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## Transportation Committee

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### HB 1790

**Brief Description:** Addressing the creation, display, and material durability of temporary license plates.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Ramos, Robertson, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Callan, Fey, Ramel, Donaghy and Riccelli.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Replaces temporary permits with temporary license plates following application for the registration of a vehicle.
- Requires that temporary license plates be composed of durable material and be displayed in the same manner as a license plate.

**Hearing Date:** 1/18/22

**Staff:** Michael Hirsch (786-7195).

#### Background:

##### *Temporary Permits.*

The Department of Licensing (DOL) authorizes the administration of temporary permits for the operation of a vehicle issued after an application for registration has been made. The DOL also issues temporary permits such as the vehicle trip permit, a temporary off-road vehicle use permit, and temporary permits for nonresident members of the Armed Forces.

Temporary permits which allow for the operation of a vehicle for which an application for registration has been made must be consecutively numbered, displayed where visible from the outside of the vehicle, and remain on the vehicle only until the receipt of permanent license plates. These temporary permits may be issued by an authorized vehicle dealer, the DOL, county

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auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the Director of the DOL. The DOL, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the Director requires the applicant to pay a permit fee before accepting an application for a permit.

*License Plate Display.*

Each license plate must be kept clean and be able to be plainly seen and read and be attached 4 feet or less from the ground in a horizontal position. If two license plates have been issued, license plates must be attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle. If one license plate has been issued, the plate must be attached to the rear of the vehicle. The Washington State Patrol (WSP) may grant exceptions to license plate display requirements if the body construction of the vehicle prevents compliance.

**Summary of Bill:**

The DOL may grant a temporary license plate to operate a vehicle when an application for registration has been made. Required fees remain unchanged. Requirements for issuing a temporary license plate remain the same as the previous requirements for issuing a temporary permit, except that: the temporary license plate must be displayed as is required for a permanent license plate; and must be composed of durable material and remain unaltered in field conditions for a minimum of four months. The DOL is given authority to adopt rules for the design and display of temporary license plates.

A temporary license plate is defined as a plate or placard that may be issued to a vehicle owner by the DOL or by an authorized entity for the purposes of temporary vehicle licensing.

A license plate is defined as a plate that may be issued to a vehicle owner by the DOL or by any authorized entity for vehicle licensing or identification purposes. Neither temporary license plates nor metal tags issued for licensing wheeled all-terrain vehicles are license plates.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Preliminary fiscal note available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2023.