
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5127

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Lovick, Fortunato, Liias, and Nobles; by request of Department of Licensing)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating additional requirements for collector
2 vehicle and horseless carriage license plates to improve compliance
3 and public safety; amending RCW 46.30.020, 46.04.199, 46.18.255, and
4 46.18.220; and providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.30.020 and 2019 c 60 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1)(a) No person may operate a motor vehicle subject to
9 registration under chapter 46.16A RCW in this state unless the person
10 is insured under a motor vehicle liability policy with liability
11 limits of at least the amounts provided in RCW 46.29.090, is self-
12 insured as provided in RCW 46.29.630, is covered by a certificate of
13 deposit in conformance with RCW 46.29.550, or is covered by a
14 liability bond of at least the amounts provided in RCW 46.29.090.
15 Proof of financial responsibility for motor vehicle operation must be
16 provided on the request of a law enforcement officer in the format
17 specified under RCW 46.30.030.

18 (b) A person who drives a motor vehicle that is required to be
19 registered in another state that requires drivers and owners of
20 vehicles in that state to maintain insurance or financial
21 responsibility shall, when requested by a law enforcement officer,

1 provide evidence of financial responsibility or insurance as is
2 required by the laws of the state in which the vehicle is registered.

3 (c) When asked to do so by a law enforcement officer, failure to
4 display proof of financial responsibility for motor vehicle operation
5 as specified under RCW 46.30.030 creates a presumption that the
6 person does not have motor vehicle insurance.

7 (d) Failure to provide proof of motor vehicle insurance is a
8 traffic infraction and is subject to penalties as set by the supreme
9 court under RCW 46.63.110 or community restitution.

10 (e) For the purposes of this section, when a person uses a
11 portable electronic device to display proof of financial security to
12 a law enforcement officer, the officer may only view the proof of
13 financial security and is otherwise prohibited from viewing any other
14 content on the portable electronic device.

15 (f) Whenever a person presents a portable electronic device
16 pursuant to this section, that person assumes all liability for any
17 damage to the portable electronic device.

18 (2) If a person cited for a violation of subsection (1) of this
19 section appears in person before the court or a violations bureau and
20 provides written evidence that at the time the person was cited, he
21 or she was in compliance with the financial responsibility
22 requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the citation shall be
23 dismissed and the court or violations bureau may assess court
24 administrative costs of (~~twenty-five dollars~~) \$25 at the time of
25 dismissal. In lieu of personal appearance, a person cited for a
26 violation of subsection (1) of this section may, before the date
27 scheduled for the person's appearance before the court or violations
28 bureau, submit by mail to the court or violations bureau written
29 evidence that at the time the person was cited, he or she was in
30 compliance with the financial responsibility requirements of
31 subsection (1) of this section, in which case the citation shall be
32 dismissed without cost, except that the court or violations bureau
33 may assess court administrative costs of (~~twenty-five dollars~~) \$25
34 at the time of dismissal.

35 (3) The provisions of this chapter shall not govern:

36 (a) The operation of a motor vehicle (~~registered under RCW~~
37 ~~46.18.220 or 46.18.255,~~) governed by RCW 46.16A.170(~~r~~) or
38 registered with the Washington utilities and transportation
39 commission as common or contract carriers; or

1 (b) The operation of a motor-driven cycle as defined in RCW
2 46.04.332, a moped as defined in RCW 46.04.304, or a wheeled all-
3 terrain vehicle as defined in RCW 46.09.310.

4 (4) RCW 46.29.490 shall not be deemed to govern all motor vehicle
5 liability policies required by this chapter but only those certified
6 for the purposes stated in chapter 46.29 RCW.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.04.199 and 2017 c 147 s 1 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 "Horseless carriage license plate" is a special license plate
10 that may be assigned to a vehicle (~~that is at least forty years~~
11 ~~old~~) manufactured or built before January 1, 1916, and meets the
12 qualifications listed in RCW 46.18.255.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.18.255 and 2020 c 18 s 15 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department, county
16 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a
17 horseless carriage license plate for a motor vehicle that is (~~at~~
18 ~~least forty years old~~) manufactured or built before January 1, 1916.
19 The motor vehicle must be operated primarily as a collector vehicle
20 and be in good running order. The applicant for the horseless
21 carriage license plate shall:

22 (a) Purchase a registration for the motor vehicle as required
23 under chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW; and

24 (b) Pay the special license plate fee established under RCW
25 46.17.220(11), in addition to any other fees or taxes required by
26 law.

27 (2) Horseless carriage license plates:

28 (a) Are valid for the life of the motor vehicle;

29 (b) Are not required to be renewed;

30 (c) Are not transferable to any other motor vehicle; and

31 (d) Must be displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.18.220 and 2024 c 131 s 1 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department, county
35 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a
36 collector vehicle license plate for a motor vehicle or travel trailer
37 that is at least 30 years old. The motor vehicle must be operated

1 primarily as a collector vehicle and be in good running order. The
2 applicant for the collector vehicle license plate shall:

3 (a) After January 15, 2026, provide proof of ownership and a
4 valid registration certificate for a second vehicle that will be used
5 for daily driving, commuting, or business purposes;

6 (b) After January 15, 2026, provide proof of a current collector
7 vehicle insurance policy for the vehicle being registered, with
8 liability limits of at least the amounts listed under RCW 46.29.090;

9 (c) Purchase a registration for the motor vehicle or travel
10 trailer as required under chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW; and

11 ~~((b))~~ (d) Pay the special license plate fee established under
12 RCW 46.17.220(5), in addition to any other fees or taxes required by
13 law.

14 (2) A person applying for a collector vehicle license plate may:

15 (a) Receive a collector vehicle license plate assigned by the
16 department; or

17 (b) Provide an actual Washington state issued license plate
18 designated for general use in the year of the vehicle's manufacture.

19 (3) Collector vehicle license plates:

20 (a) Are valid for the life of the motor vehicle or travel
21 trailer;

22 (b) Are not required to be renewed; and

23 (c) Must be displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle or travel
24 trailer.

25 (4) A collector vehicle registered under this section may only be
26 used for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours,
27 parades, and occasional pleasure driving.

28 (5) Collector vehicle license plates under subsection (2)(b) of
29 this section may be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle
30 described in subsection (1) of this section upon application to the
31 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by
32 the director.

33 (6) A person driving a motor vehicle with a collector vehicle
34 license plate must maintain collector vehicle insurance with respect
35 to the vehicle and comply with all requirements of chapter 46.30 RCW.

36 (7) Any person who knowingly provides a false or facsimile
37 license plate under subsection (2)(b) of this section is subject to a
38 traffic infraction and fine in an amount equal to the monetary
39 penalty for a violation of RCW 46.16A.200(7)(b). Additionally, the

1 person must pay for the cost of a collector vehicle license plate as
2 listed in RCW 46.17.220(5), unless already paid.

3 ~~((7))~~ (8) A collector vehicle that is a motor vehicle may tow a
4 trailer if the trailer is being used for participation in club
5 activities, exhibitions, tours, and parades.

6 (9) Any person who does not meet the requirements of subsections
7 (1) through (8) of this section must surrender the current license
8 plate or plates to the department, county auditor or other agent, or
9 subagent appointed by the director. A person whose collector vehicle
10 registration has been canceled may operate the vehicle once the
11 applicable requirements of chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW have been
12 satisfied.

13 (10) The department is authorized to make exceptions to the
14 requirements under subsection (1)(a) of this section if the owner
15 demonstrates to the department's satisfaction that the owner has
16 alternative means for addressing the owner's regular transportation
17 needs.

18 (11) The requirements of subsections (1)(b) and (6) of this
19 section apply only when the collector vehicle is operated on a public
20 highway pursuant to RCW 46.30.020.

21 (12) The department shall adopt rules to define collector vehicle
22 insurance for the purposes of this section.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This act takes effect January 15, 2026.

--- END ---