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SENATE BILL 6140

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1996 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Schow, Haugen, Drew and Thibaudeau

Read first time 01/08/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to special license plates; amending RCW 46.16.301  
2 and 46.16.313; adding a new section to chapter 46.16 RCW; adding a new  
3 chapter to Title 16 RCW; creating new sections; and prescribing  
4 penalties.

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

6            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.301 and 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 102 are each  
7 amended to read as follows:

8            (1) The department may create, design, and issue special license  
9 plates that may be used in lieu of regular or personalized license  
10 plates for motor vehicles required to display two motor vehicle license  
11 plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon  
12 terms and conditions established by the department. The special plates  
13 may:

14            (a) Denote the age or type of vehicle; or

15            (b) Denote special activities or interests; or

16            (c) Denote the status, or contribution or sacrifice for the United  
17 States, the state of Washington, or the citizens of the state of  
18 Washington, of a registered owner of that vehicle; or

1 (d) Display a depiction of the name and mascot or symbol of a state  
2 university, regional university, or state college as defined in RCW  
3 28B.10.016; or

4 (e) Display a phrase or symbol, or both, supporting the pet  
5 population control program.

6 (2) The department shall create, design, and issue a special  
7 baseball stadium license plate that may be used in lieu of regular or  
8 personalized license plates for motor vehicles required to display two  
9 motor vehicle license plates, excluding vehicles registered under  
10 chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the  
11 department. The special plates shall commemorate the construction of  
12 a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. The department shall  
13 also issue to each recipient of a special baseball stadium license  
14 plate a certificate of participation in the construction of the  
15 baseball stadium.

16 (3) The department has the sole discretion to determine whether or  
17 not to create, design, or issue any series of special license plates,  
18 other than the special baseball stadium license plate under subsection  
19 (2) of this section, and whether any interest or status merits the  
20 issuance of a series of special license plates. In making this  
21 determination, the department shall consider whether or not an interest  
22 or status contributes or has contributed significantly to the public  
23 health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the United States or of  
24 this state or to their significant benefit, or whether the interest or  
25 status is recognized by the United States, this state, or other states,  
26 in other settings or contexts. The department may also consider the  
27 potential number of persons who may be eligible for the plates and the  
28 cost and efficiency of producing limited numbers of the plates. The  
29 design of a special license plate shall conform to all requirements for  
30 plates for the type of vehicle for which it is issued, as provided  
31 elsewhere in this chapter.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 103 are each  
33 amended to read as follows:

34 (1) The department may establish a fee for each type of special  
35 license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c) in an  
36 amount calculated to offset the cost of production of the special  
37 license plates and the administration of this program. The fee shall  
38 not exceed thirty-five dollars and is in addition to all other fees

1 required to register and license the vehicle for which the plates have  
2 been requested. All such additional special license plate fees  
3 collected by the department shall be deposited in the state treasury  
4 and credited to the motor vehicle fund.

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

15 (3) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon  
16 application, registration, and renewal registration of a motor vehicle,  
17 the holder of a special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee  
18 of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed  
19 two dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for  
20 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining  
21 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to  
22 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments  
23 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as  
24 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary  
25 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW  
26 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds  
27 to the state general fund.

28 (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon  
29 application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a pet  
30 population control license plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars.  
31 The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two dollars of each  
32 fee collected under this subsection for administration and collection  
33 expenses it incurs. The remaining proceeds shall be remitted to the  
34 custody of the state treasurer for deposit in the pet population  
35 control account, created in section 4 of this act. This account shall  
36 be administered by the secretary of state as provided in section 4 of  
37 this act.

1       (5) In addition to any other fees and taxes required to be paid,  
2 the applicant for renewal of pet population control plates shall be  
3 charged an additional fee of ten dollars.

4       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6       Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this  
7 chapter "pet population control license plates" means license plates  
8 that display a depiction of an animal and an accompanying slogan. Pet  
9 population control license plates must contain numbers and letters not  
10 exceeding seven positions as assigned by the department.

11       NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) The pet population control account is  
12 established in the state treasury. All receipts from pet population  
13 control license plates authorized under RCW 46.16.313 shall be  
14 deposited in the account. The account may contain any moneys required  
15 by law to be deposited in the account and shall be held by the  
16 treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys, funds, and  
17 accounts. Interest earnings generated from this account shall remain  
18 in the account. Any balance remaining in the account at the end of a  
19 fiscal biennium shall be carried forward in the account for the next  
20 successive biennium.

21       (2) The secretary may solicit and accept donations from any public  
22 or private source to help carry out the goals of the pet population  
23 control program.

24       (3) Revenue collected under RCW 46.16.313(4) and (5) and sections  
25 4 through 9 of this act shall be used by the secretary solely for the  
26 implementation and promotion of the program and for costs associated  
27 with administering the pet population control program.

28       NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The secretary of state shall establish  
29 a pet population control program to provide for low-cost spaying and  
30 neutering services to eligible owners of dogs and cats. The secretary  
31 shall adopt rules necessary to implement the program in accordance with  
32 this chapter, and the adopted rules must ensure that no spaying or  
33 neutering is conducted under this program unless sufficient funds exist  
34 in the pet population control account to reimburse participating  
35 veterinarians.

1 (2) To the extent funds are available, the secretary of state shall  
2 reimburse veterinarians licensed under chapter 18.92 RCW for the  
3 spaying or neutering of a dog or cat, if the owner of the dog or cat is  
4 a Washington resident and is eligible for one of the following:

5 (a) The federal Food Stamp program;

6 (b) The federal Supplemental Security Income program;

7 (c) The federal Lower-income Housing Assistance program; or

8 (d) The state of Washington aid to families with dependent children  
9 (AFDC) program.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A person who submits a dog or cat for  
11 spaying or neutering under the pet population control program,  
12 established under section 5 of this act, shall:

13 (1) Furnish the veterinarian with proof that the owner of the dog  
14 or cat is eligible under section 5 of this act;

15 (2) Sign a consent form stating that the person is the owner of the  
16 dog or cat, or is authorized by the owner to submit the dog or cat for  
17 spaying or neutering.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The secretary shall reimburse the  
19 veterinarian upon the submission of an animal sterilization  
20 certificate, to be prescribed by the secretary and signed by the  
21 participating veterinarian and the owner of the animal to be  
22 sterilized.

23 (2) To the extent funds are available from the pet population  
24 control account, the secretary may reimburse a participating  
25 veterinarian for the presurgical immunization of dogs against rabies,  
26 distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and parvovirus, or the presurgical  
27 immunization of cats against feline panleukopenia, calici, pneumonitis,  
28 and rhinotracheitis, as the case may be, on animals not previously  
29 immunized. In order to qualify for the reimbursement, the owner of the  
30 animal being spayed or neutered under the program shall submit a  
31 written certificate signed by the veterinarian performing the operation  
32 and by the owner, stating that the animal has been immunized coincident  
33 with a spaying or neutering operation under the program.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If a person who submits a cat or dog for  
35 spaying or neutering to a participating veterinarian fails to retrieve  
36 the cat or dog within the time recommended by the participating

1 veterinarian, the veterinarian may transfer custody of the dog or cat  
2 to a canine control officer, regional animal control officer, or a  
3 municipal animal control officer.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A person who knowingly:

5 (1) Falsifies proof of eligibility for, or participation in, any of  
6 the programs enumerated in section 5 of this act; or

7 (2) Furnishes a participating veterinarian with inaccurate  
8 information concerning the ownership of an animal submitted for spaying  
9 or neutering; or

10 (3) Furnishes the secretary with false information concerning a  
11 sterilization certificate or immunization certificate submitted under  
12 the pet population control program; or

13 (4) Violates in any other manner sections 4 through 7 of this act  
14 or rules adopted under section 5 of this act,  
15 shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars for the second  
16 offense and each subsequent offense. All fines collected under this  
17 section shall be deposited in the pet population control account.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** By December 15, 1997, the secretary shall  
19 submit a report to the legislature setting forth a complete operating  
20 and financial statement regarding the operation of the pet population  
21 control program. The secretary shall include in the report an  
22 evaluation of the effectiveness of the program and any recommendations  
23 for statutory or regulatory changes.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Beginning January 1, 1997, pet population  
25 control groups may apply to the department of licensing to issue a  
26 single series of pet population control license plates.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 4 through 9 of this act constitute  
28 a new chapter in Title 16 RCW.

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