46.18.200, 46.17.220, 46.68.420, and 46.18.060; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.18.200 and 2011 c 229 s 1, 2011 c 225 s 1, and 2011
6 c 171 s 69 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) Special license plate series reviewed and approved by the
8 department:

9 (a) May be issued in lieu of standard issue or personalized license
10 plates for vehicles required to display one and two license plates
11 unless otherwise specified;

12 (b) Must be issued under terms and conditions established by the
13 department;

14 (c) Must not be issued for vehicles registered under chapter 46.87
15 RCW; and

16 (d) Must display a symbol or artwork approved by the department.

17 (2) The department approves and shall issue the following special
18 license plates:

| 1 | LICENSE PLATE | DESCRIPTION, SYMBOL, OR ARTWORK |
|----|--|--|
| 2 | Armed forces collection | Recognizes the contribution of veterans, active duty military personnel, reservists, and members of the national guard, and includes six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and national guard. |
| 9 | Endangered wildlife | Displays a symbol or artwork, approved by the special license plate review board and the legislature. |
| 11 | Gonzaga University alumni association | Recognizes the Gonzaga University alumni association. |
| 12 | Helping kids speak | Recognizes an organization that supports programs that provide no-cost speech pathology programs to children. |
| 14 | Keep kids safe | Recognizes efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. |
| 15 | Law enforcement memorial | Honors law enforcement officers in Washington killed in the line of duty. |
| 17 | Music matters | Displays the "Music Matters" logo. |
| 18 | Professional firefighters and paramedics | Recognizes professional firefighters and paramedics who are members of the Washington state council of firefighters. |
| 21 | Share the road | Recognizes an organization that promotes bicycle safety and awareness education. |
| 23 | Ski & ride Washington | Recognizes the Washington snowsports industry. |
| 24 | <u>State flower</u> | <u>Recognizes the Washington state flower.</u> |
| 25 | Volunteer firefighters | Recognizes volunteer firefighters. |
| 26 | Washington lighthouses | Recognizes an organization that supports selected Washington state lighthouses and provides environmental education programs. |
| 29 | Washington state parks | Recognizes Washington state parks as premier destinations of uncommon quality that preserve significant natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources. |

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| 1 | Washington's national park fund | Builds awareness of Washington's national parks and |
| 2 | | supports priority park programs and projects in |
| 3 | | Washington's national parks, such as enhancing visitor |
| 4 | | experience, promoting volunteerism, engaging |
| 5 | | communities, and providing educational opportunities |
| 6 | | related to Washington's national parks. |
| 7 | Washington's wildlife collection | Recognizes Washington's wildlife. |
| 8 | We love our pets | Recognizes an organization that assists local member |
| 9 | | agencies of the federation of animal welfare and control |
| 10 | | agencies to promote and perform spay/neuter surgery on |
| 11 | | Washington state pets to reduce pet overpopulation. |
| 12 | Wild on Washington | Symbolizes wildlife viewing in Washington state. |

13 (3) Applicants for initial and renewal professional firefighters
14 and paramedics special license plates must show proof eligibility by
15 providing a certificate of current membership from the Washington state
16 council of firefighters.

17 (4) Applicants for initial volunteer firefighters special license
18 plates must (a) have been a volunteer firefighter for at least ten
19 years or be a volunteer firefighter for one or more years and (b) have
20 documentation of service from the district of the appropriate fire
21 service. If the volunteer firefighter leaves firefighting service
22 before ten years of service have been completed, the volunteer
23 firefighter shall surrender the license plates to the department on the
24 registration renewal date. If the volunteer firefighter stays in
25 service for at least ten years and then leaves, the license plate may
26 be retained by the former volunteer firefighter and as long as the
27 license plate is retained for use the person will continue to pay the
28 future registration renewals. A qualifying volunteer firefighter may
29 have no more than one set of license plates per vehicle, and a maximum
30 of two sets per applicant, for their personal vehicles. If the
31 volunteer firefighter is convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or
32 a felony, the license plates must be surrendered upon conviction.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 "State flower license plates" means special license plates issued
36 under RCW 46.18.200 that display the Washington state flower.

Sec. 3. RCW 46.17.220 and 2011 c 229 s 3, 2011 c 225 s 2, and 2011 c 171 s 58 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration in chapter 46.16A RCW, the holder of a special license plate shall pay the appropriate special license plate fee as listed in this section.

| PLATE TYPE | INITIAL FEE | RENEWAL FEE | DISTRIBUTED UNDER |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) Amateur radio license | \$ 5.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.070 |
| (b) Armed forces | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (c) Baseball stadium | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | Subsection (2) of this section |
| (d) Collector vehicle | \$ 35.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.030 |
| (e) Collegiate | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.430 |
| (f) Endangered wildlife | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (g) Gonzaga University alumni association | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (h) Helping kids speak | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (i) Horseless carriage | \$ 35.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.030 |
| (j) Keep kids safe | \$ 45.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (k) Law enforcement memorial | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (l) Military affiliate radio system | \$ 5.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.070 |
| (m) Music matters | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (n) Professional firefighters and paramedics | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (o) Ride share | \$ 25.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.030 |
| (p) Share the road | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (q) Ski & ride Washington | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (r) Square dancer | \$ 40.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.070 |
| (s) <u>State flower</u> | <u>\$ 40.00</u> | <u>\$ 30.00</u> | <u>RCW 46.68.420</u> |
| (t) Volunteer firefighters | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((†)) (u) Washington lighthouses | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((†)) (v) Washington state parks | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |

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|---|--|----------|----------|---------------|
| 1 | ((w)) <u>(w)</u> Washington's | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| 2 | national parks | | | |
| 3 | ((x)) <u>(x)</u> Washington's | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| 4 | wildlife collection | | | |
| 5 | ((y)) <u>(y)</u> We love our pets | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| 6 | ((z)) <u>(z)</u> Wild on | \$ 40.00 | \$ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| 7 | Washington | | | |

8 (2) After deducting administration and collection expenses for the
9 sale of baseball stadium license plates, the remaining proceeds must be
10 distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and
11 interest payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball
12 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
13 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
14 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
15 to the state general fund.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.68.420 and 2011 c 229 s 4, 2011 c 225 s 3, and 2011
17 c 171 s 87 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

- 18 (1) The department shall:
- 19 (a) Collect special license plate fees established under RCW
20 46.17.220;
- 21 (b) Deduct an amount not to exceed twelve dollars for initial issue
22 and two dollars for renewal issue for administration and collection
23 expenses incurred by it; and
- 24 (c) Remit the remaining proceeds to the custody of the state
25 treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report.
- 26 (2) The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor
27 vehicle account until the department determines that the state has been
28 reimbursed for the cost of implementing the special license plate.
29 Upon determination by the department that the state has been
30 reimbursed, the state treasurer shall credit the remaining special
31 license plate fee amounts for each special license plate to the
32 following appropriate account as created in this section in the custody
33 of the state treasurer:

| 1 | ACCOUNT | CONDITIONS FOR USE OF FUNDS |
|----|--|--|
| 2 | Gonzaga University alumni association | Scholarship funds to needy and qualified students |
| 3 | | attending or planning to attend Gonzaga University |
| 4 | Helping kids speak | Provide free diagnostic and therapeutic services to families |
| 5 | | of children who suffer from a delay in language or speech |
| 6 | | development |
| 7 | Law enforcement memorial | Provide support and assistance to survivors and families of |
| 8 | | law enforcement officers in Washington killed in the line |
| 9 | | of duty and to organize, finance, fund, construct, utilize, |
| 10 | | and maintain a memorial on the state capitol grounds to |
| 11 | | honor those fallen officers |
| 12 | Lighthouse environmental programs | Support selected Washington state lighthouses that are |
| 13 | | accessible to the public and staffed by volunteers; provide |
| 14 | | environmental education programs; provide grants for |
| 15 | | other Washington lighthouses to assist in funding |
| 16 | | infrastructure preservation and restoration; encourage and |
| 17 | | support interpretive programs by lighthouse docents |
| 18 | Music matters awareness | Promote music education in schools throughout |
| 19 | | Washington |
| 20 | Share the road | Promote bicycle safety and awareness education in |
| 21 | | communities throughout Washington |
| 22 | Ski & ride Washington | Promote winter snowsports, such as skiing and |
| 23 | | snowboarding, and related programs, such as ski and ride |
| 24 | | safety programs, underprivileged youth ski and ride |
| 25 | | programs, and active, healthy lifestyle programs |
| 26 | <u>State flower</u> | <u>Support Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens and provide for</u> |
| 27 | | <u>grants to other organizations' efforts to preserve native</u> |
| 28 | | <u>plants</u> |
| 29 | Volunteer firefighters | Receive and disseminate funds for purposes on behalf of |
| 30 | | volunteer firefighters, their families, and others deemed in |
| 31 | | need |
| 32 | Washington state council of firefighters benevolent fund | Receive and disseminate funds for charitable purposes on |
| 33 | | behalf of members of the Washington state council of |
| 34 | | firefighters, their families, and others deemed in need |

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|----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Washington's national park fund | Build awareness of Washington's national parks and |
| 2 | | support priority park programs and projects in |
| 3 | | Washington's national parks, such as enhancing visitor |
| 4 | | experience, promoting volunteerism, engaging |
| 5 | | communities, and providing educational opportunities |
| 6 | | related to Washington's national parks |
| 7 | We love our pets | Support and enable the Washington federation of animal |
| 8 | | welfare and control agencies to promote and perform |
| 9 | | spay/neuter surgery of Washington state pets in order to |
| 10 | | reduce pet population |

11 (3) Only the director or the director's designee may authorize
12 expenditures from the accounts described in subsection (2) of this
13 section. The accounts are subject to allotment procedures under
14 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
15 expenditures.

16 (4) Funds in the special license plate accounts described in
17 subsection (2) of this section must be disbursed subject to the
18 conditions described in subsection (2) of this section and under
19 contract between the department and qualified nonprofit organizations
20 that provide the services described in subsection (2) of this section.

21 (5) For the purposes of this section, a "qualified nonprofit
22 organization" means a not-for-profit corporation operating in
23 Washington that has received a determination of tax exempt status under
24 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3). The qualified nonprofit organization must
25 meet all the requirements under RCW 46.18.100(1).

26 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.18.060 and 2011 c 367 s 703, 2011 c 229 s 5, 2011
27 c 225 s 4, and 2011 c 171 s 66 are each reenacted and amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (1) The department must review and either approve or reject special
30 license plate applications submitted by sponsoring organizations.

31 (2) Duties of the department include, but are not limited to, the
32 following:

33 (a) Review and approve the annual financial reports submitted by
34 sponsoring organizations with active special license plate series and
35 present those annual financial reports to the joint transportation
36 committee;

1 (b) Report annually to the joint transportation committee on the
2 special license plate applications that were considered by the
3 department;

4 (c) Issue approval and rejection notification letters to sponsoring
5 organizations, the executive committee of the joint transportation
6 committee, and the legislative sponsors identified in each application.
7 The letters must be issued within seven days of making a determination
8 on the status of an application; and

9 (d) Review annually the number of plates sold for each special
10 license plate series created after January 1, 2003. The department may
11 submit a recommendation to discontinue a special plate series to the
12 executive committee of the joint transportation committee.

13 (3) Except as provided in RCW 46.18.245, in order to assess the
14 effects and impact of the proliferation of special license plates, the
15 legislature declares a temporary moratorium on the issuance of any
16 additional plates until July 1, 2013. During this period of time, the
17 department is prohibited from accepting, reviewing, processing, or
18 approving any applications. Additionally, a special license plate may
19 not be enacted by the legislature during the moratorium, unless the
20 proposed license plate has been approved by the former special license
21 plate review board before February 15, 2005.

22 ~~(4) ((The volunteer firefighters license plates created under RCW~~
23 ~~46.18.200 are exempt from the requirements of subsection (3) of this~~
24 ~~section.~~

25 ~~(5) The Music Matters license plates created under RCW 46.18.200~~
26 ~~are exempt from the requirements of subsection (3) of this section))~~
27 The limitations under subsection (3) of this section do not apply to
28 the following special license plates:

29 (a) Music Matters license plates created under RCW 46.18.200;

30 (b) State flower license plates created under RCW 46.18.200;

31 (c) Volunteer firefighter license plates created under RCW
32 46.18.200.

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