
Transportation Committee

HB 1647

Brief Description: Creating keep Washington evergreen special license plates.

Sponsors: Representatives Chapman and Lekanoff.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Keep Washington Evergreen special license plate and directs the Department of Licensing to create, design, and issue the license plate.
- Establishes original and renewal fees for the special license plate.
- Directs proceeds from the special license plate to the Electric Vehicle Account to support electric charging stations throughout Washington.

Hearing Date: 2/6/23

Staff: Michael Hirsch (786-7195).

Background:

The Department of Licensing (DOL) issues special vehicle license plates that may be used in lieu of standard license plates. Typically, a governmental or nonprofit sponsoring organization seeking to sponsor a special license plate either submits an application to the DOL or requests legislation to create the special license plate. In those instances, the organization seeking to sponsor the special license plate is required to reimburse the DOL for the costs of establishing the new special license plate.

The DOL collects special license plate fees and, for administrative expenses, deducts an amount not to exceed \$12 for new license plate issuance and \$2 for renewal. After these expenses are paid, the State Treasurer deposits the proceeds into the Motor Vehicle Account until the DOL determines that the start-up fee for a special license plate is paid. Once the start-up fee is paid,

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the State Treasurer credits the remaining special license plate fee amounts into the specified account.

Summary of Bill:

The Keep Washington Evergreen special license plate is created. The DOL must create, design, and issue the license plate. In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration, a fee of \$40 is charged for the original issuance of a Keep Washington Evergreen special license plate, and a \$30 fee is charged for the renewal of the special license plate. Revenue from the sale of the special license plates will be deposited in the Electric Vehicle Account to provide funds to support electric charging stations throughout Washington.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on November 1, 2023.