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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6209

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators  
Wojahn, Snyder, McDonald and Sellar)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle license plates for officers of a  
2 recognized foreign organization; amending RCW 82.80.020; adding new  
3 sections to chapter 46.16 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter  
4 82.44 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) If the eligible applicant bears the entire cost of plate  
9 production, the department shall provide for the issuance of special  
10 license plates, in lieu of regular motor vehicle license plates, for  
11 passenger vehicles having manufacturers' rated carrying capacities of  
12 one ton or less that are owned or leased by an officer of the Taipei  
13 Economic and Cultural Office. The department shall issue the special  
14 license plates in a distinguishing color, running in a separate  
15 numerical series, and bearing the words "Foreign Organization." A  
16 vehicle for which special license plates are issued under this section  
17 is exempt from regular license fees under RCW 46.16.060, excise tax  
18 under RCW 82.44.020, and any additional vehicle license fees imposed  
19 under RCW 82.80.020.

1 (2) Whenever the owner or lessee as provided in subsection (1) of  
2 this section transfers or assigns the interest or title in the motor  
3 vehicle for which the special plates were issued, the plates must be  
4 removed from the motor vehicle, and if another qualified vehicle is  
5 acquired, attached to that vehicle, and the director must be  
6 immediately notified of the transfer of the plates; otherwise the  
7 removed plates must be immediately forwarded to the director to be  
8 destroyed. Whenever the owner or lessee as provided in subsection (1)  
9 of this section is for any reason relieved of his or her duties as a  
10 representative of a recognized foreign organization, he or she shall  
11 immediately forward the special plates to the director, who shall upon  
12 receipt dispose of the plates as otherwise provided by law.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 A motor vehicle owned or leased by an officer of the Taipei  
16 Economic and Cultural Office eligible for a special license plate under  
17 section 1 of this act is exempt from the payment of license fees for  
18 the licensing of the vehicle as provided in this chapter.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 82.44 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 Motor vehicles licensed under section 1 of this act are exempt from  
22 the taxes imposed in RCW 82.44.020 (1) and (2). When the motor vehicle  
23 ceases to be used for the purposes of section 1 of this act or at the  
24 time of its retail sale, the excise tax imposed in RCW 82.44.020 (1)  
25 and (2) must be imposed for twelve full months from the date of  
26 application of the new owner.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.80.020 and 1993 c 60 s 1 are each amended to read  
28 as follows:

29 (1) The legislative authority of a county may fix and impose an  
30 additional fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars per vehicle, for each  
31 vehicle that is subject to license fees under RCW 46.16.060 and is  
32 determined by the department of licensing to be registered within the  
33 boundaries of the county.

34 (2) The department of licensing shall administer and collect the  
35 fee. The department shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by  
36 contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected, for

1 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining  
2 proceeds shall be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer for  
3 monthly distribution under RCW 82.80.080.

4 (3) The proceeds of this fee shall be used strictly for  
5 transportation purposes in accordance with RCW 82.80.070.

6 (4) A county imposing this fee or initiating an exemption process  
7 shall delay the effective date at least six months from the date the  
8 ordinance is enacted to allow the department of licensing to implement  
9 administration and collection of or exemption from the fee.

10 (5) The legislative authority of a county may develop and initiate  
11 an exemption process of the fifteen dollar fee for the registered  
12 owners of vehicles residing within the boundaries of the county (a) who  
13 are sixty-one years old or older at the time payment of the fee is due  
14 and whose household income for the previous calendar year is less than  
15 an amount prescribed by the county legislative authority, or (b) who  
16 has a physical disability.

17 (6) The legislative authority of a county shall develop and  
18 initiate an exemption process of the fifteen-dollar fee for vehicles  
19 registered within the boundaries of the county that are licensed under  
20 section 1 of this act.

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