

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1480

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### As Reported by House Committee On: Transportation

**Title:** An act relating to the creation of intermittent-use trailer license plates.

**Brief Description:** Creating intermittent-use trailer license plates.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Holy, Riccelli, Orcutt, Haler, Shea, Johnson, Clibborn, Ormsby, Condotta, Tharinger and McCaslin.

#### **Brief History:**

##### **Committee Activity:**

Transportation: 2/4/15, 2/9/15 [DPS].

#### **Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Establishes a definition for an "intermittent-use trailer" which is used only for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours, parades, and occasional pleasure use.
- Defines "occasional pleasure use" as a trailer that is not used generally or daily, but seasonally or sporadically, and not more than once a week on average.
- Specifies that an intermittent-use trailer cannot be held for rent to the public or used for commercial or business purposes.
- Specifies that an intermittent-use trailer must have a scale weight of 2,000 pounds or less.
- Implements an intermittent-use trailer license plate that is not subject to registration renewals.
- Establishes an initial registration fee of \$187.50 for an intermittent-use trailer license plate and designates where the fees are to be distributed.
- Allows that an intermittent-use license plate may be transferred from one intermittent-use trailer to another intermittent-use trailer through completing an application to the Department of Licensing with an initial registration fee of \$187.50 and \$10 for the license plate transfer fee.
- Specifies when an intermittent-use license plate may be used on a trailer.

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- Specifies that if the owner of the trailer sells, transfers, or conveys the trailer to another person or entity, the license plate must be removed prior to the transfer to the new owner.
- Establishes traffic infraction amounts for violation of the intermittent-use trailer license plate statutes.
- Provides that an intermittent-use license plate is not allowed to be personalized or be a special license plate for persons with disabilities.

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 24 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Farrell, Vice Chair; Fey, Vice Chair; Moscoso, Vice Chair; Orcutt, Ranking Minority Member; Hargrove, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bergquist, Gregerson, Harmsworth, Hayes, Kochmar, McBride, Moeller, Morris, Ortiz-Self, Pike, Riccelli, Sells, Shea, Takko, Tarleton, Wilson, Young and Zeiger.

**Staff:** Jerry Long (786-7306).

**Background:**

There are different types of trailers registered in the State of Washington that are subject to various fees based on weight and the purpose for which the trailer is used. Generally, all vehicles that are operated on public highways, including trailers, are subject to vehicle registration, annual registration renewal, various taxes and fees due at registration and registration renewal, and license plate replacement when a trailer changes ownership.

In addition to other taxes and fees that are due annually, a single-axle trailer that is used for private noncommercial use has an initial registration and annual renewal fee of \$15. This fee is distributed as follows: 22.36 percent to the State Patrol Highway Account; 1.375 percent to the Puget Sound Ferry Operations Account; 5.237 percent to the Nickel Account; 11.533 percent to the Transportation Partnership Account; and the remaining proceeds being deposited to the Motor Vehicle Fund.

In addition to other taxes and fees that are normally due annually, trailers that are over 2,000 pounds and travel trailers have an initial registration and renewal fee of \$30. Of each initial or renewal vehicle license fee: \$20.35 must be deposited in the State Patrol Highway Account; \$2.02 of each initial vehicle license fee; 93 cents of each renewal vehicle license fee must be deposited in the Puget Sound Ferry Operations Account; and the remaining proceeds are deposited to the Motor Vehicle Fund.

The majority of the trailers pay a license plate technology fee of 25 cents and a license service fee of 50 cents at the time of initial and renewal registrations. A boat trailer registration has a \$3 aquatic weed fee, which is deposited in the Aquatic Weeds Account. A recreational trailer has a \$3 recreational vehicle sanitary-disposal fee, which is deposited into the Recreational Vehicle Account.

According to the Department of Licensing (DOL), in fiscal year 2014 there were 547,870 private-use trailers, and 86,544 within that number were private-use trailers over 2,000 pounds that paid a \$30 registration fee.

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### **Summary of Substitute Bill:**

The registered owner of a trailer that has a scale weight of 2,000 pounds or less and is used only for intermittent personal use may apply for a permanent license plate and registration for a fee of \$187.50. An "intermittent-use trailer" means a trailer in good working order that is used only for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours, parades, and occasional pleasure use. "Occasional pleasure use" means use of a trailer that is not generally or daily, but seasonally or sporadically, and not more than once a week on average. An intermittent-use trailer cannot be held for rent to the public or used for commercial or business purposes.

The applicant must purchase an initial registration for the intermittent-use trailer and pay the special license plate fee of \$187.50. An intermittent-use trailer is exempt from registration renewals. The license plate must be displayed on the rear of the trailer.

The applicant may receive an intermittent-use trailer license plate assigned by the DOL or provide an actual Washington-issued license plate designated for general use in the year of the intermittent use trailer's manufacture. Any person who knowingly provides a false or facsimile license plate is subject to a traffic infraction and a fine in an amount equal to \$124. Additionally, the person must pay for the cost of an intermittent-use trailer license plate, unless already paid.

An intermittent-use license plate may be transferred from one intermittent-use trailer to another intermittent-use trailer through completing an application to the DOL with the initial registration fee of \$187.50 and \$10 for the license plate transfer fee for transferring the license plate to the new intermittent-use trailer.

If the owner of the trailer sells, transfers, or conveys the trailer to another person or entity, the license plate must be removed prior to the transfer to the new owner and the new owner must obtain a new registration and appropriate license plate.

A person that is in violation of the intermittent-use trailer license plate statutes is subject to a traffic infraction of a maximum fine of \$150 including all other assessments and fees.

An intermittent-use license plate is not allowed to be personalized or be a special license plate for persons with disabilities.

The \$187.50 is distributed as follows: \$20.35 to the State Patrol Highway Account; \$2.02 of each initial fee to the Puget Sound Ferry Operations Account; and the remainder to the Motor Vehicle Fund.

### **Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The substitute bill:

- specifies that an intermittent-use license plate may be transferred to another intermittent-use trailer through application to the DOL with the initial registration fee of \$187.50 and \$10 for the license plate transfer fee;
  - specifies that an intermittent-use trailer must have a scale weight of 2,000 pounds or less;
  - clarifies that an intermittent-use trailer cannot be held for rent to the public or used for commercial or business purposes;
  - clarifies that an intermittent-use trailer is exempt from registration renewals; and
  - changes the effective date from 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed to July 1, 2016.
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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2016.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This is a matter of convenience for registered owners of personal-use trailers. Intermittent-use trailers are trailers that are used sporadically. The \$187.50 was computed using an average registration of \$18.75 over a 10-year period. The implementation provides up-front revenue for the State of Washington and may be successful for other applications in the future.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Holy, prime sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.