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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2484**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Barlean, Anderson, Linville, Doumit, Van Luvan and Ogden)

Read first time 02/06/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a license plate emblem to  
2 benefit orca whale research; adding a new section to chapter 46.16 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the population of  
6 certain pods of orca whales had peaked at ninety-nine in 1995, but  
7 since that time the number of these whales has dropped to seventy-eight  
8 in 2001. Monitoring the status and the dynamics affecting these whales  
9 is important because as top predators within their environment, they  
10 act as an important indicator of the health of prey species such as  
11 salmon. The legislature finds that the creation of an orca whale  
12 emblem that will affix to a vehicle license plate will appeal to  
13 citizens interested in supporting orca whale research.

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

16 (1) Any person may purchase an orca whale research emblem for  
17 display on vehicle license plates in the manner described by the  
18 department. The emblems shall be designed to be affixed to a vehicle

1 license number plate by pressure-sensitive adhesive so as not to  
2 obscure the plate identification numbers or letters. The department,  
3 after consulting with the Washington state patrol, shall determine  
4 whether the emblems use fully reflectorized materials designed to  
5 provide visibility at night.

6 (2) The whale museum located in Friday Harbor, Washington, shall  
7 select the design of the orca whale research emblem.

8 (3) The director shall adopt fees to be charged by the department  
9 for emblems issued by the department under this section. The  
10 department shall seek to establish agreements with businesses and  
11 nonprofit organizations to conduct the sales of orca whale research  
12 emblems. All sales by the department shall be in bulk to businesses  
13 and nonprofit organizations for subsequent sale to the general public.  
14 The fee for each orca whale research emblem issued under this section  
15 shall be in an amount sufficient to offset the costs of production of  
16 the emblems and the administration of that program by the department,  
17 and to cover the costs incurred by the department of fish and wildlife  
18 to administer the grant program established in section 3 of this act,  
19 not to exceed a total fee of twenty-five dollars per emblem. The  
20 director may adopt rules to implement this section, including the  
21 setting of fees.

22 (4) The orca whale research account is created in the custody of  
23 the state treasurer. All receipts by the department from the issuance  
24 of orca whale research emblems under this section shall be deposited  
25 into this account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for  
26 the costs of production of orca whale research emblems and  
27 administration of the program by the department of licensing, with the  
28 balance used only by the department of fish and wildlife for orca whale  
29 research in accordance with section 3 of this act. Only the director  
30 of licensing, the director of the department of fish and wildlife, or  
31 their designees may authorize expenditures from the account. The  
32 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but  
33 no appropriation is required for expenditures.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.300 RCW  
35 to read as follows:

36 The department shall administer a grant program for orca whale  
37 research by Washington state researchers for J-K-L whalepods in the  
38 Salish sea. Funding for the program shall come from sales of orca

1 whale research emblems pursuant to section 2 of this act. The  
2 department must award research grants under this section through a  
3 competitive request-for-proposal process. The department shall develop  
4 and adopt policies to establish an application process for the grants,  
5 criteria to evaluate the applications, and to monitor the activities of  
6 grant recipients. The department may adopt rules necessary to  
7 implement the grant program established in this section.

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