

---

**SENATE BILL 6494**

---

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Hochstatter, Haugen, Benton, Shin, Johnson, Gardner, Finkbeiner, Kastama, McDonald, Carlson, Swecker, Parlette, Stevens, Hewitt, Morton, Sheahan, Rasmussen, Winsley and Oke

Read first time 01/18/2002. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to two-year vehicle licensing; amending RCW  
2 46.16.006, 46.16.063, 46.16.065, 46.16.079, 46.16.085, 46.16.135,  
3 46.16.160, 46.16.210, 46.16.220, 46.16.313, 46.16.505, 46.16.585,  
4 46.16.670, and 81.104.160; and providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.006 and 1992 c 222 s 1 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 (1) The term "registration ((year)) period" for the purposes of  
9 chapter((s)) 46.16((, 82.44, and 82.50)) RCW means the effective period  
10 of a vehicle license issued by the department. ((Such-year)) The  
11 period commences at 12:01 a.m. on the date of the calendar year  
12 designated by the department and ends at 12:01 a.m. on the same date of  
13 the ((next)) second succeeding calendar year. If a vehicle license  
14 previously issued in this state has expired and is renewed with a  
15 different registered owner, a new registration ((year)) period is  
16 deemed to commence upon the date the expired license is renewed in  
17 order that the renewed license be useable for a full ((twelve-month))  
18 twenty-four-month period.

1 (2) Each registration (~~(year)~~) period may be divided into  
2 (~~(twelve)~~) twenty-four registration months. Each registration month  
3 commences on the day numerically corresponding to the day of the  
4 calendar month on which the registration (~~(year)~~) period begins, and  
5 terminates on the numerically corresponding day of the next succeeding  
6 calendar month.

7 (3) Where the term "last day of the month" is used in chapter(~~(§)~~)  
8 46.16(~~(, 82.44, and 82.50)~~) RCW in lieu of a specified day of any  
9 calendar month it means the last day of such calendar month or months  
10 irrespective of the numerical designation of that day.

11 (4) If the final day of a registration (~~(year)~~) period or month  
12 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, such period extends  
13 through the end of the next business day.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.063 and 1996 c 237 s 1 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 In addition to other fees for the licensing of vehicles there shall  
17 be paid and collected (~~(annually)~~) every two years for each camper,  
18 travel trailer, and motor home (~~(as the same are defined in RCW~~  
19 ~~82.50.010)~~) a fee of (~~(three)~~) six dollars to be deposited in the RV  
20 account of the motor vehicle fund. Under RCW 43.135.055, the  
21 department of transportation may increase RV account fees by a  
22 percentage that exceeds the fiscal growth factor. After consultation  
23 with citizen representatives of the recreational vehicle user  
24 community, the department of transportation may implement RV account  
25 fee adjustments no more than once every four years. RV account fee  
26 adjustments must be preceded by evaluation of the following factors:  
27 Maintenance of a self-supporting program, levels of service at existing  
28 RV sanitary disposal facilities, identified needs for improved RV  
29 service at safety rest areas state-wide, sewage treatment costs, and  
30 inflation. If the department chooses to adjust the RV account fee, it  
31 shall notify the department of licensing six months before  
32 implementation of the fee increase. Adjustments in the RV account fee  
33 must be in increments of no more than fifty cents per biennium.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.065 and 2001 c 64 s 4 are each amended to read  
35 as follows:

36 In lieu of the fees provided in RCW 46.16.0621, private passenger  
37 car one or two-wheel trailers of two thousand pounds gross weight or

1 less, may be licensed upon the payment of a license fee in the sum of  
2 (~~four~~) nine dollars (~~and fifty cents~~) or, if the vehicle was  
3 previously licensed in this state and has not been registered in  
4 another jurisdiction in the intervening period, a renewal license fee  
5 in the sum of (~~three~~) six dollars and (~~twenty-five~~) fifty cents,  
6 but only if such trailers are to be operated upon the public highway by  
7 the owners thereof. It is the intention of the legislature that this  
8 reduced license shall be issued only as to trailers operated for  
9 personal use of the owners and not trailers held for rental to the  
10 public.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16.079 and 1986 c 18 s 5 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 The licensee of any fixed load motor vehicle equipped for lifting  
14 or towing any disabled, impounded, or abandoned vehicle or part  
15 thereof, may pay a capacity fee of (~~twenty-five~~) fifty dollars in  
16 addition to all other fees required for the (~~annual~~) licensing of  
17 motor vehicles in lieu of the licensing fees provided in RCW 46.16.070.

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.16.085 and 1991 c 163 s 3 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 In lieu of all other licensing fees, (~~an annual~~) a license fee of  
21 (~~thirty-six~~) seventy-two dollars shall be collected (~~in addition to~~  
22 ~~the excise tax prescribed in chapter 82.44 RCW~~) for: (1) Each trailer  
23 and semitrailer not subject to the license fee under RCW 46.16.065 or  
24 the capacity fees under RCW (~~46.16.080~~) 46.16.079; (2) every pole  
25 trailer. The proceeds from this fee shall be distributed in accordance  
26 with RCW 46.68.035. This section does not pertain to travel trailers  
27 or personal use trailers that are not used for commercial purposes or  
28 owned by commercial enterprises.

29 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.16.135 and 1986 c 18 s 12 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 The annual vehicle licensing fees as provided in RCW 46.16.070 for  
32 any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles having a declared gross  
33 weight in excess of twelve thousand pounds may be paid for any full  
34 registration month or months at one-twelfth of the usual annual fee  
35 plus two dollars, this sum to be multiplied by the number of full  
36 months for which the fees are paid if for less than a full year. An

1 additional fee of two dollars shall be collected each time a license  
2 fee is paid.

3 Operation of a vehicle licensed under the provisions of this  
4 section by any person upon the public highways after the expiration of  
5 the monthly license is a traffic infraction, and in addition the person  
6 shall be required to pay a license fee for the vehicle involved  
7 covering an entire registration (~~(year's)~~) period's operation, less the  
8 fees for any registration month or months of the registration (~~(year)~~)  
9 period already paid. If, within five days, no license fee for a full  
10 registration (~~(year)~~) period has been paid as required aforesaid, the  
11 Washington state patrol, county sheriff, or city police shall impound  
12 such vehicle in such manner as may be directed for such cases by the  
13 chief of the Washington state patrol, until such requirement is met.

14 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.16.160 and 1999 c 270 s 1 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 (1) The owner of a vehicle which under reciprocal relations with  
17 another jurisdiction would be required to obtain a license registration  
18 in this state or an unlicensed vehicle which would be required to  
19 obtain a license registration for operation on public highways of this  
20 state may, as an alternative to such license registration, secure and  
21 operate such vehicle under authority of a trip permit issued by this  
22 state in lieu of a Washington certificate of license registration, and  
23 licensed gross weight if applicable. The licensed gross weight may not  
24 exceed eighty thousand pounds for a combination of vehicles nor forty  
25 thousand pounds for a single unit vehicle with three or more axles.  
26 Trip permits may also be issued for movement of mobile homes pursuant  
27 to RCW 46.44.170. For the purpose of this section, a vehicle is  
28 considered unlicensed if the licensed gross weight currently in effect  
29 for the vehicle or combination of vehicles is not adequate for the load  
30 being carried. Vehicles registered under RCW 46.16.135 shall not be  
31 operated under authority of trip permits in lieu of further  
32 registration within the same registration (~~(year)~~) period.

33 (2) Each trip permit shall authorize the operation of a single  
34 vehicle at the maximum legal weight limit for such vehicle for a period  
35 of three consecutive days commencing with the day of first use. No  
36 more than three such permits may be used for any one vehicle in any  
37 period of thirty consecutive days, except that in the case of a  
38 recreational vehicle as defined in RCW 43.22.335, no more than two trip

1 permits may be used for any one vehicle in a one-year period. Every  
2 permit shall identify, as the department may require, the vehicle for  
3 which it is issued and shall be completed in its entirety and signed by  
4 the operator before operation of the vehicle on the public highways of  
5 this state. Correction of data on the permit such as dates, license  
6 number, or vehicle identification number invalidates the permit. The  
7 trip permit shall be displayed on the vehicle to which it is issued as  
8 prescribed by the department.

9 (3) Vehicles operating under authority of trip permits are subject  
10 to all laws, rules, and regulations affecting the operation of like  
11 vehicles in this state.

12 (4) Prorate operators operating commercial vehicles on trip permits  
13 in Washington shall retain the customer copy of such permit for four  
14 years.

15 (5) Trip permits may be obtained from field offices of the  
16 department of transportation, Washington state patrol, department of  
17 licensing, or other agents appointed by the department. For each  
18 permit issued, there shall be collected a filing fee as provided by RCW  
19 46.01.140, an administrative fee of eight dollars, and an excise tax of  
20 one dollar. If the filing fee amount of one dollar prescribed by RCW  
21 46.01.140 is increased or decreased after January 1, 1981, the  
22 administrative fee shall be adjusted to compensate for such change to  
23 insure that the total amount collected for the filing fee,  
24 administrative fee, and excise tax remain at ten dollars. These fees  
25 and taxes are in lieu of all other vehicle license fees and taxes. No  
26 exchange, credits, or refunds may be given for trip permits after they  
27 have been purchased.

28 (6) The department may appoint county auditors or businesses as  
29 agents for the purpose of selling trip permits to the public. County  
30 auditors or businesses so appointed may retain the filing fee collected  
31 for each trip permit to defray expenses incurred in handling and  
32 selling the permits.

33 (7) A violation of or a failure to comply with any provision of  
34 this section is a gross misdemeanor.

35 (8) The department of licensing may adopt rules as it deems  
36 necessary to administer this section.

37 (9) A surcharge of five dollars is imposed on the issuance of trip  
38 permits. The portion of the surcharge paid by motor carriers must be  
39 deposited in the motor vehicle fund for the purpose of supporting

1 vehicle weigh stations, weigh-in-motion programs, and the commercial  
2 vehicle information systems and networks program. The remaining  
3 portion of the surcharge must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund  
4 for the purpose of supporting congestion relief programs. All other  
5 administrative fees and excise taxes collected under the provisions of  
6 this chapter shall be forwarded by the department with proper  
7 identifying detailed report to the state treasurer who shall deposit  
8 the administrative fees to the credit of the motor vehicle fund and the  
9 excise taxes to the credit of the general fund. Filing fees will be  
10 forwarded and reported to the state treasurer by the department as  
11 prescribed in RCW 46.01.140.

12 **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.16.210 and 2001 c 206 s 1 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 (1) Upon receipt of the application and proper fee for original  
15 vehicle license, the director shall make a recheck of the application  
16 and in the event that there is any error in the application it may be  
17 returned to the county auditor or other agent to effectively secure the  
18 correction of such error, who shall return the same corrected to the  
19 director.

20 (2) Application for the renewal of a vehicle license shall be made  
21 to the director or his or her agents, including county auditors, by the  
22 registered owner on a form prescribed by the director. The application  
23 must be accompanied by the payment of such license fees and excise tax  
24 as may be required by law. Such application shall be handled in the  
25 same manner and the fees transmitted to the state treasurer in the same  
26 manner as in the case of an original application. Any such application  
27 which upon validation becomes a renewal certificate need not have  
28 entered upon it the name of the lien holder, if any, of the vehicle  
29 concerned.

30 (3) Persons expecting to be out of the state during the normal  
31 renewal period of a vehicle license may secure renewal of such vehicle  
32 license and have license plates or tabs preissued by making application  
33 to the director or his or her agents upon forms prescribed by the  
34 director. The application must be accompanied by such license fees,  
35 and excise tax as may be required by law.

36 (4) Application for the (~~annual~~) renewal of a vehicle license  
37 number plate to the director or the director's agents shall not be  
38 required for those vehicles owned, rented, or leased by the state of

1 Washington, or by any county, city, town, school district, or other  
2 political subdivision of the state of Washington or a governing body of  
3 an Indian tribe located within this state and recognized as a  
4 governmental entity by the United States department of the interior.

5 **Sec. 9.** RCW 46.16.220 and 1997 c 241 s 9 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 Vehicle licenses and vehicle license number plates may be renewed  
8 for the subsequent registration ((year)) period up to eighteen months  
9 before the current expiration date and must be used and displayed from  
10 the date of issue or from the day of the expiration of the preceding  
11 registration ((year)) period, whichever date is later.

12 **Sec. 10.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1997 c 291 s 8 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 (1) The department may establish a fee for each type of special  
15 license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c), as  
16 existing before amendment by section 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, in  
17 an amount calculated to offset the cost of production of the special  
18 license plates and the administration of this program. ((Until  
19 December 31, 1997, the fee shall not exceed thirty five dollars, but  
20 effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,  
21 1998,)) The department may adjust the fee to no more than forty  
22 dollars. This fee is in addition to all other fees required to  
23 register and license the vehicle for which the plates have been  
24 requested. All such additional special license plate fees collected by  
25 the department shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to  
26 the motor vehicle fund.

27 (2) ((Until December 31, 1997, in addition to all fees and taxes  
28 required to be paid upon application, registration, and renewal  
29 registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a collegiate license  
30 plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct  
31 an amount not to exceed two dollars of each fee collected under this  
32 subsection for administration and collection expenses incurred by it.  
33 The remaining proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be  
34 remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper  
35 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the  
36 funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in  
37 RCW 28B.10.890.

1       ~~(3) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on~~  
2 ~~January 1, 1998,~~) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be  
3 paid upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder  
4 of a collegiate license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty  
5 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve  
6 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration  
7 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall  
8 be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper  
9 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the  
10 funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in  
11 RCW 28B.10.890.

12       ~~((4) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on~~  
13 ~~January 1, 1999,~~) (3) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be  
14 paid upon renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a  
15 collegiate license plate shall pay a fee of ~~((thirty))~~ sixty dollars.  
16 The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed ~~((two))~~ four  
17 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration  
18 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall  
19 be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper  
20 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the  
21 funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in  
22 RCW 28B.10.890.

23       ~~((5))~~ (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid  
24 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a  
25 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay an initial fee of  
26 forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed  
27 twelve dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for  
28 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining  
29 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to  
30 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments  
31 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as  
32 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary  
33 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW  
34 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds  
35 to the state general fund.

36       ~~((6) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on~~  
37 ~~January 1, 1999,~~) (5) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be  
38 paid upon renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a  
39 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee of ~~((thirty))~~



1 sixty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed  
2 ((two)) four dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for  
3 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining  
4 proceeds shall be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the  
5 principal and interest payments on bonds issued by the county to  
6 construct a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including  
7 reasonably necessary preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being  
8 collected under RCW 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer  
9 shall credit the funds to the state general fund.

10 **Sec. 11.** RCW 46.16.505 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 118 s 11 are each  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 It shall be unlawful for a person to operate any vehicle equipped  
13 with a camper over and along a public highway of this state without  
14 first having obtained and having in full force and effect a current and  
15 proper camper license and displaying a camper license number plate  
16 therefor as required by law: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if a camper is  
17 part of the inventory of a manufacturer or dealer and is unoccupied at  
18 all times, and a dated demonstration permit, valid for no more than  
19 seventy-two hours is carried in the motor vehicle at all times it is  
20 operated by any such individual, such camper may be demonstrated if  
21 carried upon an appropriately licensed vehicle.

22 Application for an original camper license shall be made on a form  
23 furnished for the purpose by the director. Such application shall be  
24 made by the owner of the camper or his duly authorized agent over the  
25 signature of such owner or agent, and he shall certify that the  
26 statements therein are true and to the best of his knowledge. The  
27 application must show:

- 28 (1) Name and address of the owner of the camper;  
29 (2) Trade name of the camper, model, year, and the serial number  
30 thereof;  
31 (3) Such other information as the director requires.

32 There shall be paid and collected ((annually—~~for~~—each  
33 registration)) every two years or fractional part thereof and upon each  
34 camper a license fee or, if the camper was previously licensed in this  
35 state and has not been registered in another jurisdiction in the  
36 intervening period, a renewal license fee. Such license fee shall be  
37 in the sum of ((four)) nine dollars and ((ninety)) eighty cents, and

1 such renewal license fee shall be in the sum of (~~three~~) seven dollars  
2 (~~and fifty cents~~)).

3 Except as otherwise provided for in this section, the provisions of  
4 chapter 46.16 RCW shall apply to campers in the same manner as they  
5 apply to vehicles.

6 **Sec. 12.** RCW 46.16.585 and 1979 ex.s. c 136 s 51 are each amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 In addition to the regular registration fee, and any other fees and  
9 taxes required to be paid upon registration, the applicant shall be  
10 charged a fee of (~~thirty~~) sixty dollars. In addition to the regular  
11 renewal fee, and in addition to any other fees and taxes required to be  
12 paid, the applicant for a renewal of such plates shall be charged an  
13 additional fee of (~~twenty~~) forty dollars: PROVIDED, That any person  
14 who purchased personalized license plates containing three letters and  
15 three digits on or between the dates of August 9, 1971, and November 6,  
16 1973, shall not be required to pay the additional (~~annual~~) renewal  
17 fee of (~~twenty~~) forty dollars commencing with the year 1976. All  
18 personalized license plates must be renewed (~~on an annual basis~~)  
19 every two years, regardless of whether a vehicle on which they are  
20 displayed will not be driven on public highways or may also be eligible  
21 to display permanent license plates valid for the life of such vehicle  
22 without (~~annual~~) periodic renewal. Personalized license plates that  
23 are not renewed must be surrendered to the department, and failure to  
24 do so is a traffic infraction.

25 **Sec. 13.** RCW 46.16.670 and 1991 c 302 s 3 are each amended to read  
26 as follows:

27 In addition to any other fee required under this chapter, boat  
28 trailers shall (~~annually~~) pay a fee of (~~three~~) six dollars. The  
29 proceeds of this fee shall be deposited in the freshwater aquatic weeds  
30 account under RCW 43.21A.650.

31 **Sec. 14.** RCW 81.104.160 and 1998 c 321 s 35 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation  
34 authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public transportation  
35 benefit areas, and regional transit authorities may submit an  
36 authorizing proposition to the voters, and if approved, may levy and

1 collect an excise tax, at a rate approved by the voters, but not  
2 exceeding eighty one-hundredths of one percent on the value, ((~~under~~  
3 ~~chapter 82.44 RCW,~~) of every motor vehicle owned by a resident of the  
4 taxing district, solely for the purpose of providing high\_capacity  
5 transportation service. In any county imposing a motor vehicle excise  
6 tax surcharge pursuant to RCW 81.100.060, the maximum tax rate under  
7 this section shall be reduced to a rate equal to eighty one-hundredths  
8 of one percent on the value less the equivalent motor vehicle excise  
9 tax rate of the surcharge imposed pursuant to RCW 81.100.060. This  
10 rate shall not apply to vehicles licensed under RCW 46.16.070 except  
11 vehicles with an unladen weight of six thousand pounds or less, RCW  
12 46.16.079, 46.16.085, or 46.16.090.

13 (2) An agency imposing a tax under subsection (1) of this section  
14 may also impose a sales and use tax solely for the purpose of providing  
15 high\_capacity transportation service, in addition to the tax authorized  
16 by RCW 82.14.030, upon retail car rentals within the agency's  
17 jurisdiction that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and  
18 82.12 RCW. The rate of tax shall not exceed 2.172 percent. The rate  
19 of tax imposed under this subsection shall bear the same ratio to the  
20 2.172 percent rate authorized that the rate imposed under subsection  
21 (1) of this section bears to the rate authorized under subsection (1)  
22 of this section. The base of the tax shall be the selling price in the  
23 case of a sales tax or the rental value of the vehicle used in the case  
24 of a use tax. The revenue collected under this subsection shall be  
25 used in the same manner as excise taxes under subsection (1) of this  
26 section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** This act takes effect January 1, 2003.

--- END ---