
HOUSE BILL 2942

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Holmquist, Woods and Lovick

Read first time 02/11/2002. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to front license plates for heavy trucks; amending
2 RCW 46.16.230; and reenacting and amending RCW 46.16.240.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.230 and 1992 c 7 s 41 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The director shall furnish to all persons making satisfactory
7 application for vehicle license as provided by law, two identical
8 vehicle license number plates each containing the vehicle license
9 number to be displayed on such vehicle as by law required: PROVIDED,
10 That if the vehicle to be licensed is a commercial vehicle with a gross
11 weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, trailer, semitrailer, or motorcycle
12 only one vehicle license number plate shall be issued for each thereof.
13 The number and plate shall be of such size and color and shall contain
14 such symbols indicative of the registration period for which the same
15 is issued and of the state of Washington, as shall be determined and
16 prescribed by the director. Any vehicle license number plate or plates
17 issued to a dealer shall contain thereon a sufficient and satisfactory
18 indication that such plates have been issued to a dealer in vehicles.
19 All vehicle license number plates may be obtained by the director from

1 the metal working plant of a state correctional facility or from any
2 source in accordance with existing state of Washington purchasing
3 procedures.

4 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the
5 director may, in his discretion and under such rules and regulations as
6 he may prescribe, adopt a type of vehicle license number plates whereby
7 the same shall be used as long as legible on the vehicle for which
8 issued, with provision for tabs or emblems to be attached thereto or
9 elsewhere on the vehicle to signify renewals, in which event the term
10 "vehicle license number plate" as used in any enactment shall be deemed
11 to include in addition to such plate the tab or emblem signifying
12 renewal except when such plate contains the designation of the current
13 year without reference to any tab or emblem. Renewals shall be
14 effected by the issuance and display of such tab or emblem.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.240 and 1987 c 330 s 704 and 1987 c 142 s 3 are
16 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

17 (1) The vehicle license number plates shall be attached
18 conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle for which the same
19 are issued and in such a manner that they can be plainly seen and read
20 at all times: PROVIDED, That if only one license number plate is
21 legally issued for any vehicle such plate shall be conspicuously
22 attached to the rear of such vehicle, except that commercial vehicles
23 with a gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds must attach their single
24 license number plate only on the front of the vehicle.

25 (2) Each vehicle license number plate shall be placed or hung in a
26 horizontal position at a distance of not less than one foot nor more
27 than four feet from the ground and shall be kept clean so as to be
28 plainly seen and read at all times: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in cases
29 where the body construction of the vehicle is such that compliance with
30 this section is impossible, permission to deviate therefrom may be
31 granted by the state patrol.

32 (3) It shall be unlawful to display upon the front or rear of any
33 vehicle, vehicle license number plate or plates other than those
34 furnished by the director for such vehicle or to display upon any
35 vehicle any vehicle license number plate or plates which have been in
36 any manner changed, altered, disfigured or have become illegible.

37 (4) License plate frames may be used on vehicle license number
38 plates only if the frames do not obscure license tabs or identifying

1 letters or numbers on the plates and the plates can be plainly seen and
2 read at all times. It is unlawful to use any holders, frames, or any
3 materials that in any manner change, alter, or make the vehicle license
4 number plates illegible.

5 (5) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle
6 unless there shall be displayed thereon valid vehicle license number
7 plates attached as herein provided.

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