
HOUSE BILL 2167

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representative Simpson

Read first time 02/28/2003. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to a special Washington state heritage license
2 plate series; amending RCW 46.16.313, 46.16.233, and 46.16.316; adding
3 a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
4 46.16 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 "Washington state heritage license plate series" means a series of
9 five license plate designs displaying colorful pictorial images that
10 are depictive of the state of Washington, its natural beauty, abundant
11 agricultural and natural resources, unique geographical and man-made
12 features, resident wildlife, or other significant and noteworthy
13 features or historical milestones.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 The department shall convene a task force comprised of four
17 legislative members, one from each caucus of the house of
18 representatives and of the senate, a representative from the Washington

1 state patrol, and a representative from the department. This task
2 force shall work together to create and design the special Washington
3 state heritage license plate series, which the department shall issue
4 and which may be used in lieu of regular or personalized license plates
5 for motor vehicles required to display two motor vehicle license
6 plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon
7 terms and conditions established by the department. It is the intent
8 of the legislature that the Washington state heritage license plate
9 series will be a source of pride for all residents of Washington state,
10 from the east, west, north, and south. The license plate designs must
11 be selected considering the marketability of the plates so as to ensure
12 that the plate designs will appeal to as much of the state's population
13 as possible. License plates in the series may contain a slogan to
14 describe the content or idea of each individual plate design.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1997 c 291 s 8 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) The department may establish a fee of no more than forty
18 dollars for each type of special license plates issued under RCW
19 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c), as existing before amendment by section
20 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, in an amount calculated to offset the
21 cost of production of the special license plates and the administration
22 of this program. (~~Until December 31, 1997, the fee shall not exceed~~
23 ~~thirty five dollars, but effective with vehicle registrations due or to~~
24 ~~become due on January 1, 1998, the department may adjust the fee to no~~
25 ~~more than forty dollars.)) This fee is in addition to all other fees
26 required to register and license the vehicle for which the plates have
27 been requested. All such additional special license plate fees
28 collected by the department shall be deposited in the state treasury
29 and credited to the motor vehicle fund.~~

30 (2) (~~Until December 31, 1997, in addition to all fees and taxes~~
31 ~~required to be paid upon application, registration, and renewal~~
32 ~~registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a collegiate license~~
33 ~~plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct~~
34 ~~an amount not to exceed two dollars of each fee collected under this~~
35 ~~subsection for administration and collection expenses incurred by it.~~
36 ~~The remaining proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be~~
37 ~~remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper~~

1 ~~identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the~~
2 ~~funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in~~
3 ~~RCW 28B.10.890.~~

4 ~~(3) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on~~
5 ~~January 1, 1998,))~~ In addition to all fees and taxes required to be
6 paid upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder
7 of a collegiate license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
8 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve
9 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
10 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
11 be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
12 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the
13 funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in
14 RCW 28B.10.890.

15 ~~((4) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on~~
16 ~~January 1, 1999,))~~ (3) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be
17 paid upon renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a
18 collegiate license plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars. The
19 department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two dollars of each fee
20 collected under this subsection for administration and collection
21 expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall be remitted to
22 the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying detailed
23 report. The state treasurer shall credit the funds to the appropriate
24 collegiate license plate fund as provided in RCW 28B.10.890.

25 ~~((5))~~ (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
26 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
27 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay an initial fee of
28 forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
29 twelve dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
30 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
31 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to
32 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments
33 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as
34 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
35 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
36 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
37 to the state general fund.

1 ~~((6) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on~~
2 ~~January 1, 1999,))~~ (5) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be
3 paid upon renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a
4 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee of thirty
5 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
6 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
7 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
8 be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and
9 interest payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball
10 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
11 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
12 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
13 to the state general fund.

14 (6) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
15 January 1, 2004, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
16 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
17 Washington state heritage license plate shall pay an initial fee of
18 forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
19 twelve dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
20 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The department
21 shall remit the remaining proceeds to the custody of the state
22 treasurer, who shall credit the remaining funds to the multimodal
23 transportation account.

24 (7) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on January
25 1, 2005, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
26 renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a Washington
27 state heritage license plate shall, upon application, pay a fee of
28 thirty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
29 two dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
30 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The department
31 shall remit the remaining proceeds to the custody of the state
32 treasurer, who shall credit the remaining funds to the multimodal
33 transportation account.

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

36 (1) Except for those license plates issued under RCW 46.16.305(1)
37 before January 1, 1987, under RCW 46.16.305(3), and to commercial

1 vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds,
2 effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,
3 2001, the appearance of the background of all vehicle license plates
4 may vary in color and design but must be (~~issued on a standard~~
5 ~~background~~) legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state
6 license plate, as designated by the department.

7 (2) Additionally, to ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity,
8 the department shall periodically provide for the replacement of
9 license plates, except for commercial vehicles with a gross weight in
10 excess of twenty-six thousand pounds. Frequency of replacement shall
11 be established in accordance with empirical studies documenting the
12 longevity of the reflective materials used to make license plates.

13 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.16.316 and 1997 c 291 s 10 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 Except as provided in RCW 46.16.305:

16 (1) When a person who has been issued a special license plate or
17 plates under section 2 of this act or RCW 46.16.301 as it existed
18 before amendment by section 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, sells,
19 trades, or otherwise transfers or releases ownership of the vehicle
20 upon which the special license plate or plates have been displayed, he
21 or she shall immediately report the transfer of such plate or plates to
22 an acquired vehicle or vehicle eligible for such plates pursuant to
23 departmental rule, or he or she shall surrender such plates to the
24 department immediately if such surrender is required by departmental
25 rule. If a person applies for a transfer of the plate or plates to
26 another eligible vehicle, a transfer fee of five dollars shall be
27 charged in addition to all other applicable fees. Such transfer fees
28 shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund. Failure to surrender the
29 plates when required is a traffic infraction.

30 (2) If the special license plate or plates issued by the department
31 become lost, defaced, damaged, or destroyed, application for a
32 replacement special license plate or plates shall be made and fees paid
33 as provided by law for the replacement of regular license plates.

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