

SSB 5643 - S AMD 244  
By Senator Esser

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. All vehicle license number plates may be obtained  
18 by the director from the metal working plant of a state correctional  
19 facility or from any source in accordance with existing state of  
20 Washington purchasing procedures.

21       (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the  
22 director may, in his discretion and under such rules and regulations as  
23 he may prescribe, adopt a type of vehicle license number plates whereby  
24 the same shall be used as long as legible on the vehicle for which  
25 issued, with provision for tabs or emblems to be attached thereto or  
26 elsewhere on the vehicle to signify renewals, in which event the term  
27 "vehicle license number plate" as used in any enactment shall be deemed  
28 to include in addition to such plate the tab or emblem signifying

1 renewal except when such plate contains the designation of the current  
2 year without reference to any tab or emblem. Renewals shall be  
3 effected by the issuance and display of such tab or emblem.

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (1) The county auditor, if appointed by the director of licensing

1 shall carry out the provisions of this title relating to the licensing  
2 of vehicles and the issuance of vehicle license number plates under the  
3 direction and supervision of the director and may with the approval of  
4 the director appoint assistants as special deputies and recommend  
5 subagents to accept applications and collect fees for vehicle licenses  
6 and transfers and to deliver vehicle license number plates.

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

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

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

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

22 (ii) No subagent may receive any direct or indirect compensation or  
23 remuneration from any party or entity in recognition of a successor  
24 nomination. A subagent may not receive any financial benefit from the  
25 transfer or termination of an appointment.

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

30 (c) The auditor shall submit all proposals to the director, and  
31 shall recommend the appointment of one or more subagents who have  
32 applied through the open competitive process. The auditor shall  
33 include in his or her recommendation to the director, not only the name  
34 of the successor who is a relative or employee, if applicable and if  
35 otherwise qualified, but also the name of one other applicant who is  
36 qualified and was chosen through the open competitive process. The  
37 director has final appointment authority.

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

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

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

11 (i) Describe the responsibilities, and where applicable, the  
12 liability, of each party relating to the service expectations and  
13 levels, equipment to be supplied by the department, and equipment  
14 maintenance;

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

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

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

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

24 (d) The department shall develop procedures that will standardize  
25 and prescribe allowable costs that may be assigned to vehicle licensing  
26 and vessel registration and title activities performed by county  
27 auditors.

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

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

34 (4)(a) At any time any application is made to the director, the  
35 county auditor, or other agent pursuant to any law dealing with  
36 licenses, registration, or the right to operate any vehicle or vessel  
37 upon the public highways or waters of this state, excluding applicants  
38 already paying such fee under RCW 46.16.070 or 46.16.085, the applicant

1 shall pay to the director, county auditor, or other agent a fee of  
2 three dollars for each application in addition to any other fees  
3 required by law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (5) A subagent shall collect a service fee of (a) eight dollars and  
34 fifty cents for changes in a certificate of ownership, with or without  
35 registration renewal, or verification of record and preparation of an  
36 affidavit of lost title other than at the time of the title application  
37 or transfer and (b) three dollars and fifty cents for registration

1 renewal only, issuing a transit permit, or any other service under this  
2 section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 The department shall offer license plate design services to  
33 organizations that are sponsoring a new special license plate series or  
34 are seeking to redesign the appearance of an existing special license  
35 plate series that they sponsored. In providing this service, the  
36 department must work with the requesting organization in determining

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

17 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.16.606 and 1991 sp.s. c 7 s 13 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 In addition to the fees imposed in RCW 46.16.585 for application  
20 and renewal of personalized license plates an additional fee of (~~ten~~)  
21 eleven dollars shall be charged. The revenue from the additional fee  
22 must be collected and remitted to the state treasurer and distributed  
23 as follows:

24 (1) Ten dollars shall be deposited in the state wildlife fund and  
25 used for the management of resources associated with the nonconsumptive  
26 use of wildlife.

27 (2) One dollar shall be deposited into the correctional industries  
28 account created under RCW 72.09.090.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act take effect for  
30 renewals that are due or become due on or after November 1, 2003.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If this act is not referenced by bill or  
32 chapter number by June 30, 2003, in the omnibus transportation  
33 appropriations act, this act is null and void."

**SSB 5643 - S AMD 244**

By Senator Esser

1        On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "plates;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 46.16.230, 46.16.233,  
3 46.01.140, and 46.16.606; adding new sections to chapter 46.16 RCW; and  
4 creating new sections."

EFFECT: Clarifies that all plates issued by the department must be manufactured by the digital license plate system.

After any capital investment necessary to implement the digital license plate system had been paid in full, the \$20 fee collected for plate number retention must be deposited into the motor vehicle account instead of the multimodal transportation account.

A dollar fee is added to personalized license plates and is required to be deposited into the Correctional Industries Account.

--- END ---