
HOUSE BILL 2773

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Nixon and Ericks

Read first time 01/12/2006. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to prominently marked, publicly owned vehicles; and
2 amending RCW 46.08.065 and 46.08.066.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.08.065 and 1998 c 111 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) It is unlawful for any public officer having charge of any
7 vehicle owned or controlled by the state of Washington or any agency
8 thereof, any county, city, town, or public body in this state (~~either~~
9 ~~than the state of Washington~~), and used in public business to operate
10 the same upon the public highways of this state, unless and until there
11 shall be displayed upon such automobile or other motor vehicle in
12 letters of contrasting color not less than one and one-quarter inches
13 in height in a conspicuous place on the right and left sides thereof,
14 the name of such state agency, county, city, town, or other public
15 body, together with the name of the department or office upon the
16 business of which the said vehicle is used. This section shall not
17 apply to vehicles of a sheriff's office, local police department, or
18 any vehicles used by the Washington state patrol or by local peace
19 officers under public authority for special undercover or confidential

1 investigative purposes. (~~This subsection shall not apply to: (a) Any~~
2 ~~municipal transit vehicle operated for purposes of providing public~~
3 ~~mass transportation; (b) any vehicle governed by the requirements of~~
4 ~~subsection (4) of this section; nor to (c) any motor vehicle on loan to~~
5 ~~a school district for driver training purposes.)) It shall be lawful
6 and constitute compliance with the provisions of this section(~~,~~
7 ~~however,~~) for the governing body of the appropriate state agency,
8 county, city, town, or public body (~~other than the state of Washington~~
9 ~~or its agencies~~) to adopt and use a distinctive insignia which shall
10 be not less than six inches in diameter across its smallest dimension
11 and which shall be displayed conspicuously on the right and left sides
12 of the vehicle. Such insignia shall be in a color or colors
13 contrasting with the vehicle to which applied for maximum visibility.
14 The name of the public body owning or operating the vehicle shall also
15 be included as part of or displayed above such approved insignia in
16 colors contrasting with the vehicle in letters not less than one and
17 one-quarter inches in height. Immediately below the lettering
18 identifying the public entity and agency operating the vehicle or below
19 an approved insignia shall appear the words "for official use only" in
20 letters at least one inch high in a color contrasting with the color of
21 the vehicle. (~~The appropriate governing body may provide by rule or~~
22 ~~ordinance for marking of passenger motor vehicles as prescribed in~~
23 ~~subsection (2) of this section or for exceptions to the marking~~
24 ~~requirements for local governmental agencies for the same purposes and~~
25 ~~under the same circumstances as permitted for state agencies under~~
26 ~~subsection (3) of this section.))~~~~

27 (2) (~~Except as provided by subsections (3) and (4) of this~~
28 ~~section,~~) Passenger motor vehicles owned or controlled by the state of
29 Washington(~~, and purchased after July 1, 1989,~~) must be plainly and
30 conspicuously marked on the lower left-hand corner of the rear window
31 with the name of the operating agency or institution or the words
32 "state motor pool," as appropriate, the words "state of Washington --
33 for official use only," and the seal of the state of Washington or the
34 appropriate agency or institution insignia, approved by the department
35 of general administration. Markings must be on a transparent adhesive
36 material and conform to the standards established by the department of
37 general administration. For the purposes of this section, "passenger

1 motor vehicles" means sedans, station wagons, vans, light trucks, or
2 other motor vehicles under ten thousand pounds gross vehicle weight.

3 ~~(3) ((Subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to vehicles~~
4 ~~used by the Washington state patrol for general undercover or~~
5 ~~confidential investigative purposes. Traffic control vehicles of the~~
6 ~~Washington state patrol may be exempted from the requirements of~~
7 ~~subsection (2) of this section at the discretion of the chief of the~~
8 ~~Washington state patrol.))~~ The department of general administration
9 shall adopt general rules permitting other exceptions to the
10 requirements of subsection (2) of this section for other vehicles used
11 for special undercover or confidential investigative law enforcement
12 purposes, confidential public health work, and public assistance fraud
13 or support investigative purposes, ~~((for vehicles leased or rented by~~
14 ~~the state on a casual basis for a period of less than ninety days,))~~
15 and those provided for in RCW 46.08.066(3). The exceptions in this
16 subsection, subsection (4) of this section, and those provided for in
17 RCW 46.08.066(3) shall be the only exceptions permitted to the
18 requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

19 (4) Any motorcycle, vehicle over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle
20 weight, or other vehicle that for structural reasons cannot be marked
21 as required by subsection (1) or (2) of this section that is owned or
22 controlled by the state of Washington or by any county, city, town, or
23 other public body in this state and used for public purposes on the
24 public highways of this state shall be conspicuously marked in letters
25 of a contrasting color with the words "State of Washington" or the name
26 of such county, city, town, or other public body, together with the
27 name of the department or office that owns or controls the vehicle.

28 (5) All motor vehicle markings required under the terms of this
29 chapter shall be maintained in a legible condition at all times.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.08.066 and 1986 c 158 s 20 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the
33 department of licensing is authorized to issue confidential motor
34 vehicle license plates to units of local government and to agencies of
35 the federal government for special undercover or confidential
36 investigative law enforcement purposes only.

1 (2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section,
2 the use of confidential plates on vehicles owned or operated by the
3 state of Washington by any officer or employee thereof, shall be
4 limited to confidential, investigative, or undercover work of state law
5 enforcement agencies, confidential public health work, and confidential
6 public assistance fraud or support investigations.

7 ~~(3) ((Any state official elected on a statewide basis shall be
8 provided on request with one set of confidential plates for use on
9 official business.))~~ When necessary for the personal security of any
10 ~~((other))~~ state official, public officer, or public employee, the chief
11 of the Washington state patrol may recommend that the director issue
12 confidential plates for use on an unmarked publicly owned or controlled
13 vehicle of the appropriate governmental unit for the conduct of
14 official business for the period of time that the personal security of
15 such state official, public officer, or other public employee may
16 require. The office of the state treasurer may use an unmarked state
17 owned or controlled vehicle with confidential plates where required for
18 the safe transportation of either state funds or negotiable securities
19 to or from the office of the state treasurer.

20 (4) The director of licensing may issue rules and regulations
21 governing applications for, and the use of, such plates by law
22 enforcement and other public agencies.

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