
HOUSE BILL 1902

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Holy, Shea, Short, Clibborn, Schmick, Ormsby, Fagan, Crouse, Riccelli, Blake, and Kristiansen

Read first time 02/15/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of intermittent-use trailer license
2 plates; amending RCW 46.17.220, 46.16A.200, 46.18.277, and 46.19.060;
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.18 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 46.04 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.18 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department, county auditor
9 or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for an
10 intermittent-use trailer license plate for an intermittent-use trailer.
11 The applicant for the intermittent-use trailer license plate must:

12 (a) Purchase a registration for the intermittent-use trailer as
13 required under chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW; and

14 (b) Pay the special license plate fee established under RCW
15 46.17.220(1)(k).

16 (2) A person applying for an intermittent-use trailer license plate
17 may:

18 (a) Receive an intermittent-use trailer license plate assigned by
19 the department; or

1 (b) Provide an actual Washington state issued license plate
2 designated for general use in the year of the intermittent-use
3 trailer's manufacture.

4 (3) Intermittent-use trailer license plates:

5 (a) Are valid for the life of the intermittent-use trailer;

6 (b) Are not required to be renewed; and

7 (c) Must be displayed on the rear of the intermittent-use trailer.

8 (4) Intermittent-use trailer license plates under subsection (2)(b)
9 of this section may be transferred from one intermittent-use trailer to
10 another intermittent-use trailer upon application to the department,
11 county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director.

12 (5) If the owner of an intermittent-use trailer obtains an
13 intermittent-use trailer license plate and then sells, transfers, or
14 otherwise conveys the intermittent-use trailer to another individual or
15 entity, the intermittent-use trailer license plate must be removed
16 prior to the sale, transfer, or conveyance and the new owner of the
17 intermittent-use trailer must obtain a new registration and appropriate
18 license plate.

19 (6) Any person who knowingly provides a false or facsimile license
20 plate under subsection (2)(b) of this section is subject to a traffic
21 infraction and fine in an amount equal to the monetary penalty for a
22 violation of RCW 46.16A.200(7)(b). Additionally, the person must pay
23 for the cost of an intermittent-use trailer license plate as listed
24 under RCW 46.17.220(1)(k), unless already paid.

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

27 "Intermittent-use trailer" means a trailer in good working order
28 that is used only for participation in club activities, exhibitions,
29 tours, and parades, and for occasional pleasure use. For purposes of
30 this section, "occasional pleasure use" means use of an intermittent
31 trailer that is not general or daily, but seasonal or sporadic and not
32 more than once per week on average.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.220 and 2012 c 65 s 4 are each amended to read
34 as follows:

35 (1) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon

1 application for a vehicle registration in chapter 46.16A RCW, the
 2 holder of a special license plate shall pay the appropriate special
 3 license plate fee as listed in this section.

4	PLATE TYPE	INITIAL FEE	RENEWAL FEE	DISTRIBUTED UNDER
5	(a) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	(b) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
7	(c) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
8	(d) Baseball stadium	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	Subsection (2) of this
9				section
10	(e) Collector vehicle	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
11	(f) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430
12	(g) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
13	(h) Gonzaga University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
14	alumni association			
15	(i) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
16	(j) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
17	(k) <u>Intermittent-use trailer</u>	<u>\$ 187.50</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>RCW 46.68.030</u>
18	<u>(l) Keep kids safe</u>	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
19	((h)) <u>(m) Law enforcement</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
20	memorial			
21	((m)) <u>(n) Military affiliate</u>	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
22	radio system			
23	((h)) <u>(o) Music matters</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
24	((h)) <u>(p) Professional</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	firefighters and			
26	paramedics			
27	((p)) <u>(q) Ride share</u>	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
28	((q)) <u>(r) Share the road</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
29	((r)) <u>(s) Ski & ride</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
30	Washington			
31	((s)) <u>(t) Square dancer</u>	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
32	((t)) <u>(u) State flower</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
33	((t)) <u>(v) Volunteer</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
34	firefighters			
35	((v)) <u>(w) Washington</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
36	lighthouses			

1	((w)) <u>(x)</u> Washington state	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
2	parks			
3	((s)) <u>(y)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
4	national parks			
5	((t)) <u>(z)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
6	wildlife collection			
7	((z)) <u>(aa)</u> We love our pets	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
8	((aa)) <u>(bb)</u> Wild on	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
9	Washington			

10 (2) After deducting administration and collection expenses for the
11 sale of baseball stadium license plates, the remaining proceeds must be
12 distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and
13 interest payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball
14 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
15 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
16 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
17 to the state general fund.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16A.200 and 2011 c 171 s 46 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) **Design.** All license plates may be obtained by the director
21 from the metal working plant of a state correctional facility or from
22 any source in accordance with existing state of Washington purchasing
23 procedures. License plates:

24 (a) May vary in background, color, and design;

25 (b) Must be legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state
26 license plate;

27 (c) Must designate the name of the state of Washington without
28 abbreviation;

29 (d) Must be treated with fully reflectorized materials designed to
30 increase visibility and legibility at night;

31 (e) Must be of a size and color and show the registration period as
32 determined by the director; and

33 (f) Before July 1, 2010, may display a symbol or artwork approved
34 by the former special license plate review board and the legislature.
35 Beginning July 1, 2010, special license plate series approved by the

1 department and enacted into law by the legislature may display a symbol
2 or artwork approved by the department.

3 (2) **Exceptions to reflectorized materials.** License plates issued
4 before January 1, 1968, are not required to be treated with
5 reflectorized materials.

6 (3) **Dealer license plates.** License plates issued to a dealer must
7 contain an indication that the license plates have been issued to a
8 vehicle dealer.

9 (4)(a) **Furnished.** The director shall furnish to all persons making
10 satisfactory application for a vehicle registration:

11 (i) Two identical license plates each containing the license plate
12 number; or

13 (ii) One license plate if the vehicle is a trailer, semitrailer,
14 intermittent-use trailer, camper, moped, collector vehicle, horseless
15 carriage, or motorcycle.

16 (b) The director may adopt types of license plates to be used as
17 long as the license plates are legible.

18 (5)(a) **Display.** License plates must be:

19 (i) Attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle if
20 two license plates have been issued;

21 (ii) Attached to the rear of the vehicle if one license plate has
22 been issued;

23 (iii) Kept clean and be able to be plainly seen and read at all
24 times; and

25 (iv) Attached in a horizontal position at a distance of not more
26 than four feet from the ground.

27 (b) The Washington state patrol may grant exceptions to this
28 subsection if the body construction of the vehicle makes compliance
29 with this section impossible.

30 (6) **Change of license classification.** A person who has altered a
31 vehicle that makes the current license plate or plates invalid for the
32 vehicle's use shall:

33 (a) Surrender the current license plate or plates to the
34 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the
35 director;

36 (b) Apply for a new license plate or plates; and

37 (c) Pay a change of classification fee required under RCW
38 46.17.310.

1 (7) **Unlawful acts.** It is unlawful to:

2 (a) Display a license plate or plates on the front or rear of any
3 vehicle that were not issued by the director for the vehicle;

4 (b) Display a license plate or plates on any vehicle that have been
5 changed, altered, or disfigured, or have become illegible;

6 (c) Use holders, frames, or other materials that change, alter, or
7 make a license plate or plates illegible. License plate frames may be
8 used on license plates only if the frames do not obscure license tabs
9 or identifying letters or numbers on the plates and the license plates
10 can be plainly seen and read at all times;

11 (d) Operate a vehicle unless a valid license plate or plates are
12 attached as required under this section;

13 (e) Transfer a license plate or plates issued under this chapter
14 between two or more vehicles without first making application to
15 transfer the license plates. A violation of this subsection (7)(e) is
16 a traffic infraction subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred
17 dollars. Any law enforcement agency that determines that a license
18 plate or plates have been transferred between two or more vehicles
19 shall confiscate the license plate or plates and return them to the
20 department for nullification along with full details of the reasons for
21 confiscation. Each vehicle identified in the transfer will be issued
22 a new license plate or plates upon application by the owner or owners
23 and the payment of full fees and taxes; or

24 (f) Fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the registration
25 certificate and deliver the license plate or plates to the purchaser or
26 transferee of the vehicle, except as authorized under this section.

27 (8) **Transfer.** (a) Standard issue license plates follow the vehicle
28 when ownership of the vehicle changes unless the registered owner
29 wishes to retain the license plates and transfer them to a replacement
30 vehicle of the same use. A registered owner wishing to keep standard
31 issue license plates shall pay the license plate transfer fee required
32 under RCW 46.17.200(1)(c) when applying for license plate transfer.

33 (b) Special license plates and personalized license plates may be
34 treated in the same manner as described in (a) of this subsection
35 unless otherwise limited by law.

36 (c) License plates issued to the state or any county, city, town,
37 school district, or other political subdivision entitled to exemption

1 as provided by law may be treated in the same manner as described in
2 (a) of this subsection.

3 (9) **Replacement.** (a) An owner or the owner's authorized
4 representative shall apply for a replacement license plate or plates if
5 the current license plate or plates assigned to the vehicle have been
6 lost, defaced, or destroyed, or if one or both plates have become so
7 illegible or are in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish.
8 An owner or the owner's authorized representative may apply for a
9 replacement license plate or plates at any time the owner chooses.

10 (b) The application for a replacement license plate or plates must:

11 (i) Be on a form furnished or approved by the director; and

12 (ii) Be accompanied by the fee required under RCW 46.17.200(1)(a).

13 (c) The department shall not require the payment of any fee to
14 replace a license plate or plates for vehicles owned, rented, or leased
15 by foreign countries or international bodies to which the United States
16 government is a signatory by treaty.

17 (10) **Periodic replacement.** License plates must be replaced
18 periodically to ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity. The
19 department shall:

20 (a) Use empirical studies documenting the longevity of the
21 reflective materials used to make license plates;

22 (b) Determine how frequently license plates must be replaced; and

23 (c) Offer to owners the option of retaining the current license
24 plate number when obtaining replacement license plates for the fee
25 required in RCW 46.17.200(1)(b).

26 (11) **Periodic replacement--Exceptions.** The following license
27 plates are not required to be periodically replaced as required in
28 subsection (10) of this section:

29 (a) Horseless carriage license plates issued under RCW 46.18.255
30 before January 1, 1987;

31 (b) Congressional Medal of Honor license plates issued under RCW
32 46.18.230;

33 (c) License plates for commercial motor vehicles with a gross
34 weight greater than twenty-six thousand pounds.

35 (12) **Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this
36 section.

37 (13) **Tabs or emblems.** The director may issue tabs or emblems to be

1 attached to license plates or elsewhere on the vehicle to signify
2 initial registration and renewals. Renewals become effective when tabs
3 or emblems have been issued and properly displayed on license plates.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.18.277 and 2010 c 161 s 627 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A registered owner may purchase personalized license plates
7 with a special license plate background for any vehicle required to
8 display one or two vehicle license plates, excluding:

- 9 (a) Amateur radio license plates;
10 (b) Collector vehicle license plates;
11 (c) Disabled American veteran license plates;
12 (d) Former prisoner of war license plates;
13 (e) Horseless carriage license plates;
14 (f) Intermittent-use trailer license plates;
15 (g) Congressional Medal of Honor license plates;
16 (~~(g)~~) (h) Military affiliate radio system license plates;
17 (~~(h)~~) (i) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates;
18 (~~(i)~~) (j) Restored license plates; and
19 (~~(j)~~) (k) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW.

20 (2) Personalized special license plates issued under this section
21 must:

- 22 (a) Consist of numbers or letters or any combination of numbers or
23 letters;
24 (b) Not exceed seven characters; and
25 (c) Not contain less than one character.

26 (3) The department may not issue or may refuse to issue
27 personalized special license plates that:

- 28 (a) Duplicate or conflict with existing or projected vehicle
29 license plate series or other numbering systems for records kept by the
30 department; or
31 (b) May carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or
32 which would be misleading.

33 (4) Personalized special license plates must be issued only to the
34 registered owner of the vehicle on which they are to be displayed. The
35 registered owner must:

- 36 (a) Pay both the personalized license plate fee required under RCW
37 46.17.210 and the special license plate fee required under the

1 applicable special license plate provision, in addition to any other
2 fee or taxes due. License plate fees must be distributed as provided
3 in chapter 46.68 RCW;

4 (b) Renew personalized special license plates annually, regardless
5 of whether or not the vehicle on which the personalized special license
6 plates are displayed will be driven on the public highways;

7 (c) Surrender personalized special license plates that have not
8 been renewed to the department. The failure to surrender expired
9 personalized special license plates is a traffic infraction; and

10 (d) Immediately report to the department when personalized special
11 license plates have been transferred to another vehicle or another
12 owner.

13 (5) The department may establish rules as necessary to carry out
14 this section including, but not limited to, identifying the maximum
15 number of positions on personalized special license plates for
16 motorcycles.

17 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.19.060 and 2012 c 71 s 1 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 (1) An additional fee may not be charged for special license plates
20 for persons with disabilities except for any other fees and taxes
21 required to be paid upon registration of a motor vehicle.

22 (2) A registered owner who qualifies for special parking privileges
23 as described in RCW 46.19.010 may apply to the department for special
24 license plates for persons with disabilities or special license plates
25 with a special year tab for persons with disabilities. Special license
26 plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities are
27 available on any special license plate created under chapter 46.18 RCW,
28 except ((the)) collector vehicle license plates, horseless carriage
29 license plates, intermittent-use trailer license plates, and ride share
30 ((special)) license plates.

31 (3) A registered owner who chooses to purchase special license
32 plates as described in subsection (2) of this section shall pay the
33 applicable special license plate fee, in addition to any other fees or
34 taxes required for registering a motor vehicle.

35 (4) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or special
36 license plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities

1 must be renewed in the same manner and at the time required for the
2 renewal of standard motor vehicle license plates under chapter 46.16A
3 RCW.

4 (5) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or special
5 license plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities
6 may be transferred from one motor vehicle to another motor vehicle
7 owned by the person with the parking privilege upon application to the
8 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the
9 director.

10 (6) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or special
11 license plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities
12 must be removed from the motor vehicle when the person with
13 disabilities transfers or assigns his or her interest in the motor
14 vehicle.

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