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HOUSE BILL 1836

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State of Washington

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By Representatives Horn, Romero, Mitchell, Van Luven, Hickel, Dickerson, Reams, Regala, Cole, Veloria, Patterson, Blanton, R. Fisher, Wolfe and Schoesler

Read first time 02/10/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to special license plates; amending RCW 46.16.301  
2 and 46.16.313; adding a new section to chapter 46.16 RCW; adding a new  
3 chapter to Title 16 RCW; creating new sections; and prescribing  
4 penalties.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.301 and 1994 c 194 s 2 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 (1) The department may create, design, and issue special license  
9 plates that may be used in lieu of regular or personalized license  
10 plates for motor vehicles required to display two motor vehicle license  
11 plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon  
12 terms and conditions established by the department. The special plates  
13 may:

14 (a) Denote the age or type of vehicle; or

15 (b) Denote special activities or interests; or

16 (c) Denote the status, or contribution or sacrifice for the United  
17 States, the state of Washington, or the citizens of the state of  
18 Washington, of a registered owner of that vehicle; or

1 (d) Display a depiction of the name and mascot or symbol of a state  
2 university, regional university, or state college as defined in RCW  
3 28B.10.016; or

4 (e) Display a phrase or symbol, or both, supporting the animal  
5 population control program.

6 (2) The department has the sole discretion to determine whether or  
7 not to create, design, or issue any series of special license plates  
8 and whether any interest or status merits the issuance of a series of  
9 special license plates. In making this determination, the department  
10 shall consider whether or not an interest or status contributes or has  
11 contributed significantly to the public health, safety, or welfare of  
12 the citizens of the United States or of this state or to their  
13 significant benefit, or whether the interest or status is recognized by  
14 the United States, this state, or other states, in other settings or  
15 contexts. The department may also consider the potential number of  
16 persons who may be eligible for the plates and the cost and efficiency  
17 of producing limited numbers of the plates. The design of a special  
18 license plate shall conform to all requirements for plates for the type  
19 of vehicle for which it is issued, as provided elsewhere in this  
20 chapter.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1994 c 194 s 4 are each amended to read  
22 as follows:

23 (1) The department may establish a fee for each type of special  
24 license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c) in an  
25 amount calculated to offset the cost of production of the special  
26 license plates and the administration of this program. The fee shall  
27 not exceed thirty-five dollars and is in addition to all other fees  
28 required to register and license the vehicle for which the plates have  
29 been requested. All such additional special license plate fees  
30 collected by the department shall be deposited in the state treasury  
31 and credited to the motor vehicle fund.

32 (2) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon  
33 application, registration, and renewal registration of a motor vehicle,  
34 the holder of a collegiate license plate shall pay a fee of thirty  
35 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two  
36 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration  
37 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds, minus  
38 the cost of plate production, shall be remitted to the custody of the

1 state treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report. The state  
2 treasurer shall credit the funds to the appropriate collegiate license  
3 plate fund as provided in RCW 28B.10.890.

4 (3) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon  
5 application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of an  
6 animal population control license plate shall pay a fee of thirty  
7 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two  
8 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration  
9 and collection expenses it incurs. The remaining proceeds, minus the  
10 cost of plate production, shall be remitted to the custody of the state  
11 treasurer for deposit in the animal population control account, created  
12 in section 4 of this act. This account shall be administered by the  
13 secretary of state as provided in section 4 of this act.

14 (4) In addition to any other fees and taxes required to be paid,  
15 the applicant for renewal of animal population control plates shall be  
16 charged an additional fee of ten dollars. All animal population  
17 control plates must be renewed on an annual basis, regardless of  
18 whether a vehicle on which they are displayed will not be driven on  
19 public highways.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
21 to read as follows:

22 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this  
23 chapter "animal population control license plates" means license plates  
24 that display a depiction of an animal and an accompanying slogan.  
25 Animal population control license plates must contain numbers and  
26 letters not exceeding seven positions as assigned by the department.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) The animal population control account is  
28 established in the state treasury. All receipts from animal population  
29 control license plates authorized under RCW 46.16.313 shall be  
30 deposited in the account. The account may contain any moneys required  
31 by law to be deposited in the fund and shall be held by the treasurer  
32 separate and apart from all other moneys, funds, and accounts.  
33 Interest earnings generated from this account shall remain in the  
34 account. Any balance remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal  
35 biennium shall be carried forward in the account for the next  
36 successive biennium.

1 (2) The secretary may solicit and accept donations from any public  
2 or private source to help carry out the goals of the animal population  
3 control program.

4 (3) Revenue collected under RCW 46.16.313 and sections 4 through 9  
5 of this act shall be used by the secretary solely for the  
6 implementation and promotion of the program and for costs associated  
7 with administering the animal population control program.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The secretary of state shall establish  
9 an animal population control program to provide for low-cost spaying  
10 and neutering services to eligible owners of dogs and cats. The  
11 secretary shall adopt rules necessary to implement the program in  
12 accordance with this chapter, and the adopted rules shall ensure that  
13 no spaying or neutering is conducted under this program unless  
14 sufficient funds exist in the animal population control account to  
15 reimburse participating veterinarians.

16 (2) To the extent funds are available, the secretary of state shall  
17 reimburse veterinarians licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW for the  
18 spaying of a dog or cat, if the owner of the dog or cat is a Washington  
19 resident and is eligible for one of the following:

- 20 (a) The federal Food Stamp program;  
21 (b) The federal Supplemental Security Income program;  
22 (c) The federal Lower-income Housing Assistance program; or  
23 (d) The state of Washington aid to families with dependent children  
24 (AFDC) program.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A person who submits a dog or cat for  
26 spaying or neutering under the animal population control program,  
27 established under section 5 of this act, shall:

28 (1) Furnish the veterinarian with proof that the owner of the dog  
29 or cat is eligible under section 5 of this act;

30 (2) Sign a consent form stating that the person is the owner of the  
31 dog or cat, or is authorized by the owner to submit the dog or cat for  
32 spaying or neutering.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The secretary shall reimburse the  
34 veterinarian upon the submission of an animal sterilization  
35 certificate, to be prescribed by the secretary and signed by the

1 participating veterinarian and the owner of the animal to be  
2 sterilized.

3 (2) To the extent funds are available from the animal population  
4 control account, the secretary may reimburse a participating  
5 veterinarian for the presurgical immunization of dogs against rabies,  
6 distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and parvovirus, or the presurgical  
7 immunization of cats against feline panleukopenia, calici, pneumonitis,  
8 and rhinotracheitis, as the case may be, on animals not previously  
9 immunized. In order to qualify for the reimbursement, the owner of the  
10 animal being spayed or neutered under the program shall submit a  
11 written certificate signed by the veterinarian performing the operation  
12 and by the owner, stating that the animal has been immunized coincident  
13 with a spaying or neutering operation under the program.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If a person who submits a cat or dog for  
15 spaying or neutering to a participating veterinarian fails to retrieve  
16 the cat or dog within the time recommended by the participating  
17 veterinarian, the veterinarian may transfer custody of the dog or cat  
18 to a canine control officer, regional animal control officer, or a  
19 municipal animal control officer.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A person who knowingly:

21 (1) Falsifies proof of eligibility for, or participation in, any of  
22 the programs enumerated in section 5 of this act; or

23 (2) Furnishes a participating veterinarian with inaccurate  
24 information concerning the ownership of an animal submitted for spaying  
25 or neutering; or

26 (3) Furnishes the secretary with false information concerning a  
27 sterilization certificate or immunization certificate submitted under  
28 the animal population control program; or

29 (4) Violates in any other manner the provisions of sections 4  
30 through 7 of this act or rules adopted under section 5 of this act,  
31 shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars for the first  
32 offense and not more than five hundred dollars for the second offense  
33 and each subsequent offense. All fines collected under this section  
34 shall be deposited in the animal population control account.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** By December 15, 1996, the secretary shall  
36 submit a report to the legislature setting forth a complete operating

1 and financial statement regarding the operation of the animal  
2 population control program. The secretary shall include in the report  
3 an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program and any  
4 recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The department of licensing shall not begin  
6 issuance of animal population control license plates before January 1,  
7 1996, to provide adequate time for the department of licensing to  
8 prepare for implementation and correctional industries to manufacture  
9 the license plates.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 4 through 9 of this act constitute  
11 a new chapter in Title 16 RCW.

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