

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESHB 2085

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As of February 26, 2020

**Title:** An act relating to creating Mount St. Helens special license plates.

**Brief Description:** Creating Mount St. Helens special license plates.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Orcutt and Blake).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/19/20, 96-2.

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/25/20.

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Mount St. Helens special license plate.
- Requires the submission of 3500 signatures of people indicating a willingness to purchase the Mount St. Helens special license plate before it can be issued.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Bryon Moore (786-7726)

**Background:** The Department of Licensing (DOL) issues special vehicle license plates that may be used in lieu of standard plates. A governmental or nonprofit sponsoring organization seeking to sponsor a special plate either submits an application to DOL or requests legislation to create the special plate.

Under the DOL application method, the application packet must include the design of the special license plate, proof of 3500 signatures in support of the special license plate, and a start-up fee of \$6,300. For special license plates enacted by the Legislature, a sponsoring organization must submit prepayment of all start-up costs to DOL within 30 days of enactment.

The sponsoring organization seeking to sponsor the special plate is required to reimburse DOL for the costs of establishing the new special plate. If the sponsoring organization is not able to meet the prepayment requirement, revenues generated from the sale of the special

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license plate are first used to pay off any costs associated with establishing the new plate. The sponsoring organization must also provide a proposed license plate design to DOL. The sponsoring organization must submit an annual financial report to DOL detailing actual revenues generated from the sale of the special license plate. The reports are reviewed, approved, and presented to the Joint Transportation Committee.

DOL collects special license plate fees, and for administrative expenses, deducts an amount not to exceed \$12 for new plate issuance and \$2 for renewal. After these expenses are paid, the state treasurer deposits the proceeds into the Motor Vehicle Account until DOL determines the start-up costs for a special license plate are paid. After that point, all remaining proceeds go to the sponsoring organization.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

**Summary of Bill (Proposed Striking Amendment):** The Mount St. Helens special license plate is created with the purpose of providing funds to the Mount St. Helens Institute to promote education, stewardship, and science at Mount St. Helens. In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration, a fee of \$40 is charged for the original issuance of a Mount St. Helens special license plate, and a \$30 fee is charged for the renewal of the plate.

Before DOL can issue the Mount St. Helens special license plate, the sponsoring organization must submit the signatures of 3500 people indicating a willingness to purchase the plate.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2020.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Proposed Striking Amendment:** PRO: The 40th year anniversary of the Mount St. Helens eruption is coming up and this bill is one way to commemorate the eruption. This will allow students to learn about the power and resiliency of nature. The Mount Saint Helens Institute is doing creative work commemorating the eruption and the aftermath. The programs funded from this new special license plate will allow us to expand our efforts at inspiring more kids, support environmental appreciation, and have positive economic benefits.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Ed Orcutt, Prime Sponsor; Raymond Yurkewycz, Executive Director, Mount St. Helens Institute.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.