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SENATE BILL 6323

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Heavey and Prince

Read first time 01/11/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to Olympic Games license plates; amending RCW  
2 46.16.301 and 46.16.313; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.16 RCW; and adding a new section to  
4 chapter 46.68 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 "Olympic Games license plates" mean license plates that display a  
9 phrase or symbol, or both, supporting United States athletes competing  
10 in the Olympic Games.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.301 and 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 102 are each  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (1) The department may create, design, and issue special license  
14 plates that may be used in lieu of regular or personalized license  
15 plates for motor vehicles required to display two motor vehicle license  
16 plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon  
17 terms and conditions established by the department. The special plates  
18 may:

- 1 (a) Denote the age or type of vehicle; or  
2 (b) Denote special activities or interests; or  
3 (c) Denote the status, or contribution or sacrifice for the United  
4 States, the state of Washington, or the citizens of the state of  
5 Washington, of a registered owner of that vehicle; or  
6 (d) Display a depiction of the name and mascot or symbol of a state  
7 university, regional university, or state college as defined in RCW  
8 28B.10.016; or  
9 (e) Display a phrase or symbol, or both, supporting the Olympic  
10 Games.

11 (2) The department shall create, design, and issue a special  
12 baseball stadium license plate that may be used in lieu of regular or  
13 personalized license plates for motor vehicles required to display two  
14 motor vehicle license plates, excluding vehicles registered under  
15 chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the  
16 department. The special plates shall commemorate the construction of  
17 a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. The department shall  
18 also issue to each recipient of a special baseball stadium license  
19 plate a certificate of participation in the construction of the  
20 baseball stadium.

21 (3) The department has the sole discretion to determine whether or  
22 not to create, design, or issue any series of special license plates,  
23 other than the special baseball stadium license plate under subsection  
24 (2) of this section, and whether any interest or status merits the  
25 issuance of a series of special license plates. In making this  
26 determination, the department shall consider whether or not an interest  
27 or status contributes or has contributed significantly to the public  
28 health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the United States or of  
29 this state or to their significant benefit, or whether the interest or  
30 status is recognized by the United States, this state, or other states,  
31 in other settings or contexts. The department may also consider the  
32 potential number of persons who may be eligible for the plates and the  
33 cost and efficiency of producing limited numbers of the plates. The  
34 design of a special license plate shall conform to all requirements for  
35 plates for the type of vehicle for which it is issued, as provided  
36 elsewhere in this chapter.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
38 to read as follows:

1 (1) The department, in consultation with the Washington state  
2 Olympic committee, shall design an Olympic Games license plate that  
3 displays a phrase or symbol, or both, supporting United States athletes  
4 competing in the Olympic Games. Olympic Games license plates issued  
5 under this chapter must be displayed on the department's officially  
6 designated mountain background design.

7 (2) Beginning July 1, 1997, persons may apply to the department for  
8 an Olympic Games license plate.

9 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 s 103 are each  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (1) The department may establish a fee for each type of special  
12 license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c) in an  
13 amount calculated to offset the cost of production of the special  
14 license plates and the administration of this program. The fee shall  
15 not exceed thirty-five dollars and is in addition to all other fees  
16 required to register and license the vehicle for which the plates have  
17 been requested. All such additional special license plate fees  
18 collected by the department shall be deposited in the state treasury  
19 and credited to the motor vehicle fund.

20 (2) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon  
21 application, registration, and renewal registration of a motor vehicle,  
22 the holder of a collegiate license plate shall pay a fee of thirty  
23 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two  
24 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration  
25 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds, minus  
26 the cost of plate production, shall be remitted to the custody of the  
27 state treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report. The state  
28 treasurer shall credit the funds to the appropriate collegiate license  
29 plate fund as provided in RCW 28B.10.890.

30 (3) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon  
31 application, registration, and renewal registration of a motor vehicle,  
32 the holder of a special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee  
33 of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed  
34 two dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for  
35 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining  
36 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to  
37 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments  
38 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as

1 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary  
2 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW  
3 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds  
4 to the state general fund.

5 (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon  
6 application, registration, and renewal registration of a motor vehicle,  
7 the holder of an Olympic Games license plate shall pay a fee of thirty  
8 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two  
9 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration  
10 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds, minus  
11 the cost of plate production, shall be remitted to the custody of the  
12 state treasurer for deposit in the Olympic Games license plate account,  
13 created in section 5 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 46.68 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 The Olympic Games license plate account is established in the  
17 custody of the state treasurer for deposit of all receipts from Olympic  
18 Games license plates. The state treasurer shall remit the proceeds on  
19 a quarterly basis to the Washington state Olympic committee. The  
20 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but  
21 no appropriation is required for expenditures. Expenditures of funds  
22 from Olympic Games license plates must be used exclusively for support  
23 of United States athletes contending to compete or competing in the  
24 Olympic Games.

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