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**HOUSE BILL 1647**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Chapman and Lekanoff

AN ACT Relating to creating keep Washington evergreen special license plates; reenacting and amending RCW 46.17.220, 46.18.200, and 46.68.425; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.18 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The legislature finds that Washington state is known as the evergreen state and to celebrate that the legislature intends to fund electrical charging stations while resurrecting the original white and green license plate color scheme.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW to read as follows:

"Keep Washington evergreen license plate" means special license plates issued under RCW 46.18.200 that display green lettering on a white background in a style similar to the license plates issued by the department in the 1970s.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 46.18 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The department shall create, design, and issue a keep Washington evergreen license plate that may be used in lieu of standard issue or personalized license plates for motor vehicles required to display one or two license plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the department.

(2) A registered owner may apply to the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a keep Washington evergreen license plate. The registered owner shall pay the special license plate fee required under RCW 46.17.220(13), in addition to any other fee or tax required by law.

**Sec.**  RCW 46.17.220 and 2022 c 239 s 1 and 2022 c 117 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration in chapter 46.16A RCW, the holder of a special license plate shall pay the appropriate special license plate fee as listed in this section.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PLATE TYPE | INITIAL FEE | RENEWAL FEE | DISTRIBUTED UNDER |
| (1) 4-H | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (2) Amateur radio license | $ 5.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.070 |
| (3) Armed forces | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (4) Breast cancer awareness | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (5) Collector vehicle | $ 35.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.030 |
| (6) Collegiate | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.430 |
| (7) Endangered wildlife | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (8) Fred Hutch | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (9) Gonzaga University alumni association | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (10) Helping kids speak | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| (11) Horseless carriage | $ 35.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.030 |
| (12) Keep kids safe | $ 45.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (13) Keep Washington evergreen | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| (14) Law enforcement memorial | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(14)~~)) (15) Military affiliate radio system | $ 5.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.070 |
| ((~~(15)~~)) (16) Music matters | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(16)~~)) (17) Patches pal, or alternative name as designated by the department under RCW 46.04.383 | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(17)~~)) (18) Professional firefighters and paramedics | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(18)~~)) (19) Purple Heart | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| ((~~(19)~~)) (20) Ride share | $ 25.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.030 |
| ((~~(20)~~)) (21) San Juan Islands | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(21)~~)) (22) Seattle Mariners | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(22)~~)) (23) Seattle NHL hockey | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(23)~~)) (24) Seattle Seahawks | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(24)~~)) (25) Seattle Sounders FC | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(25)~~)) (26) Seattle Storm | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(26)~~)) (27) Seattle University | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(27)~~)) (28) Share the road | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(28)~~)) (29) Ski & ride Washington | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(29)~~)) (30) Square dancer | $ 40.00 | N/A | RCW 46.68.070 |
| ((~~(30)~~)) (31) State flower | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(31)~~)) (32) Volunteer firefighters | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(32)~~)) (33) Washington apples | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(33)~~)) (34) Washington farmers and ranchers | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(34)~~)) (35) Washington lighthouses | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(35)~~)) (36) Washington state aviation | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(36)~~)) (37) Washington state parks | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| ((~~(37)~~)) (38) Washington state wrestling | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(38)~~)) (39) Washington tennis | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(39)~~)) (40) Washington wine | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(40)~~)) (41) Washington's fish collection | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| ((~~(41)~~)) (42) Washington's national parks | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(42)~~)) (43) Washington's wildlife collection | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |
| ((~~(43)~~)) (44) We love our pets | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.420 |
| ((~~(44)~~)) (45) Wild on Washington | $ 40.00 | $ 30.00 | RCW 46.68.425 |

**Sec.**  RCW 46.18.200 and 2022 c 239 s 2 and 2022 c 117 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) Special license plate series reviewed and approved by the department:

(a) May be issued in lieu of standard issue or personalized license plates for vehicles required to display one and two license plates unless otherwise specified;

(b) Must be issued under terms and conditions established by the department;

(c) Must not be issued for vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW; and

(d) Must display a symbol or artwork approved by the department.

(2) The department approves and shall issue the following special license plates, subject to subsection (5) of this section:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| LICENSE PLATE | DESCRIPTION, SYMBOL, OR ARTWORK |
| 4-H | Displays the "4-H" logo. |
| Armed forces collection | Recognizes the contribution of veterans, active duty military personnel, reservists, and members of the national guard, and includes six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and national guard. |
| Breast cancer awareness | Displays a pink ribbon symbolizing breast cancer awareness. |
| Endangered wildlife | Displays a symbol or artwork symbolizing endangered wildlife in Washington state. |
| Fred Hutch | Displays the Fred Hutch logo. |
| Gonzaga University alumni association | Recognizes the Gonzaga University alumni association. |
| Helping kids speak | Recognizes an organization that supports programs that provide no-cost speech pathology programs to children. |
| Keep kids safe | Recognizes efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. |
| Keep Washington evergreen | Recognizes Washington as the evergreen state and funds electric charging stations. Displays green lettering on a white background in a style similar to the license plates issued by the department in the 1970s, but includes the state motto evergreen state along the bottom of the plate. |
| Law enforcement memorial | Honors law enforcement officers in Washington killed in the line of duty. |
| Music matters | Displays the "Music Matters" logo. |
| Patches pal, or alternative name as designated by the department under RCW 46.04.383 | Displays the likenesses of the J.P. Patches and Gertrude characters from the J.P. Patches show, or characters otherwise identified in accordance with RCW 46.04.383. |
| Professional firefighters and paramedics | Recognizes professional firefighters and paramedics who are members of the Washington state council of firefighters. |
| San Juan Islands | Displays a symbol or artwork recognizing the San Juan Islands. |
| Seattle Mariners | Displays the "Seattle Mariners" logo. |
| Seattle NHL hockey | Displays the logo of the Seattle NHL hockey team. |
| Seattle Seahawks | Displays the "Seattle Seahawks" logo. |
| Seattle Sounders FC | Displays the "Seattle Sounders FC" logo. |
| Seattle Storm | Displays the "Seattle Storm" logo. |
| Seattle University | Recognizes Seattle University. |
| Share the road | Recognizes an organization that promotes bicycle safety and awareness education. |
| Ski & ride Washington | Recognizes the Washington snowsports industry. |
| State flower | Recognizes the Washington state flower. |
| Volunteer firefighters | Recognizes volunteer firefighters. |
| Washington apples | Displays the Washington apple logo that recognizes the state's apple industry, the growers and shippers who produce and pack the world famous apples, and the tree fruit community. |
| Washington farmers and ranchers | Recognizes farmers and ranchers in Washington state. |
| Washington lighthouses | Recognizes an organization that supports selected Washington state lighthouses and provides environmental education programs. |
| Washington state aviation | Displays a Stearman biplane in the foreground with an image of Mount Rainier in the background. |
| Washington state parks | Recognizes Washington state parks as premier destinations of uncommon quality that preserve significant natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources. |
| Washington state wrestling | Promotes and supports college wrestling in the state of Washington. |
| Washington tennis | Builds awareness and year-round opportunities for tennis in Washington state. Displays a symbol or artwork recognizing tennis in Washington state. |
| Washington wine | Displays a landscape of Washington's wine regions. |
| Washington's fish collection | Recognizes Washington's fish. |
| Washington's national park fund | Builds awareness of Washington's national parks and supports priority park programs and projects in Washington's national parks, such as enhancing visitor experience, promoting volunteerism, engaging communities, and providing educational opportunities related to Washington's national parks. |
| Washington's wildlife collection | Recognizes Washington's wildlife. |
| We love our pets | Recognizes an organization that assists local member agencies of the federation of animal welfare and control agencies to promote and perform spay/neuter surgery on Washington state pets to reduce pet overpopulation. |
| Wild on Washington | Symbolizes wildlife viewing in Washington state. |

(3) Applicants for initial and renewal professional firefighters and paramedics special license plates must show proof of eligibility by providing a certificate of current membership from the Washington state council of firefighters.

(4) Applicants for initial volunteer firefighters special license plates must (a) have been a volunteer firefighter for at least ((~~ten~~)) 10 years or be a volunteer firefighter for one or more years and (b) have documentation of service from the district of the appropriate fire service. If the volunteer firefighter leaves firefighting service before ((~~ten~~)) 10 years of service have been completed, the volunteer firefighter shall surrender the license plates to the department on the registration renewal date. If the volunteer firefighter stays in service for at least ((~~ten~~)) 10 years and then leaves, the license plate may be retained by the former volunteer firefighter and as long as the license plate is retained for use the person will continue to pay the future registration renewals. A qualifying volunteer firefighter may have no more than one set of license plates per vehicle, and a maximum of two sets per applicant, for their personal vehicles. If the volunteer firefighter is convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or a felony, the license plates must be surrendered upon conviction.

(5) The department shall not issue the Seattle NHL hockey special license plate until the department receives signature sheets satisfying the requirements identified in RCW 46.18.110(2)(f).

**Sec.**  RCW 46.68.425 and 2016 c 31 s 3 and 2016 c 30 s 4 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) The department shall:

(a) Collect special license plate fees established under RCW 46.17.220;

(b) Deduct an amount not to exceed ((~~twelve dollars~~)) $12 for initial issue and ((~~two dollars~~)) $2 for renewal issue for administration and collection expenses incurred by it; and

(c) Remit the remaining proceeds to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report.

(2) The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle fund until the department determines that the state has been reimbursed for the cost of implementing the special license plate. Upon determination by the department that the state has been reimbursed, the state treasurer shall credit the remaining special license plate fees to the following accounts by special license plate type:

| SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE TYPE | ACCOUNT | CONDITIONS FOR USE OF FUNDS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Armed forces | RCW 43.60A.140 | As specified in RCW 43.60A.140(4) |
| Breast cancer awareness | RCW 43.70.327 | Must be used only by the department of health for efforts consistent with the breast, cervical, and colon health program |
| Endangered wildlife | RCW 77.12.170 | Must be used only for the department of fish and wildlife's endangered wildlife program activities |
| Keep kids safe | RCW 43.121.100 | As specified in RCW 43.121.100 |
| Keep Washington evergreen | RCW 82.44.200 | Support of electric charging stations throughout Washington |
| Purple Heart | RCW 43.60A.140 | As specified in RCW 43.60A.140(4) |
| Washington state parks | RCW 79A.05.059 | Provide public educational opportunities and enhancement of Washington state parks |
| Washington's fish collection | RCW 77.12.170 | Only for the department of fish and wildlife's use to support steelhead species management activities including, but not limited to, activities supporting conservation, recovery, and research to promote healthy, fishable steelhead |
| Washington's wildlife collection | RCW 77.12.170 | Only for the department of fish and wildlife's game species management activities |
| Wild on Washington | RCW 77.12.170 | Dedicated to the department of fish and wildlife's watchable wildlife activities, as defined in RCW 77.32.560 |

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act takes effect November 1, 2023.

**--- END ---**