
SENATE BILL 5328

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Oke, Shin, Rasmussen, Schmidt and Prentice

Read first time 01/22/2003. Referred to Committee on Highways & Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to special military veterans license plates;
2 amending RCW 46.16.290 and 46.16.313; reenacting and amending RCW
3 46.16.305; adding new sections to chapter 46.04 RCW; adding new
4 sections to chapter 46.16 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature would like to recognize
7 military veterans who have served their country and risked their own
8 lives to defend both the lives of all Americans and the freedoms that
9 define and distinguish our nation. It is the intent of the legislature
10 to honor veterans who have served their country honorably in times of
11 both war and peace, particularly those veterans who participated in the
12 World War II D day invasion of Normandy, for the public service they
13 have provided to their country.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 "Military veterans license plates" means license plates that
17 display a symbol honoring military veterans of the United States of
18 America.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 "D day survivor license plates" means license plates that display
4 a symbol honoring United States of America servicemen who survived the
5 World War II D day invasion of Normandy.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) In cooperation with the Washington state patrol and the
9 department of licensing, the department of veterans affairs shall
10 create and design, and the department of licensing shall issue, a
11 special military veterans license plate displaying a symbol
12 representing military veterans. The special military veterans license
13 plate may be used in lieu of regular or personalized license plates for
14 motor vehicles required to display two motor vehicle license plates,
15 excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and
16 conditions established by the department of licensing.

17 (2) The special military veterans license plate may be purchased
18 only by:

19 (a) Veterans who served on active duty for at least one hundred
20 eighty days and were discharged under honorable conditions; and

21 (b) Military personnel who have honorably served their country for
22 at least one hundred eighty days while on active duty.

23 (3) Veterans or active duty military personnel requesting a
24 military veterans license plate must:

25 (a) Pay the appropriate fee prescribed in RCW 46.16.313; and

26 (b) Show proof of eligibility through:

27 (i) Providing a DD-214 or discharge papers if a veteran;

28 (ii) Providing a copy of orders if an individual serving on
29 military active duty; or

30 (iii) Attesting in a notarized affidavit of their eligibility as
31 required under this section.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW
33 to read as follows:

34 In cooperation with the Washington state patrol and the department
35 of licensing, the department of veterans affairs shall create and
36 design, and the department of licensing shall issue, a special D day

1 survivor license plate displaying a symbol representing those
2 servicemen who participated in the World War II D day invasion of
3 Normandy. The D day survivor license plate may be used in lieu of
4 regular or personalized license plates for motor vehicles required to
5 display two motor vehicle license plates, excluding vehicles registered
6 under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the
7 department of licensing.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.16.290 and 1997 c 291 s 4 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 In any case of a valid sale or transfer of the ownership of any
11 vehicle, the right to the certificates properly transferable therewith,
12 except as provided in RCW 46.16.280, and to the vehicle license plates
13 passes to the purchaser or transferee. It is unlawful for the holder
14 of such certificates, except as provided in RCW 46.16.280, or vehicle
15 license plates to fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the certificates
16 and deliver the vehicle license plates to the purchaser or transferee.
17 If the sale or transfer is of a vehicle licensed by the state or any
18 county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision
19 entitled to exemption as provided by law, or, if the vehicle is
20 licensed with personalized plates, amateur radio operator plates, Medal
21 of Honor plates, disabled person plates, disabled veteran plates,
22 prisoner of war plates, military veterans plates, D day survivor
23 plates, or other special license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301 as
24 it existed before amendment by section 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997,
25 the vehicle license plates therefor shall be retained and may be
26 displayed upon a vehicle obtained in replacement of the vehicle so sold
27 or transferred.

28 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.16.305 and 1997 c 291 s 6 and 1997 c 241 s 10 are
29 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

30 The department shall continue to issue the categories of special
31 plates issued by the department under the sections repealed under
32 section 12 (1) through (7), chapter 250, Laws of 1990. Special license
33 plates issued under those repealed sections before January 1, 1991, are
34 valid to the extent and under the conditions provided in those repealed
35 sections. The following conditions, limitations, or requirements apply
36 to certain special license plates issued after January 1, 1991:

1 (1) A horseless carriage plate and a plate or plates issued for
2 collectors' vehicles more than thirty years old, upon payment of the
3 initial fees required by law and the additional special license plate
4 fee established by the department, are valid for the life of the
5 vehicle for which application is approved by the department. When a
6 single plate is issued, it shall be displayed on the rear of the
7 vehicle.

8 (2) The department may issue special license plates denoting
9 amateur radio operator status only to persons having a valid official
10 radio operator license issued by the federal communications commission.

11 (3) The department shall issue one set of special license plates to
12 each resident of this state who has been awarded the Congressional
13 Medal of Honor for use on a passenger vehicle registered to that
14 person. The department shall issue the plate without the payment of
15 licensing fees and motor vehicle excise tax.

16 (4) The department may issue for use on only one motor vehicle
17 owned by the qualified applicant special license plates denoting that
18 the recipient of the plate is a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor
19 on December 7, 1941, to persons meeting all of the following criteria:

20 (a) Is a resident of this state;

21 (b) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7,
22 1941;

23 (c) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55
24 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or
25 offshore at a distance not to exceed three miles;

26 (d) Received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed
27 Forces; and

28 (e) Is certified by a Washington state chapter of the Pearl Harbor
29 survivors association as satisfying the qualifications in (c) of this
30 subsection.

31 The department may issue such plates to the surviving spouse of any
32 deceased Pearl Harbor survivor who met the requirements of this
33 subsection. If the surviving spouse remarries, he or she shall return
34 the special plates to the department within fifteen days and apply for
35 regular plates. The surviving spouse must be a resident of this state.

36 The department shall issue these plates upon payment by the
37 applicant of all other license fees, but the department may not set or
38 charge an additional fee for these special license plates.

1 (5)(a) The department may issue for use on only one motor vehicle
2 owned by the qualified applicant special license plates denoting that
3 the recipient of the plate is a survivor of the World War II D day
4 invasion of Normandy, to persons meeting all of the following criteria:

5 (i) Is a resident of this state;

6 (ii) Served on active duty in the United States military service in
7 the Normandy campaign; and

8 (iii) Is honorably separated or discharged from military service or
9 is currently in active service in an honorable status.

10 (b) Veterans or active duty military personnel requesting a D day
11 survivor license plate must show proof of eligibility by:

12 (i) Providing a DD-214 or certification of discharge papers;

13 (ii) Providing a copy of orders, or any other official
14 documentation awarding a campaign ribbon or award from the Normandy
15 campaign; or

16 (iii) Attesting in a notarized affidavit of their eligibility as
17 required under this section.

18 (c) The department shall issue the D day survivor license plate
19 without the payment of licensing fees.

20 (6) The department shall replace, free of charge, special license
21 plates issued under subsections (3) ((and)), (4), and (5) of this
22 section if they are lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or destroyed. Such
23 plates shall remain with the persons upon transfer or other disposition
24 of the vehicle for which they were initially issued, and may be used on
25 another vehicle registered to the recipient in accordance with the
26 provisions of RCW 46.16.316(1).

27 **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1997 c 291 s 8 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (1) The department may establish a fee of no more than forty
30 dollars for each type of special license plates issued under RCW
31 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c), as existing before amendment by section
32 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, in an amount calculated to offset the
33 cost of production of the special license plates and the administration
34 of this program. ~~((Until December 31, 1997, the fee shall not exceed~~
35 ~~thirty five dollars, but effective with vehicle registrations due or to~~
36 ~~become due on January 1, 1998, the department may adjust the fee to no~~
37 ~~more than forty dollars.)) This fee 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) ((Until December 31, 1997, in addition to all fees and taxes~~
6 ~~required to be paid upon application, registration, and renewal~~
7 ~~registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a collegiate license~~
8 ~~plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct~~
9 ~~an amount not to exceed two dollars of each fee collected under this~~
10 ~~subsection for administration and collection expenses incurred by it.~~
11 ~~The remaining proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be~~
12 ~~remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper~~
13 ~~identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the~~
14 ~~funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in~~
15 ~~RCW 28B.10.890.~~

16 ~~(3) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on~~
17 ~~January 1, 1998,))~~ (3) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be
18 paid upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder
19 of a collegiate license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
20 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve
21 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
22 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
23 be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
24 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the
25 funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in
26 RCW 28B.10.890.

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

37 ~~((5))~~ (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
38 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a

1 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay an initial fee of
2 forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
3 twelve dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
4 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
5 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to
6 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments
7 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as
8 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
9 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
10 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
11 to the state general fund.

12 ~~((6) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on~~
13 ~~January 1, 1999,)) (5) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be~~
14 paid upon renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a
15 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee of thirty
16 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
17 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
18 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
19 be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and
20 interest payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball
21 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
22 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
23 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
24 to the state general fund.

25 (6) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
26 January 1, 2004, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
27 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
28 military veterans license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
29 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve
30 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
31 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds must be
32 remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
33 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the
34 proceeds to the military veterans license plate account established
35 under section 9 of this act.

36 (7) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on January
37 1, 2005, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
38 renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a military

1 veterans license plate shall, upon application, pay a fee of thirty
2 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
3 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
4 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds must be
5 remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
6 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the
7 funds to the military veterans license plate account established under
8 section 9 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 The military veterans license plate account is created in the
12 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts, except as provided in
13 RCW 46.16.313 (6) and (7), from military veterans license plates must
14 be deposited into the account. The director of the department of
15 veterans affairs may authorize expenditures from the account. The
16 funds in the account are to be used solely for the support and benefit
17 of veterans.

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