
HOUSE BILL 1224

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representative Nixon

Read first time 01/21/2003. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to replacement of license plates; and amending RCW
2 46.16.233.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.233 and 2000 c 37 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Except for those license plates issued under RCW 46.16.305(1)
7 before January 1, 1987, under RCW 46.16.305(3), and to commercial
8 vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds,
9 effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,
10 2001, all vehicle license plates must be issued on a standard
11 background, as designated by the department. (~~Additionally,~~)

12 (2) To ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity, the department
13 shall periodically provide for the replacement of license plates as
14 specified by this section, except for commercial vehicles with a gross
15 weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds. (~~Frequency of~~
16 ~~replacement shall~~) The functional lifetime of the license plate must
17 be established in accordance with empirical studies documenting the
18 longevity of the reflective materials used to make license plates.

1 (3) The department may, upon the transfer of a vehicle, require the
2 new owner to replace the license plates at the same time the new owner
3 registers the vehicle if the vehicle's existing license plates have
4 exceeded their functional lifetime. The department may replace license
5 plates at other times upon request of the current owner if the
6 functional lifetime of the plates has been exceeded. The department
7 shall not require replacement of license plates at other times.

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