

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6678**

Chapter 72, Laws of 2008

60th Legislature  
2008 Regular Session

ARMED FORCES LICENSE PLATES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/12/08

Passed by the Senate February 16, 2008  
YEAS 47 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 7, 2008  
YEAS 94 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved March 19, 2008, 9:47 a.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6678** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

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**Secretary**

FILED

March 20, 2008

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6678**

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Passed Legislature - 2008 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Prentice, Hobbs, Swecker, McCaslin, Brandland, Spanel, Jacobsen, Oemig, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, King, Eide, Marr, Brown, Carrell, Berkey, Hatfield, Rasmussen, Rockefeller, Regala, Pridemore, Tom, Sheldon, Hargrove, Weinstein, Shin, Parlette, Murray, McAuliffe, Stevens, Kohl-Welles, Roach, and Holmquist)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1            AN ACT Relating to special license plates for parents of United  
2 States armed forces members who have died while in service to his or  
3 her country or as a result of such service; amending RCW 46.16.725;  
4 reenacting and amending RCW 46.16.305; and creating a new section.

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

6            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.305 and 1997 c 291 s 6 and 1997 c 241 s 10 are  
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8            The department shall continue to issue the categories of special  
9 plates issued by the department under the sections repealed under  
10 section 12 (1) through (7), chapter 250, Laws of 1990. Special license  
11 plates issued under those repealed sections before January 1, 1991, are  
12 valid to the extent and under the conditions provided in those repealed  
13 sections. The following conditions, limitations, or requirements apply  
14 to certain special license plates issued after January 1, 1991:

15            (1) A horseless carriage plate and a plate or plates issued for  
16 collectors' vehicles more than thirty years old, upon payment of the  
17 initial fees required by law and the additional special license plate  
18 fee established by the department, are valid for the life of the

1 vehicle for which application is approved by the department. When a  
2 single plate is issued, it shall be displayed on the rear of the  
3 vehicle.

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

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

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

16 (a) Is a resident of this state;

17 (b) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7,  
18 1941;

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

22 (d) Received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed  
23 Forces; and

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

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

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

35 (5) Effective with registrations that are due or become due on or  
36 after January 1, 2009, the department may issue for use on motor  
37 vehicles owned by the qualified applicant special license plates  
38 denoting that the recipient of the plate is a parent of a member of the

1 United States armed forces who died while in service to his or her  
2 country or as a result of such service to persons meeting all of the  
3 following criteria:

4 (a) Is a resident of this state; and

5 (b) Is a mother or father of a member of the United States armed  
6 forces who died while in service to his or her country or who died as  
7 a result of such service, as certified by the Washington state  
8 department of veterans affairs.

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

12 (6) The department shall replace, free of charge, special license  
13 plates issued under subsections (3) (~~and (4)~~) through (5) of this  
14 section if they are lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or destroyed. Such  
15 plates shall remain with the persons upon transfer or other disposition  
16 of the vehicle for which they were initially issued, and may be used on  
17 another vehicle registered to the recipient in accordance with the  
18 provisions of RCW 46.16.316(1).

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.725 and 2007 c 518 s 711 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The creation of the board does not in any way preclude the  
22 authority of the legislature to independently propose and enact special  
23 license plate legislation.

24 (2) The board must review and either approve or reject special  
25 license plate applications submitted by sponsoring organizations.

26 (3) Duties of the board include but are not limited to the  
27 following:

28 (a) Review and approve the annual financial reports submitted by  
29 sponsoring organizations with active special license plate series and  
30 present those annual financial reports to the senate and house  
31 transportation committees;

32 (b) Report annually to the senate and house transportation  
33 committees on the special license plate applications that were  
34 considered by the board;

35 (c) Issue approval and rejection notification letters to sponsoring  
36 organizations, the department, the chairs of the senate and house of

1 representatives transportation committees, and the legislative sponsors  
2 identified in each application. The letters must be issued within  
3 seven days of making a determination on the status of an application;

4 (d) Review annually the number of plates sold for each special  
5 license plate series created after January 1, 2003. The board may  
6 submit a recommendation to discontinue a special plate series to the  
7 chairs of the senate and house of representatives transportation  
8 committees;

9 (e) Provide policy guidance and directions to the department  
10 concerning the adoption of rules necessary to limit the number of  
11 special license plates that an organization or a governmental entity  
12 may apply for.

13 (4) Except as provided in this act, in order to assess the effects  
14 and impact of the proliferation of special license plates, the  
15 legislature declares a temporary moratorium on the issuance of any  
16 additional plates until July 1, 2009. During this period of time, the  
17 special license plate review board created in RCW 46.16.705 and the  
18 department of licensing are prohibited from accepting, reviewing,  
19 processing, or approving any applications. Additionally, no special  
20 license plate may be enacted by the legislature during the moratorium,  
21 unless the proposed license plate has been approved by the board before  
22 February 15, 2005.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Section 1 of this act is exempt from the  
24 requirements of RCW 46.16.775.

Passed by the Senate February 16, 2008.

Passed by the House March 7, 2008.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 2008.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 20, 2008.