
HOUSE BILL 1036

State of Washington

56th Legislature

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By Representatives Bush, Conway, Cairnes, Kastama, DeBolt, Sullivan, Boldt, McDonald, Buck, Cody, D. Schmidt, Cooper, Skinner, Sump, Clements, Thomas, Hatfield, Hurst, Barlean, Dunn and Miloscia

Read first time 01/12/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle license plate and inspection fees for
2 disabled veterans; and amending RCW 73.04.110 and 70.120.170.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 73.04.110 and 1987 c 98 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Any person who is a veteran as defined in RCW 41.04.005 who
7 submits to the department of licensing satisfactory proof of a service-
8 connected disability rating from the veterans administration or the
9 military service from which the veteran was discharged and:

10 ~~((+1))~~ (a) Has lost the use of both hands or one foot;

11 ~~((+2))~~ (b) Was captured and incarcerated for more than twenty-nine
12 days by an enemy of the United States during a period of war with the
13 United States; or

14 ~~((+3))~~ (c) Has become blind in both eyes as the result of military
15 service; ~~((or~~

16 ~~(4) Is rated by the veterans administration or the military service
17 from which the veteran was discharged and is receiving service-
18 connected compensation at the one hundred percent rate that is expected
19 to exist for more than one year;))~~

1 is entitled to regular or special license plates issued by the
2 department of licensing described in subsection (3) of this section.

3 (2) Any person who has served as a member in the armed forces of
4 the United States who:

5 (a) Received an honorable discharge or received a discharge for
6 physical reasons with an honorable record;

7 (b) Submits to the department of licensing satisfactory proof of a
8 service-connected disability rating from the veterans' administration
9 or the military service from which the veteran was discharged; and

10 (c) Is receiving service-connected compensation at the one hundred
11 percent rate that is expected to exist for more than one year;

12 is entitled to regular or special license plates issued by the
13 department of licensing described in subsection (3) of this section.

14 (3) The special license plates authorized by this section shall
15 bear distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating that the
16 motor vehicle is owned by a disabled veteran or former prisoner of war.
17 This license shall be issued annually for one personal use vehicle
18 without payment of any license fees or excise tax thereon. Whenever
19 any person who has been issued license plates under the provisions of
20 this section applies to the department for transfer of the plates to a
21 subsequently acquired motor vehicle, a transfer fee of five dollars
22 shall be charged in addition to all other appropriate fees. The
23 department may periodically verify the one hundred percent rate as
24 provided in subsection ((+4)) (2)(c) of this section.

25 Any person who has been issued free motor vehicle license plates
26 under this section prior to July 1, 1983, shall continue to be eligible
27 for the annual free license plates.

28 For the purposes of this section, "blind" means the definition of
29 "blind" used by the state of Washington in determining eligibility for
30 financial assistance to the blind under Title 74 RCW.

31 Any unauthorized use of a special plate is a gross misdemeanor.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.120.170 and 1998 c 342 s 4 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1) The department shall administer a system for emission
35 inspections of all motor vehicles, except those described in RCW
36 46.16.015(2), that are registered within the boundaries of each
37 emission contributing area. Under such system a motor vehicle shall be
38 inspected biennially except where an annual program would be required

1 to meet federal law and prevent federal sanctions. In addition, motor
2 vehicles shall be inspected at each change of registered owner of a
3 licensed vehicle as provided under RCW 46.16.015.

4 (2) The director shall:

5 (a) Adopt procedures for conducting emission inspections of motor
6 vehicles. The inspections may include idle and high revolution per
7 minute emission tests. The emission test for diesel vehicles shall
8 consist solely of a smoke opacity test.

9 (b) Adopt criteria for calibrating emission testing equipment.
10 Electronic equipment used to test for emissions standards provided for
11 in this chapter shall be properly calibrated. The department shall
12 examine frequently the calibration of the emission testing equipment
13 used at the stations.

14 (c) Authorize, through contracts, the establishment and operation
15 of inspection stations for conducting vehicle emission inspections
16 authorized in this chapter. No person contracted to inspect motor
17 vehicles may perform for compensation repairs on any vehicles. No
18 public body may establish or operate contracted inspection stations.
19 Any contracts must be let in accordance with the procedures established
20 for competitive bids in chapter 43.19 RCW.

21 (3) Subsection (2)(c) of this section does not apply to volunteer
22 motor vehicle inspections under RCW 70.120.020(1) if the inspections
23 are conducted for the following purposes:

24 (a) Auditing;

25 (b) Contractor evaluation;

26 (c) Collection of data for establishing calibration and performance
27 standards; or

28 (d) Public information and education.

29 (4)(a) The director shall establish by rule the fee to be charged
30 for emission inspections. The inspection fee shall be a standard fee
31 applicable state-wide or throughout an emission contributing area and
32 shall be no greater than fifteen dollars. Surplus moneys collected
33 from fees over the amount due the contractor shall be paid to the state
34 and deposited in the general fund. Fees shall be set at the minimum
35 whole dollar amount required to (i) compensate the contractor or
36 inspection facility owner, and (ii) offset the general fund
37 appropriation to the department to cover the administrative costs of
38 the motor vehicle emission inspection program.

1 (b) Before each inspection, a person whose motor vehicle is to be
2 inspected shall pay to the inspection station the fee established under
3 this section except as provided in (c) of this subsection. The person
4 whose motor vehicle is inspected shall receive the results of the
5 inspection. If the inspected vehicle complies with the standards
6 established by the director, the person shall receive a dated
7 certificate of compliance. If the inspected vehicle does not comply
8 with those standards, one reinspection of the vehicle shall be afforded
9 without charge.

10 (c) The inspection fee is waived for no more than one vehicle owned
11 by any person who has served as a member in the armed forces of the
12 United States who:

13 (i) Received an honorable discharge or received a discharge for
14 physical reasons with an honorable record;

15 (ii) Submits satisfactory proof to the department of a service-
16 connected disability rating from the veterans' administration or the
17 military service from which the veteran was discharged; and

18 (iii) Is receiving service-connected compensation at the one
19 hundred percent rate that is expected to exist for more than one year.

20 (5) All units of local government and agencies of the state with
21 motor vehicles garaged or regularly operated in an emissions
22 contributing area shall test the emissions of those vehicles annually
23 to ensure that the vehicle's emissions comply with the emission
24 standards established by the director. All state agencies outside of
25 emission contributing areas with more than twenty motor vehicles housed
26 at a single facility or contiguous facilities shall test the emissions
27 of those vehicles annually to ensure that the vehicles' emissions
28 comply with standards established by the director. A report of the
29 results of the tests shall be submitted to the department.

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