

1 **HB 2065 - H AMD 0234 WITHDRAWN 3-17-03**  
2 By Representative Ericksen

3 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
4 following:

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

7 (1) The director shall furnish to all persons making  
8 satisfactory application for vehicle license as provided by law,  
9 two identical vehicle license number plates each containing the  
10 vehicle license number to be displayed on such vehicle as by law  
11 required: PROVIDED, That if the vehicle to be licensed is a  
12 trailer, semitrailer or motorcycle only one vehicle license number  
13 plate shall be issued for each thereof. The number and plate shall  
14 be of such size and color and shall contain such symbols indicative  
15 of the registration period for which the same is issued and of the  
16 state of Washington, as shall be determined and prescribed by the  
17 director. Any vehicle license number plate or plates issued to a  
18 dealer shall contain thereon a sufficient and satisfactory  
19 indication that such plates have been issued to a dealer in  
20 vehicles. All vehicle license number plates may be obtained by the  
21 director from the metal working plant of a state correctional  
22 facility or from any source in accordance with existing state of  
23 Washington purchasing procedures.

24 (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section,  
25 the director may, in his discretion and under such rules and  
26 regulations as he may prescribe, adopt a type of vehicle license  
27 number plates whereby the same shall be used as long as legible on  
28 the vehicle for which issued, with provision for tabs or emblems to  
29 be attached thereto or elsewhere on the vehicle to signify  
30 renewals, in which event the term "vehicle license number plate" as  
31 used in any enactment shall be deemed to include in addition to  
32 such plate the tab or emblem signifying renewal except when such  
33 plate contains the designation of the current year without

1 reference to any tab or emblem. Renewals shall be effected by the  
2 issuance and display of such tab or emblem.

3 (3) The department shall implement a flat, digitally printed  
4 license plate system that must be used to manufacture all license  
5 plates issued under this chapter. This system must be in place and  
6 operational by July 1, 2004, and must be used to produce all  
7 license plates issued by the department by no later than December  
8 31, 2004.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.233 and 2000 c 37 s 1 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) Except for those license plates issued under RCW  
12 46.16.305(1) before January 1, 1987, under RCW 46.16.305(3), and to  
13 commercial vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six  
14 thousand pounds, effective with vehicle registrations due or to  
15 become due on January 1, 2001, the appearance of all vehicle  
16 license plates must be ((issued on a standard background)) legible  
17 and clearly identifiable as a Washington state license plate, as  
18 designated by the department.

19 (2) Additionally, to ensure maximum legibility and  
20 reflectivity, the department shall periodically provide for the  
21 replacement of license plates, except for commercial vehicles with  
22 a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds. Frequency  
23 of replacement shall be established in accordance with empirical  
24 studies documenting the longevity of the reflective materials used  
25 to make license plates.

26 (3) In providing for the periodic replacement of license  
27 plates, the department shall offer to vehicle owners the option of  
28 retaining their current license plate numbers. The department  
29 shall charge a retention fee of twenty dollars if this option is  
30 exercised. Revenue generated from the retention fee must be  
31 deposited into the license plate technology account created under  
32 section 4 of this act until such time as the financing necessary to  
33 implement a digital license plate system has been paid in full.  
34 After the financing has been paid in full, the revenue collected  
35 under this section shall be deposited into the multimodal  
36 transportation account.

1           **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.01.140 and 2001 c 331 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3           (1) The county auditor, if appointed by the director of  
4 licensing shall carry out the provisions of this title relating to  
5 the licensing of vehicles and the issuance of vehicle license  
6 number plates under the direction and supervision of the director  
7 and may with the approval of the director appoint assistants as  
8 special deputies and recommend subagents to accept applications and  
9 collect fees for vehicle licenses and transfers and to deliver  
10 vehicle license number plates.

11           (2) A county auditor appointed by the director may request that  
12 the director appoint subagencies within the county.

13           (a) Upon authorization of the director, the auditor shall use  
14 an open competitive process including, but not limited to, a  
15 written business proposal and oral interview to determine the  
16 qualifications of all interested applicants.

17           (b) A subagent may recommend a successor who is either the  
18 subagent's sibling, spouse, or child, or a subagency employee, as  
19 long as the recommended successor participates in the open,  
20 competitive process used to select an applicant. In making  
21 successor recommendation and appointment determinations, the  
22 following provisions apply:

23           (i) If a subagency is held by a partnership or corporate  
24 entity, the nomination must be submitted on behalf of, and agreed  
25 to by, all partners or corporate officers.

26           (ii) No subagent may receive any direct or indirect  
27 compensation or remuneration from any party or entity in  
28 recognition of a successor nomination. A subagent may not receive  
29 any financial benefit from the transfer or termination of an  
30 appointment.

31           (iii) (a) and (b) of this subsection are intended to assist in  
32 the efficient transfer of appointments in order to minimize public  
33 inconvenience. They do not create a proprietary or property  
34 interest in the appointment.

35           (c) The auditor shall submit all proposals to the director, and  
36 shall recommend the appointment of one or more subagents who have  
37 applied through the open competitive process. The auditor shall  
38 include in his or her recommendation to the director, not only the  
39 name of the successor who is a relative or employee, if applicable

1 and if otherwise qualified, but also the name of one other  
2 applicant who is qualified and was chosen through the open  
3 competitive process. The director has final appointment authority.

4 (3)(a) A county auditor who is appointed as an agent by the  
5 department shall enter into a standard contract provided by the  
6 director, developed with the advice of the title and registration  
7 advisory committee.

8 (b) A subagent appointed under subsection (2) of this section  
9 shall enter into a standard contract with the county auditor,  
10 developed with the advice of the title and registration advisory  
11 committee. The director shall provide the standard contract to  
12 county auditors.

13 (c) The contracts provided for in (a) and (b) of this  
14 subsection must contain at a minimum provisions that:

15 (i) Describe the responsibilities, and where applicable, the  
16 liability, of each party relating to the service expectations and  
17 levels, equipment to be supplied by the department, and equipment  
18 maintenance;

19 (ii) Require the specific type of insurance or bonds so that  
20 the state is protected against any loss of collected motor vehicle  
21 tax revenues or loss of equipment;

22 (iii) Specify the amount of training that will be provided by  
23 the state, the county auditor, or subagents;

24 (iv) Describe allowable costs that may be charged to vehicle  
25 licensing activities as provided for in (d) of this subsection;

26 (v) Describe the causes and procedures for termination of the  
27 contract, which may include mediation and binding arbitration.

28 (d) The department shall develop procedures that will  
29 standardize and prescribe allowable costs that may be assigned to  
30 vehicle licensing and vessel registration and title activities  
31 performed by county auditors.

32 (e) The contracts may include any provision that the director  
33 deems necessary to ensure acceptable service and the full  
34 collection of vehicle and vessel tax revenues.

35 (f) The director may waive any provisions of the contract  
36 deemed necessary in order to ensure that readily accessible service  
37 is provided to the citizens of the state.

38 (4)(a) At any time any application is made to the director, the  
39 county auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with

1 licenses, registration, or the right to operate any vehicle or  
2 vessel upon the public highways or waters of this state, excluding  
3 applicants already paying such fee under RCW 46.16.070 or  
4 46.16.085, the applicant shall pay to the director, county auditor,  
5 or other agent a fee of three dollars for each application in  
6 addition to any other fees required by law.

7 (b) Counties that do not cover the expenses of vehicle  
8 licensing and vessel registration and title activities may submit  
9 to the department a request for cost-coverage moneys. The request  
10 must be submitted on a form developed by the department. The  
11 department shall develop procedures to verify whether a request is  
12 reasonable. Payment shall be made on requests found to be  
13 allowable from the licensing services account.

14 (c) Applicants for certificates of ownership, including  
15 applicants paying fees under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, shall pay  
16 to the director, county auditor, or other agent a fee of four  
17 dollars in addition to any other fees required by law.

18 (d) The fees under (a) and (c) of this subsection, if paid to  
19 the county auditor as agent of the director, or if paid to a  
20 subagent of the county auditor, shall be paid to the county  
21 treasurer in the same manner as other fees collected by the county  
22 auditor and credited to the county current expense fund. If the  
23 fee is paid to another agent of the director, the fee shall be used  
24 by the agent to defray his or her expenses in handling the  
25 application.

26 (e) Applicants required to pay the three-dollar fee established  
27 under (a) of this subsection, must pay an additional (~~fifty~~  
28 ~~cents~~) dollar, which must be collected and remitted to the state  
29 treasurer (~~for deposit~~) and distributed as follows:

30 (i) Fifty cents must be deposited into the department of  
31 licensing services account of the motor vehicle fund(~~(. Revenue~~  
32 ~~deposited into this account)) and must be used for agent and  
33 subagent support, which is to include but not be limited to the  
34 replacement of department-owned equipment in the possession of  
35 agents and subagents.~~

36 (ii) Fifty cents must be deposited into the license plate  
37 technology account created under section 4 of this act.

38 (5) A subagent shall collect a service fee of (a) eight dollars  
39 and fifty cents for changes in a certificate of ownership, with or

1 without registration renewal, or verification of record and  
2 preparation of an affidavit of lost title other than at the time of  
3 the title application or transfer and (b) three dollars and fifty  
4 cents for registration renewal only, issuing a transit permit, or  
5 any other service under this section.

6 (6) If the fee is collected by the state patrol as agent for  
7 the director, the fee so collected shall be certified to the state  
8 treasurer and deposited to the credit of the state patrol highway  
9 account. If the fee is collected by the department of  
10 transportation as agent for the director, the fee shall be  
11 certified to the state treasurer and deposited to the credit of the  
12 motor vehicle fund. All such fees collected by the director or  
13 branches of his office shall be certified to the state treasurer  
14 and deposited to the credit of the highway safety fund.

15 (7) Any county revenues that exceed the cost of providing  
16 vehicle licensing and vessel registration and title activities in  
17 a county, calculated in accordance with the procedures in  
18 subsection (3)(d) of this section, shall be expended as determined  
19 by the county legislative authority during the process established  
20 by law for adoption of county budgets.

21 (8) The director may adopt rules to implement this section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16  
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 The license plate technology account is created in the state  
25 treasury. All receipts collected under RCW 46.01.140(4)(e)(ii)  
26 must be deposited into this account. Expenditures from this  
27 account must support current and future license plate technology  
28 and systems integration upgrades for both the department and  
29 correctional industries. Moneys in the account may be spent only  
30 after appropriation. Additionally, the moneys in this account may  
31 be used to reimburse the motor vehicle account for any  
32 appropriation made to implement the digital license plate system.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16  
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 The department shall offer license plate design services to  
36 organizations that are sponsoring a new special license plate  
37 series or are seeking to redesign the appearance of an existing

1 special license plate series that they sponsored. In providing  
2 this service, the department must work with the requesting  
3 organization in determining the specific qualities of the new plate  
4 design and must provide full design services to the organization.  
5 The department shall collect from the requesting organization a fee  
6 of one thousand five hundred dollars for providing license plate  
7 design services. This fee includes one original license plate  
8 design and up to five additional renditions of the original design.  
9 If the organization requests the department to provide further  
10 renditions, in addition to the five renditions provided for under  
11 the original fee, the department shall collect an additional fee of  
12 five hundred dollars per rendition. All revenue collected under  
13 this section must be deposited into the license plate technology  
14 account created under section 4 of this act until such time as the  
15 financing necessary to implement a digital license plate system has  
16 been paid in full. After the financing has been paid in full, the  
17 revenue collected under this section shall be deposited into the  
18 public safety education account for the purpose of providing  
19 funding for the crime victims compensation program established  
20 under chapter 7.68 RCW.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect  
22 for renewals that are due or become due on or after November 1,  
23 2003.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If this act is not referenced by bill or  
25 chapter number by June 30, 2003, in the omnibus transportation  
26 appropriations act, this act is null and void."

27 Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** DOL must implement a flat, digitally printed license  
plate system by January 1, 2004. All license plates must be  
manufactured by this system by December 31, 2004.

A 50 cent fee to support current and future license plate  
systems must be collected at the time of registration and renewal  
of a motor vehicle, and deposited into the license plate technology  
account. Expenditures from the license plate technology account  
must be used to support current and future license plate technology  
and system upgrades.

DOL must offer vehicle owners, replacing their plate under the replacement requirements, the option of retaining their current license plate number. A retention fee of \$20 must be collected for providing this service.

DOL must offer license plate design services to organizations sponsoring a new special license plate series, or who are seeking to redesign the appearance of an existing special license plate series that they sponsored. DOL must collect a fee of \$1,500 for providing design services.

The revenue collected for the license plate number retention fee and digital design services must first be deposited into the license plate technology account until any capital investment necessary to implement the digital system has been paid in full. Once any capital investment has been paid in full, the revenue from the \$20 number retention fee must be deposited into the multimodal account and the \$1,500 design fee must be deposited into the Public Safety Education Account (PSEA) for the purposes of providing funding for the crime victim's compensation program.

The effective date for the plate number retention fee and the 50 cent license plate technology fee is November 1, 2003.

A null and void clause is provided.