
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5700

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Owen, Prince, Heavey, Wood, Kohl and Deccio)

Read first time 2/6/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle license plates; amending RCW
2 46.16.270 and 46.16.313; adding a new section to chapter 46.16 RCW; and
3 providing an effective date.

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

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

7 Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
8 January 1, 2000, all vehicle license plates must have a common
9 background except commercial vehicles as defined in RCW 46.32.005,
10 vehicles originally licensed before January 1, 1987, that are currently
11 owned by the original licensee, and vehicles with special plates
12 designated in RCW 46.16.305 (1) and (3).

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.270 and 1990 c 250 s 32 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 Replacement plates issued after January 1, (~~(1987, will be~~
16 ~~centennial plates as described in RCW 46.16.650)) 2000, must have a
17 common background. The (~~total~~) replacement plate fee including the~~

1 one dollar per plate centennial plate fee shall be deposited in the
2 motor vehicle fund.

3 Upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of one or both of the
4 vehicle license number plates issued for any vehicle where more than
5 one plate was originally issued or where one or both have become so
6 illegible or in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish, or
7 upon the owner's option, the owner of the vehicle shall make
8 application for new vehicle license number plates upon a form furnished
9 by the director. The application shall be filed with the director or
10 the director's authorized agent, accompanied by the certificate of
11 license registration of the vehicle and a fee in the amount of three
12 dollars per plate, whereupon the director, or the director's authorized
13 agent, shall issue new vehicle license number plates to the applicant.
14 It shall be accompanied by a fee of two dollars for a new motorcycle
15 license number plate. In the event the director has issued license
16 period tabs or a windshield emblem instead of vehicle license number
17 plates, and upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of the tabs or
18 windshield emblem, application shall be made on a form provided by the
19 director and in the same manner as above described, and shall be
20 accompanied by a fee of one dollar for each pair of tabs or for each
21 windshield emblem, whereupon the director shall issue to the applicant
22 a duplicate pair of tabs, year tabs, and when necessary month tabs or
23 a windshield emblem to replace those lost, defaced, or destroyed. For
24 vehicles owned, rented, or leased by the state of Washington or by any
25 county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision of
26 the state of Washington or United States government, or owned or leased
27 by the governing body of an Indian tribe as defined in RCW 46.16.020,
28 a fee shall be charged for replacement of a vehicle license number
29 plate only to the extent required by the provisions of RCW 46.16.020,
30 46.16.061, 46.16.237, and 46.01.140. For vehicles owned, rented, or
31 leased by foreign countries or international bodies to which the United
32 States government is a signatory by treaty, the payment of any fee for
33 the replacement of a vehicle license number plate shall not be
34 required.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 103 are each
36 amended to read as follows:

37 (1) If the requesting party chooses not to set an additional fee as
38 provided in subsection (3) of this section, the department may

1 establish a fee for each type of special license plates issued under
2 RCW 46.16.301(~~((1) (a), (b), or (c))~~) in an amount calculated to offset
3 the cost of production of the special license plates and the
4 administration of this program. The fee shall not exceed thirty-five
5 dollars and is in addition to all other fees required to register and
6 license the vehicle for which the plates have been requested. All such
7 additional special license plate fees collected by the department shall
8 be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the motor vehicle
9 fund.

10 (2) (~~((In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
11 application, registration, and renewal registration of a motor vehicle,
12 the holder of a collegiate license plate shall pay a fee of thirty
13 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
14 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
15 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds, minus
16 the cost of plate production, shall be remitted to the custody of the
17 state treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report. The state
18 treasurer shall credit the funds to the appropriate collegiate license
19 plate fund as provided in RCW 28B.10.890.~~

20 (3) ~~In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
21 application, registration, and renewal registration of a motor vehicle,
22 the holder of a special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee
23 of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
24 two dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
25 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
26 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to
27 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments
28 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as
29 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
30 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
31 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
32 to the state general fund.)) The department shall estimate its costs,
33 both direct and indirect, to create, design, and procure the first
34 minimum order for materials and production of special license plates
35 authorized under RCW 46.16.301. The requesting party shall pay the
36 department the estimated costs associated with the first minimum order
37 and maintenance of a minimum inventory for additional sales upon the
38 department authorizing the special license plate series. Payments from
39 the requesting parties shall be deposited in a dedicated special~~

1 license plate account within the motor vehicle fund. Payments
2 deposited in the dedicated special license plate account are earmarked
3 for production of the requested license plate series and are to be
4 returned to the department's current biennium operating budget. The
5 department shall develop a form to facilitate the presale of special
6 license plates by requesting parties.

7 (3) The department may collect, in addition to all fees and taxes
8 required to be paid upon application, registration, and renewal
9 registration of a motor vehicle, an additional fee from the holder of
10 a special license plate. The additional fee will be set by the party
11 requesting issuance of the special license plate series. If the
12 requesting party chooses not to set an additional fee, the fee
13 authorized in subsection (1) of this section applies. The state
14 treasurer, upon request of the department, may create accounts for
15 deposit of the additional fees. The department shall remit the
16 additional fees to the state treasurer with a proper identifying
17 report. The state treasurer shall credit the funds to the appropriate
18 account and remit the proceeds to the requesting party on a quarterly
19 basis. No appropriations are required for expenditures from the
20 accounts created under this subsection.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Section 3 of this act takes effect January
22 1, 1997, but the department of licensing and the state treasurer shall
23 take all steps necessary before that date in order that this act may be
24 fully implemented upon that date.

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