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SENATE BILL 5700

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Prince, Heavey, Wood, Kohl and Deccio

Read first time 02/01/95. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle license plates; amending RCW  
2 46.16.270; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.270 and 1990 c 250 s 32 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            ~~((Replacement))~~ Vehicle plates ~~((issued after))~~ must be replaced if  
7 they were issued before January 1, ((1987, will be centennial plates as  
8 described in RCW 46.16.650)) 1993. Thereafter, all plates must be  
9 replaced every five years from their date of issuance. The ((total))  
10 replacement plate fee ((including the one dollar per plate centennial  
11 plate fee)) shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund. A person  
12 applying for a renewal vehicle license after January 1, 1997, must  
13 purchase replacement vehicle license number plates if the vehicle  
14 license number plates were issued before January 1, 1993, or if the  
15 vehicle license number plates are the personalized plates with a yellow  
16 background, which are discontinued on July 1, 1995. The requirement  
17 for replacement license plates does not apply to plates designated in  
18 RCW 46.16.305 (1) or (3).

1 After January 1, 1997, all new and replacement vehicle license  
2 number plates for licensed vehicles in this state must be of a single  
3 background design developed by the department and approved by the  
4 transportation committees of the senate and the house of  
5 representatives by January 1, 1996. In developing a single background  
6 design, the department shall consider the application of new  
7 technologies that will assist law enforcement agencies and the  
8 traveling public in vehicle identification. Before a new design is  
9 selected, the department shall consider the fiscal impact of replacing  
10 the mountain background design plate that was established for the  
11 Washington state centennial celebration. The department shall ensure  
12 that license plates issued after January 1, 1997, conform to current  
13 highway safety and visibility standards.

14 Upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of one or both of the  
15 vehicle license number plates issued for any vehicle where more than  
16 one plate was originally issued or where one or both have become so  
17 illegible or in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish, or  
18 upon the owner's option, the owner of the vehicle shall make  
19 application for new vehicle license number plates upon a form furnished  
20 by the director. The application shall be filed with the director or  
21 the director's authorized agent, accompanied by the certificate of  
22 license registration of the vehicle and a fee in the amount of three  
23 dollars per plate, whereupon the director, or the director's authorized  
24 agent, shall issue new vehicle license number plates to the applicant.  
25 It shall be accompanied by a fee of two dollars for a new motorcycle  
26 license number plate. In the event the director has issued license  
27 period tabs or a windshield emblem instead of vehicle license number  
28 plates, and upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of the tabs or  
29 windshield emblem, application shall be made on a form provided by the  
30 director and in the same manner as above described, and shall be  
31 accompanied by a fee of one dollar for each pair of tabs or for each  
32 windshield emblem, whereupon the director shall issue to the applicant  
33 a duplicate pair of tabs, year tabs, and when necessary month tabs or  
34 a windshield emblem to replace those lost, defaced, or destroyed. For  
35 vehicles owned, rented, or leased by the state of Washington or by any  
36 county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision of  
37 the state of Washington or United States government, or owned or leased  
38 by the governing body of an Indian tribe as defined in RCW 46.16.020,  
39 a fee shall be charged for replacement of a vehicle license number

1 plate only to the extent required by the provisions of RCW 46.16.020,  
2 46.16.061, 46.16.237, and 46.01.140. For vehicles owned, rented, or  
3 leased by foreign countries or international bodies to which the United  
4 States government is a signatory by treaty, the payment of any fee for  
5 the replacement of a vehicle license number plate shall not be  
6 required.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
10 July 1, 1995.

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