
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5918

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Drew, Sellar, Vognild, Bluechel and Winsley)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to ride-sharing vehicles; amending RCW 82.44.015
2 and 46.16.023; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Transportation demand strategies that reduce
5 the number of vehicles on Washington state's highways, roads, and
6 streets, and provide attractive and effective alternatives to single-
7 occupancy travel can improve ambient air quality, conserve fossil
8 fuels, and forestall the need for capital improvements to the state's
9 transportation system. The legislature has required many public and
10 private employers in the state's largest counties to implement
11 transportation demand management programs to reduce the number of
12 single-occupant vehicle travelers during the morning and evening rush
13 hours. The legislature finds that additional transportation demand
14 management strategies are necessary to mitigate the adverse social,
15 environmental, and economic effects of automobile dependency and
16 traffic congestion. While expensive capital improvements, including
17 dedicated busways and commuter rail systems, may be necessary to
18 improve the region's mobility, they are only part of the solution. All
19 public and private entities that attract single-occupant vehicle

1 drivers must develop imaginative and cost-effective ways to encourage
2 walking, bicycling, carpooling, vanpooling, bus riding, and
3 telecommuting. It is the intent of the legislature to revise those
4 portions of state law that inhibit the application of imaginative
5 solutions to the state's transportation mobility problems and to
6 encourage many more public and private employers to adopt effective
7 transportation demand management strategies.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.44.015 and 1982 c 142 s 1 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 For the purposes of this chapter, in addition to the exclusions
11 under RCW 82.44.010, "motor vehicle" shall not include: (1) ~~((Vans))~~
12 Passenger motor vehicles used ~~((regularly))~~ primarily as ride-sharing
13 vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.74.010(3), by not fewer than ~~((seven))~~
14 four persons, including passengers and driver~~((, or not fewer than five~~
15 ~~persons including the driver, when at least three of those persons are~~
16 ~~confined to wheelchairs when riding));~~ or (2) vehicles with a seating
17 capacity greater than fifteen persons which otherwise qualify as ride-
18 sharing vehicles under RCW 46.74.010(3) used exclusively for ride
19 sharing for the elderly or the handicapped by not fewer than seven
20 persons, including driver. The registered owner of one of these
21 vehicles shall notify the department of licensing upon termination of
22 ~~((regular))~~ primary use of the vehicle as a ride-sharing vehicle and
23 shall be liable for the tax imposed by this chapter, prorated on the
24 remaining months for which the vehicle is licensed.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.023 and 1987 c 175 s 2 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 (1) Every owner or lessee of a vehicle seeking to apply for an
28 excise tax exemption under RCW 82.08.0287, 82.12.0282, or 82.44.015
29 shall apply to the director for, and upon satisfactory showing of
30 eligibility, receive in lieu of the regular motor vehicle license
31 plates for that vehicle, special plates of a distinguishing separate
32 numerical series or design, as the director shall prescribe. In
33 addition to paying all other initial fees required by law, each
34 applicant for the special license plates shall pay an additional
35 license fee of twenty-five dollars upon the issuance of such plates.
36 The special fee shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund.
37 Application for renewal of the license plates shall be as prescribed

1 for the renewal of other vehicle licenses. No renewal is required for
2 vehicles exempted under RCW 46.16.020.

3 (2) Whenever the ownership of a vehicle receiving special plates
4 under subsection (1) of this section is transferred or assigned, the
5 plates shall be removed from the motor vehicle, and if another vehicle
6 qualifying for special plates is acquired, the plates shall be
7 transferred to that vehicle for a fee of five dollars, and the director
8 shall be immediately notified of the transfer of the plates. Otherwise
9 the removed plates shall be immediately forwarded to the director to be
10 canceled. Whenever the owner or lessee of a vehicle receiving special
11 plates under subsection (1) of this section is for any reason relieved
12 of the tax-exempt status, the special plates shall immediately be
13 forwarded to the director along with an application for replacement
14 plates and the required fee. Upon receipt the director shall issue the
15 license plates that are otherwise provided by law.

16 (3) Any person who shall knowingly make any false statement of a
17 material fact in the application for a special plate under subsection
18 (1) of this section shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

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