By Senators Haugen, Prince, Fraser, Snyder, Winsley and Owen; by request of Arts Commission and Washington State Historical Society Read first time 01/12/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

AN ACT Relating to arts and heritage license plates; and adding a new section to chapter 46.16 RCW.

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

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

In order to support the arts and history education of Washington's youth, the department shall develop a new arts and heritage design for vehicle license plates that may be used instead of the Centennial design license plates. Reflectorized materials necessary to provide adequate visibility and legibility at night must be used in the special plate's design.

The department shall develop the arts and heritage plates in cooperation with the design selection committee appointed by the director in consultation with the director of the state arts commission and the director of the state historical society. The committee must include equal representation from the state arts commission and state historical society, and a representative of the Washington state patrol.

The department shall assign registration numbers and letters for the arts and heritage plate in accordance with established procedures. The arts and heritage license plate shall be available for purchase January 1, 1997, to all vehicle owners, at the owners' option.

In addition to the basic fees for new vehicle registrations provided in RCW 46.16.060, 46.16.065, 46.16.505, and 46.16.630 and the license fees for new vehicle registrations provided in RCW 46.16.070 and 46.16 .085 , persons purchasing arts and heritage plates shall pay an additional fee of twenty-eight dollars per plate. In addition to the regular renewal fee, and in addition to any other fees and taxes required to be paid, persons who wish to renew the arts and heritage license plate shall pay an additional fee of twenty dollars. The plates remain with the person upon transfer or other disposition of the vehicle for which they were initially issued, and may be used on another vehicle upon notification of the department.

Revenues generated from the arts and heritage plates shall be used to support the arts and history education of Washington's youth under chapters 27.34 and 43.46 RCW, and shall be distributed as follows: One-half of the fee shall be deposited in the state arts commission's account, and one-half of the fee shall be deposited in the state historical society's account. Arts and heritage plate revenues shall not be used to supplant other sources of support for the arts and history education of Washington's youth.

