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HOUSE BILL 2254

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Van Luven, Romero, Backlund, Scott, Foreman,  
Sheldon, Horn and Benton

Read first time 01/08/96. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic  
Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle license plates for officers of a  
2 recognized foreign organization; amending RCW 82.80.020; adding new  
3 sections to chapter 46.16 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter  
4 82.44 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 46.16 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall provide for the issuance of special  
9 license plates, in lieu of regular motor vehicle license plates, for  
10 passenger vehicles having manufacturers' rated carrying capacities of  
11 one ton or less that are owned or leased by an instrumentality  
12 established by a foreign government recognized by the United States  
13 before January 1, 1979, and that is without official representation or  
14 diplomatic relations with the United States. The department shall  
15 issue the special license plates in a distinguishing color, running in  
16 a separate numerical series, and bearing the words "Foreign  
17 Organization." A vehicle for which special license plates are issued  
18 under this section is exempt from regular license fees under RCW

1 46.16.060, excise tax under RCW 82.44.020, and any additional vehicle  
2 license fees imposed under RCW 82.80.020.

3 (2) Whenever the owner or lessee as provided in subsection (1) of  
4 this section transfers or assigns the interest or title in the motor  
5 vehicle for which the special plates were issued, the plates must be  
6 removed from the motor vehicle, and if another qualified vehicle is  
7 acquired, attached to that vehicle, and the director must be  
8 immediately notified of the transfer of the plates; otherwise the  
9 removed plates must be immediately forwarded to the director to be  
10 destroyed. Whenever the owner or lessee as provided in subsection (1)  
11 of this section is for any reason relieved of his or her duties as a  
12 representative of a recognized foreign organization, he or she shall  
13 immediately forward the special plates to the director, who shall upon  
14 receipt dispose of the plates as otherwise provided by law.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17 A motor vehicle owned or leased by a recognized foreign  
18 organization eligible for a special license plate under section 1 of  
19 this act is exempt from the payment of license fees for the licensing  
20 of the vehicle as provided in this chapter.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 82.44 RCW  
22 to read as follows:

23 Motor vehicles licensed under section 1 of this act are exempt from  
24 the taxes imposed in RCW 82.44.020 (1) and (2). When the motor vehicle  
25 ceases to be used for the purposes of section 1 of this act or at the  
26 time of its retail sale, the excise tax imposed in RCW 82.44.020 (1)  
27 and (2) must be imposed in an amount equal to one-twelfth of the annual  
28 excise tax then in effect, for each full month remaining in the  
29 vehicle's registration year.

30 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.80.020 and 1993 c 60 s 1 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 (1) The legislative authority of a county may fix and impose an  
33 additional fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars per vehicle, for each  
34 vehicle that is subject to license fees under RCW 46.16.060 and is  
35 determined by the department of licensing to be registered within the  
36 boundaries of the county.

1 (2) The department of licensing shall administer and collect the  
2 fee. The department shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by  
3 contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected, for  
4 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining  
5 proceeds shall be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer for  
6 monthly distribution under RCW 82.80.080.

7 (3) The proceeds of this fee shall be used strictly for  
8 transportation purposes in accordance with RCW 82.80.070.

9 (4) A county imposing this fee or initiating an exemption process  
10 shall delay the effective date at least six months from the date the  
11 ordinance is enacted to allow the department of licensing to implement  
12 administration and collection of or exemption from the fee.

13 (5) The legislative authority of a county may develop and initiate  
14 an exemption process of the fifteen dollar fee for the registered  
15 owners of vehicles residing within the boundaries of the county (a) who  
16 are sixty-one years old or older at the time payment of the fee is due  
17 and whose household income for the previous calendar year is less than  
18 an amount prescribed by the county legislative authority, or (b) who  
19 has a physical disability.

20 (6) The legislative authority of a county shall develop and  
21 initiate an exemption process of the fifteen-dollar fee for vehicles  
22 registered within the boundaries of the county that are licensed under  
23 section 1 of this act.

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