

**HB 2065 - H AMD 196**

By Representative Ericksen

**FAILED 03/17/2003**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

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

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

18 (2) All vehicle license number plates (~~may be obtained by the~~  
19 ~~director from the metal working plant of a state correctional facility~~  
20 ~~or from any source in accordance with existing state of Washington~~  
21 ~~purchasing procedures.)) issued by the department after the effective  
22 date of this act must be flat, digitally printed license plates, and  
23 the department shall contract with a private vendor located in  
24 Washington state, or with the department of corrections, for the  
25 manufacturing of the plates. The digitally printed license plates may  
26 include bar codes to facilitate distribution and inventory control.  
27 This system must be in place and operational by January 1, 2004, and  
28 must be used to produce all license plates issued by the department by  
29 no later than June 1, 2004.~~

1       (3) State agencies responding to the department's request for  
2 proposal to contract out the manufacturing of the digitally printed  
3 license plates shall make allowances in their proposals to reflect all  
4 taxes and current labor rates applicable to private sector businesses.

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

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

18       (1) Except for those license plates issued under RCW 46.16.305(1)  
19 before January 1, 1987, under RCW 46.16.305(3), and to commercial  
20 vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds,  
21 effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,  
22 2001, the appearance of the background of all vehicle license plates  
23 may vary in color and design but must be ((issued on a standard  
24 background)) legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state  
25 license plate, as designated by the department.

26       (2) Additionally, to ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity,  
27 the department shall periodically provide for the replacement of  
28 license plates, except for commercial vehicles with a gross weight in  
29 excess of twenty-six thousand pounds. Frequency of replacement shall  
30 be established in accordance with empirical studies documenting the  
31 longevity of the reflective materials used to make license plates.

32       (3) In providing for the periodic replacement of license plates,  
33 the department shall offer the vehicle's owner the option of retaining  
34 the current license plate number. The department shall charge a  
35 retention fee of twenty dollars if this option is exercised. Revenue  
36 generated from the retention fee must be deposited into the multimodal  
37 transportation account.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        A one dollar technology surcharge is imposed on the retention fee  
4 provided for in RCW 46.16.233(3), and is also assessed on all special  
5 license plates issued under this chapter.    The surcharge remains in  
6 effect until December 31, 2005, at which time this section expires.  
7 Revenues generated by the technology surcharge must be deposited into  
8 the temporary technology enhancement account created under section 4 of  
9 this act.

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

12       The temporary technology enhancement account is created in the  
13 state treasury.    All receipts collected under section 3 of this act  
14 must be deposited into this account.    Expenditures from this account  
15 must support license plate technology and systems integration upgrades.  
16 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.    This  
17 section expires December 31, 2005.    Any funds remaining in this account  
18 after the expiration date must be deposited into the multimodal  
19 transportation account.

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

22       The department shall offer license plate design services to  
23 organizations that are sponsoring a new special license plate series or  
24 are seeking to redesign the appearance of an existing special license  
25 plate series that they sponsored.    In providing this service, the  
26 department must work with the requesting organization in determining  
27 the specific qualities of the new plate design and must provide full  
28 design services to the organization.    The department shall collect from  
29 the requesting organization a fee of one thousand five hundred dollars  
30 for providing license plate design services.    This fee includes one  
31 original license plate design and up to five additional renditions of  
32 the original design.    If the organization requests the department to  
33 provide further renditions in addition to the five renditions provided  
34 under the original fee, the department shall collect an additional fee  
35 of five hundred dollars per rendition.    All revenue collected under  
36 this section must be deposited into the temporary technology

1 enhancement account created under section 4 of this act until such time  
2 as the financing necessary to implement a digital license plate system  
3 has been paid in full, or until such time as the temporary technology  
4 enhancement account expires. After the financing has been paid in  
5 full, or upon the expiration of the temporary technology enhancement  
6 account, the revenue collected under this section must be deposited  
7 into the public safety and education account for the purpose of  
8 providing funding for the crime victims compensation program  
9 established under chapter 7.68 RCW.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect January 1, 2004."

11 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Requires all vehicle license plates issued by the Department of Licensing (DOL) to be flat, digitally printed license plates.

The DOL must contract out the manufacturing of the flat license plates with either a vendor located in Washington state or with the Department of Corrections.

State agencies interested in bidding on the contract to manufacture the flat license plates must make allowances in their proposal to reflect all taxes and current labor rates applicable to private sector businesses.

The standard background requirement currently in law is removed and is replaced with language allowing the appearance of license plate backgrounds to vary in color and design, as long as the license plate is legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state license plate.

The DOL is required to offer vehicle owners the option of retaining their current license plate number and must charge a fee of \$20 to do so. The revenue generated by this fee is to be deposited into the multimodal transportation account.

A \$1 technology surcharge is assessed on the license plate number retention fee and is assessed on all special license plates. This surcharge will remain in effect until December 31, 2005, at which time the surcharge will expire. Revenue generated by the surcharge must be deposited into the newly created "Temporary Technology Enhancement Account" (TTEA).

The TTEA is an appropriated account and expenditures from the account must support license plate technology and systems integration upgrades. The TTEA account expires on December 31, 2005. Any funds remaining in the account after the expiration date must be deposited into the multimodal transportation account.

The DOL must offer license plate design services to organizations sponsoring special license plates. The DOL must charge \$1,500 for

providing this service, which must include one original plate design and up to five additional renditions of the original design. Additional renditions may be provided for an additional fee of \$500 per rendition. The revenue generated by providing this service must be deposited into the TTEA account until the financing necessary to implement a digital license plate system has been paid in full, or until the account expires. After either of these occur, the revenue collected for this service must be deposited into the public safety and education account for the purpose of providing funding for the crime victims compensation program.

This act would take effect January 1, 2004.

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