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SENATE BILL 5063

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, King, and Shin

Read first time 01/12/11. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to special license plates for motorcycles; and  
2 amending RCW 46.04.437, 46.18.215, 46.18.225, 46.18.230, 46.18.235,  
3 46.18.270, 46.18.280, and 46.18.290.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.04.437 and 2010 c 161 s 133 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 "Purple heart license plates" means special license plates that may  
8 be assigned to a motor vehicle required to display one or two license  
9 plates, to recipients of the Purple Heart medal or to another qualified  
10 person.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.18.215 and 2010 c 161 s 614 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 The department shall create, design, and issue a special baseball  
14 stadium license plate that may be used in lieu of standard issue or  
15 personalized license plates for motor vehicles required to display one  
16 or two license plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter  
17 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the department.  
18 The special license plates commemorate the construction of a baseball

1 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. The department shall also issue  
2 to each recipient of a special baseball stadium license plate a  
3 certificate of participation in the construction of the baseball  
4 stadium.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.18.225 and 2010 c 161 s 615 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 A state university, regional university, or state college as  
8 defined in RCW 28B.10.016 may apply to the department, in a form  
9 approved by the department and request the department to issue a series  
10 of collegiate license plates, for display on motor vehicles required to  
11 display one or two license plates, depicting the name and mascot or  
12 symbol of the college or university, as submitted and approved for use  
13 by the requesting institution.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.18.230 and 2010 c 161 s 618 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) A registered owner who has been awarded the Congressional Medal  
17 of Honor may apply to the department for special license plates for use  
18 on a ((~~passenger~~)) motor vehicle required to display one or two license  
19 plates. The Congressional Medal of Honor recipient must:

20 (a) Provide proof from the Washington state department of veterans  
21 affairs showing receipt of the medal; and

22 (b) Be recorded as the registered owner of the motor vehicle on  
23 which the Congressional Medal of Honor license plate or plates will be  
24 displayed.

25 (2) Congressional Medal of Honor license plates must be issued:

26 (a) Only for a personal ((~~passenger~~)) motor vehicle owned by  
27 persons who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

28 (b) Without payment of vehicle license fees, license plate fees,  
29 and motor vehicle excise taxes.

30 (3) Congressional Medal of Honor license plates must be replaced,  
31 free of charge, if the license plates become lost, stolen, damaged,  
32 defaced, or destroyed.

33 (4) A Congressional Medal of Honor license plate or plates may be  
34 transferred, free of charge, from one motor vehicle to another motor  
35 vehicle owned by the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient upon

1 application to the department, county auditor or other agent, or  
2 subagent appointed by the director.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.18.235 and 2010 c 161 s 619 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) A registered owner who is a veteran, as defined in RCW  
6 41.04.007, may apply to the department for disabled American veteran or  
7 former prisoner of war license plates, for use on one personal use  
8 motor vehicle required to display one or two license plates. The  
9 veteran must be recorded as the registered owner of the motor vehicle  
10 on which the disabled American veteran or former prisoner of war  
11 license plate or plates will be displayed and:

12 (a) Provide certification from the veterans administration or the  
13 military service from which the veteran was discharged that the veteran  
14 has a service-connected disability rating;

15 (b) Have lost the use of both hands or one foot;

16 (c) Have been captured and incarcerated by an enemy of the United  
17 States during a period of war with the United States and have received  
18 a prisoner of war medal;

19 (d) Have become blind in both eyes as the result of military  
20 service; or

21 (e) Be rated by the veterans administration or the military service  
22 from which the veteran was discharged and be receiving service-  
23 connected compensation at the one hundred percent rate that is expected  
24 to exist for more than one year.

25 (2) The special license plates under this section must:

26 (a) Display distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating  
27 that the registered owner is a disabled American veteran or former  
28 prisoner of war; and

29 (b) Be issued for one personal use vehicle without the payment of  
30 any vehicle license fees, license plate fees, or excise taxes.

31 (3) A registered owner who is a veteran, as defined in RCW  
32 41.04.007, may, in lieu of applying for the special license plates  
33 under this section, apply for regular issue or any qualifying special  
34 license plate and receive the full benefit of the vehicle license fee  
35 and excise tax exemption provided in subsection (2)(b) of this section.

36 (4) The department may periodically verify the one hundred percent  
37 rate as described in subsection (1)(e) of this section.

1 (5) A veteran who has been issued disabled American veteran or  
2 former prisoner of war license plates under this section before July 1,  
3 1983, continues to be eligible for the vehicle license fee and excise  
4 tax exemption described in subsection (2)(b) of this section.

5 (6) A disabled American veteran and former prisoner of war license  
6 plate or plates may be transferred from one motor vehicle to another  
7 motor vehicle owned by the veteran upon application to the department,  
8 county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director.

9 (7) For the purposes of this section:

10 (a) "Blind" means the definition of "blind" used by the state of  
11 Washington in determining eligibility for financial assistance to the  
12 blind under Title 74 RCW; and

13 (b) "Special license plates" does not include any plate from the  
14 armed forces license plate collection established in RCW 46.18.200(3).

15 (8) Any unauthorized use of a special license plate under this  
16 section is a gross misdemeanor.

17 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.18.270 and 2010 c 161 s 625 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) A registered owner who has survived the attack on Pearl Harbor  
20 on December 7, 1941, may apply to the department for special license  
21 plates for use on only one motor vehicle required to display one or two  
22 license plates and owned by the qualified applicant. The applicant  
23 must:

24 (a) Be a resident of this state;

25 (b) Have been a member of the United States armed forces on  
26 December 7, 1941;

27 (c) Have been on station on December 7, 1941, between the hours of  
28 7:55 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the island of  
29 Oahu, or offshore at a distance not to exceed three miles;

30 (d) Have received an honorable discharge from the United States  
31 armed forces;

32 (e) Provide certification by a Washington state chapter of the  
33 Pearl Harbor survivors association showing that qualifications in (c)  
34 of this subsection have been met;

35 (f) Be recorded as the registered owner of the motor vehicle on  
36 which the Pearl Harbor survivor license plate or plates will be  
37 displayed; and

1 (g) Pay all fees and taxes required by law for registering the  
2 motor vehicle.

3 (2) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates must be issued without the  
4 payment of any license plate fee.

5 (3) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates must be replaced, free of  
6 charge, if the license plates have become lost, stolen, damaged,  
7 defaced, or destroyed.

8 (4) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates may be issued to the  
9 surviving spouse or domestic partner of a Pearl Harbor survivor who met  
10 the requirements in subsection (1) of this section. The surviving  
11 spouse or domestic partner must be a resident of this state. If the  
12 surviving spouse remarries or the surviving domestic partner marries or  
13 enters into a new domestic partnership, he or she must return the  
14 special license plates to the department within fifteen days and apply  
15 for regular license plates or another type of special license plate.

16 (5) A Pearl Harbor survivor license plate or plates may be  
17 transferred from one motor vehicle to another motor vehicle owned by  
18 the Pearl Harbor survivor or the surviving spouse or domestic partner  
19 as described in subsection (4) of this section upon application to the  
20 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the  
21 director.

22 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.18.280 and 2010 c 161 s 628 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (1) A registered owner who has been awarded a Purple Heart medal by  
25 any branch of the United States armed forces, including the merchant  
26 marines and the women's air forces service pilots may apply to the  
27 department for special license plates for use on only one motor vehicle  
28 required to display one or two license plates and owned by the  
29 qualified applicant. The applicant must:

30 (a) Be a resident of this state;

31 (b) Have been wounded during one of this nation's wars or conflicts  
32 identified in RCW 41.04.005;

33 (c) Have received an honorable discharge from the United States  
34 armed forces;

35 (d) Provide a copy of the armed forces document showing the  
36 recipient was awarded the Purple Heart medal;

1 (e) Be recorded as the registered owner of the motor vehicle on  
2 which the Purple Heart survivor license plate or plates will be  
3 displayed; and

4 (f) Pay all fees and taxes required by law for registering the  
5 motor vehicle.

6 (2) Purple Heart license plates must be issued without the payment  
7 of any special license plate fee.

8 (3) Purple Heart license plates may be issued to the surviving  
9 spouse or domestic partner of a Purple Heart recipient who met the  
10 requirements in subsection (1) of this section. The surviving spouse  
11 or domestic partner must be a resident of this state. If the surviving  
12 spouse remarries or the surviving domestic partner marries or enters  
13 into a new domestic partnership, he or she must return the special  
14 license plates to the department within fifteen days and apply for  
15 regular license plates or another type of special license plate.

16 (4) A Purple Heart license plate or plates may be transferred from  
17 one motor vehicle to another motor vehicle owned by the Purple Heart  
18 recipient or the surviving spouse or domestic partner as described in  
19 subsection (3) of this section upon application to the department,  
20 county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director.

21 **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.18.290 and 2010 c 161 s 630 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 A registered owner may apply to the department, county auditor or  
24 other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a square dancer  
25 license plate. The registered owner shall pay the special license  
26 plate fee required under RCW 46.17.220(1)(q), in addition to any other  
27 fee or tax required by law. The square dancer license plate may be  
28 issued in lieu of standard issue or personalized license plates for  
29 motor vehicles required to display one or two license plates, but may  
30 not be issued for vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW.

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