

SENATE BILL 5320

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By Senators Nobles, Harris, Cortes, Krishnadasan, Lovick, Orwall, Slatter, and J. Wilson; by request of Department of Natural Resources

Read first time 01/17/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the state department of natural
2 resources' Smokey Bear special license plates; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 46.17.220, 46.18.200, and 46.68.425; adding a new
4 section to chapter 46.04 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

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

8 In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
9 application for a vehicle registration in chapter 46.16A RCW, the
10 holder of a special license plate shall pay the appropriate special
11 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

1	(7) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
2	(8) Fred Hutch	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
3	(9) Gonzaga University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
4	alumni association			
5	(10) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	(11) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
7	(12) Keep kids safe	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
8	(13) Law enforcement	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
9	memorial			
10	(14) Military affiliate radio	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
11	system			
12	(15) Music matters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
13	(16) Patches pal, or	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
14	alternative name as			
15	designated by the			
16	department under			
17	RCW 46.04.383			
18	(17) Professional	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
19	firefighters and			
20	paramedics			
21	(18) Purple Heart	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
22	(19) Ride share	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
23	(20) San Juan Islands	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
24	(21) Seattle Mariners	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	(22) Seattle NHL hockey	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
26	(23) Seattle Seahawks	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
27	(24) Seattle Sounders FC	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
28	(25) Seattle Storm	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
29	(26) Seattle University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
30	(27) Share the road	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
31	(28) Ski & ride Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
32	(29) <u>Smokey Bear</u>	<u>\$ 40.00</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>	<u>RCW 46.68.425</u>
33	(30) Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
34	((30)) (31) State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420

1	((31)) <u>(32)</u> Volunteer	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	firefighters			
3	((32)) <u>(33)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
4	apples			
5	((33)) <u>(34)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	farmers and ranchers			
7	((34)) <u>(35)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
8	lighthouses			
9	((35)) <u>(36)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
10	state aviation			
11	((36)) <u>(37)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
12	state parks			
13	((37)) <u>(38)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
14	state wrestling			
15	((38)) <u>(39)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
16	tennis			
17	((39)) <u>(40)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
18	wine			
19	((40)) <u>(41)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
20	fish collection			
21	((41)) <u>(42)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
22	national parks			
23	((42)) <u>(43)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
24	wildlife collection			
25	((43)) <u>(44)</u> We love our	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
26	pets			
27	((44)) <u>(45)</u> Wild on	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
28	Washington			

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

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

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

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

3 (c) Must not be issued for vehicles registered under chapter
4 46.87 RCW; and

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

6 (2) The department approves and shall issue the following special
7 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.

1	Law enforcement memorial	Honors law enforcement officers
2		in Washington killed in the line of
3		duty.
4	Music matters	Displays the "Music Matters"
5		logo.
6	Patches pal, or alternative name	Displays the likenesses of the J.P.
7	as designated by the department	Patches and Gertrude characters
8	under RCW 46.04.383	from the J.P. Patches show, or
9		characters otherwise identified in
10		accordance with RCW 46.04.383.
11	Professional firefighters and	Recognizes professional
12	paramedics	firefighters and paramedics who
13		are members of the Washington
14		state council of firefighters.
15	San Juan Islands	Displays a symbol or artwork
16		recognizing the San Juan Islands.
17	Seattle Mariners	Displays the "Seattle Mariners"
18		logo.
19	Seattle NHL hockey	Displays the logo of the Seattle
20		NHL hockey team.
21	Seattle Seahawks	Displays the "Seattle Seahawks"
22		logo.
23	Seattle Sounders FC	Displays the "Seattle Sounders
24		FC" logo.
25	Seattle Storm	Displays the "Seattle Storm" logo.
26	Seattle University	Recognizes Seattle University.
27	Share the road	Recognizes an organization that
28		promotes bicycle safety and
29		awareness education.
30	Ski & ride Washington	Recognizes the Washington
31		snowsports industry.
32	<u>Smokey Bear</u>	<u>Displays the name, image, and</u>
33		<u>likeness of Smokey Bear and</u>
34		<u>messages for wildfire prevention.</u>
35	State flower	Recognizes the Washington state
36		flower.

1	Volunteer firefighters	Recognizes volunteer firefighters.
2	Washington apples	Displays the Washington apple
3		logo that recognizes the state's
4		apple industry, the growers and
5		shippers who produce and pack
6		the world famous apples, and the
7		tree fruit community.
8	Washington farmers and ranchers	Recognizes farmers and ranchers
9		in Washington state.
10	Washington lighthouses	Recognizes an organization that
11		supports selected Washington
12		state lighthouses and provides
13		environmental education
14		programs.
15	Washington state aviation	Displays a Stearman biplane in
16		the foreground with an image of
17		Mount Rainier in the background.
18	Washington state parks	Recognizes Washington state
19		parks as premier destinations of
20		uncommon quality that preserve
21		significant natural, cultural,
22		historical, and recreational
23		resources.
24	Washington state wrestling	Promotes and supports college
25		wrestling in the state of
26		Washington.
27	Washington tennis	Builds awareness and year-round
28		opportunities for tennis in
29		Washington state. Displays a
30		symbol or artwork recognizing
31		tennis in Washington state.
32	Washington wine	Displays a landscape of
33		Washington's wine regions.
34	Washington's fish collection	Recognizes Washington's fish.

1	Washington's national park fund	Builds awareness of Washington's
2		national parks and supports
3		priority park programs and
4		projects in Washington's national
5		parks, such as enhancing visitor
6		experience, promoting
7		volunteerism, engaging
8		communities, and providing
9		educational opportunities related
10		to Washington's national parks.
11	Washington's wildlife collection	Recognizes Washington's
12		wildlife.
13	We love our pets	Recognizes an organization that
14		assists local member agencies of
15		the federation of animal welfare
16		and control agencies to promote
17		and perform spay/neuter surgery
18		on Washington state pets to
19		reduce pet overpopulation.
20	Wild on Washington	Symbolizes wildlife viewing in
21		Washington state.

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

26 (4) Applicants for initial volunteer firefighters special license
27 plates must (a) have been a volunteer firefighter for at least
28 ~~((ten))~~ 10 years or be a volunteer firefighter for one or more years
29 and (b) have documentation of service from the district of the
30 appropriate fire service. If the volunteer firefighter leaves
31 firefighting service before ~~((ten))~~ 10 years of service have been
32 completed, the volunteer firefighter shall surrender the license
33 plates to the department on the registration renewal date. If the
34 volunteer firefighter stays in service for at least ~~((ten))~~ 10 years
35 and then leaves, the license plate may be retained by the former
36 volunteer firefighter and as long as the license plate is retained
37 for use the person will continue to pay the future registration
38 renewals. A qualifying volunteer firefighter may have no more than

1 one set of license plates per vehicle, and a maximum of two sets per
2 applicant, for their personal vehicles. If the volunteer firefighter
3 is convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or a felony, the license
4 plates must be surrendered upon conviction.

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

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

10 (1) The department shall:

11 (a) Collect special license plate fees established under RCW
12 46.17.220;

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

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

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

SPECIAL LICENSE	ACCOUNT	CONDITIONS FOR
PLATE TYPE		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

1	Endangered wildlife	RCW 77.12.170	Must be used only
2			for the department of
3			fish and wildlife's
4			endangered wildlife
5			program activities
6	Keep kids safe	RCW 43.121.100	As specified in RCW
7			43.121.100
8	Purple Heart	RCW 43.60A.140	As specified in RCW
9			43.60A.140(4)
10	<u>Smokey Bear</u>	<u>RCW 76.04.511</u>	<u>Only for the</u>
11	<u>wildfire prevention</u>		<u>department of natural</u>
12			<u>resources to use for</u>
13			<u>wildfire prevention</u>
14			<u>programs</u>
15	Washington state	RCW 79A.05.059	Provide public
16	parks		educational
17			opportunities and
18			enhancement of
19			Washington state
20			parks
21	Washington's fish	RCW 77.12.170	Only for the
22	collection		department of fish
23			and wildlife's use to
24			support steelhead
25			species management
26			activities including,
27			but not limited to,
28			activities supporting
29			conservation,
30			recovery, and
31			research to promote
32			healthy, fishable
33			steelhead
34	Washington's	RCW 77.12.170	Only for the
35	wildlife collection		department of fish
36			and wildlife's game
37			species management
38			activities

1 Wild on Washington RCW 77.12.170 Dedicated to the
2 department of fish
3 and wildlife's
4 watchable wildlife
5 activities, as defined
6 in RCW 77.32.560

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 "Smokey Bear license plates" means special license plates issued
10 under RCW 46.18.200 that display the name, image, and likeness of
11 Smokey Bear promoting wildfire prevention and the state department of
12 natural resources' wildland wildfire program.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect October 1, 2025.

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