
SENATE BILL 6251

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Lovelett, Zeiger, Wilson, C., Conway, Das, and Hunt; by request of Department of Licensing

Read first time 01/14/20. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the governor to enter into
2 compacts with federally recognized Indian tribes principally located
3 within Washington state for the issuance of tribal license plates and
4 vehicle registration; and adding a new section to chapter 46.16A 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 46.16A
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) The governor may enter into compacts with federally
9 recognized Indian tribes principally located within this state
10 concerning the licensing and registration of tribal government and
11 tribal member-owned vehicles with tribal license plates issued by the
12 department.

13 (2) Each compact entered into under this section must contain the
14 following provisions:

15 (a) The design of a tribal license plate shall be determined by
16 the compacting tribe, except that the design must be readable by toll
17 collection facilities and configured in a manner allowing for
18 electronic distribution through state and national law enforcement
19 databases;

20 (b) Tribal license plate recipients must pay all applicable
21 taxes, fees, and vehicle tolls, except that the compacting tribe may

1 pay these expenses on behalf of its enrolled members as provided in
2 the compact;

3 (c) That the eligibility for a tribal license plate is limited to
4 tribal governments and enrolled members of the compacting tribe who
5 reside in the state, and that the compact may address additional
6 requirements;

7 (d) Information regarding a vehicle that has been issued a tribal
8 license plate, including vehicle description and ownership
9 information, be maintained in the department's recordkeeping systems.

10 (3) Each compact must also address the following subjects:

11 (a) The department's administrative costs for issuing tribal
12 license plates and maintaining information regarding vehicles that
13 have been issued tribal license plates;

14 (b) Information sharing between the department and the compacting
15 tribe;

16 (c) The process for applying for and receiving tribal license
17 plates; and

18 (d) Dispute resolution, including the use of mediation or other
19 nonjudicial process.

20 (4) The governor may delegate the power to negotiate compacts
21 under this section to the department.

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