
Transportation Committee

HB 1293

Brief Description: Directing a request for proposal on flat license plates.

Sponsors: Representatives Simpson, Armstrong, Murray, Hankins and Hudgins.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Licensing to solicit a request for proposal to implement a flat, digitally printed license plate system.

Hearing Date: 2/12/03

Staff: Reema Griffith (786-7301).

Background:

The current license plate production system used by the Department of Licensing (DOL) has been in place since 1927 and involves a labor intensive process of manually stamping each plate set, with the labor being provided by the inmates at the Walla Walla State Penitentiary. Because of the current labor intensive production process, it is very difficult to produce plates out of sequential order or to switch randomly between the different plate series'.

Over the years, technology has managed to address the inflexible nature of the current stamping process. A computer driven manufacturing process has been created that digitally prints the license plate numbers on paper like material which is then adhered to the metal sheeting to form a license plate. Because all of the plate information is inputted via computer, the process allows the operator to randomly print license plate numbers in any order and to intermix the printing of the various plate series', all in one print run. While this technology is attractive, the cost of implementing such a system in Washington state is yet to be known.

Summary of Bill:

Requires the Department of License to solicit a request for proposal (RFP) to implement a flat, digitally printed license plate system. DOL must report back to the Legislature by December 2003 on the results of the RFP process. The report must, at a minimum, inform the Legislature on who responded to the RFP, the specifications of each proposal and the

associated costs, and the Department's recommendation on the preferred proposal.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.