
HOUSE BILL 1008

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris, Dickerson, Kagi, Conway, Lovick, Linville, Chase, Anderson, O'Brien, Kenney and McDermott

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1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a license plate emblem to
2 benefit orca whale research; adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the population of
6 certain pods of orca whales had peaked at ninety-nine in 1995, but
7 since that time the number of these whales has dropped to seventy-eight
8 in 2001. Monitoring the status and the dynamics affecting these whales
9 is important because as top predators within their environment, they
10 act as an important indicator of the health of prey species such as
11 salmon. The legislature finds that the creation of an orca whale
12 emblem that will affix to a vehicle license plate will appeal to
13 citizens interested in supporting orca whale research.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) Any person may purchase an orca whale research emblem for
17 display on vehicle license plates in the manner described by the
18 department. The emblems shall be designed to be affixed to a vehicle

1 license number plate by pressure-sensitive adhesive so as not to
2 obscure the plate identification numbers or letters. The department,
3 after consulting with the Washington state patrol, shall determine
4 whether the emblems use fully reflectorized materials designed to
5 provide visibility at night.

6 (2) The whale museum located in Friday Harbor, Washington, shall
7 select the design of the orca whale research emblem.

8 (3) The commission shall adopt fees to be charged by the department
9 for emblems issued by the department under this section. The
10 department shall seek to establish agreements with businesses and
11 nonprofit organizations to conduct the sales of orca whale research
12 emblems. All sales by the department shall be in bulk to businesses
13 and nonprofit organizations for subsequent sale to the general public.
14 The fee for each orca whale research emblem issued under this section
15 shall be in an amount sufficient to offset the costs of production of
16 the emblems and the administration of that program by the department,
17 and to cover the costs incurred by the department to administer the
18 grant program established in section 3 of this act, not to exceed a
19 total fee of twenty-five dollars per emblem. The commission may adopt
20 rules to implement this section, including the setting of fees.

21 (4) The orca whale research account is created in the custody of
22 the state treasurer. All receipts by the department from the issuance
23 of orca whale research emblems under this section shall be deposited
24 into this account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for
25 the costs of production of orca whale research emblems and
26 administration of the program by the department, with the balance used
27 only by the department for orca whale research in accordance with
28 section 3 of this act. Only the director or the director's designee
29 may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to
30 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
31 required for expenditures.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.300 RCW
33 to read as follows:

34 The department shall administer a grant program for orca whale
35 research by Washington state researchers for J-K-L whalepods in the
36 Salish sea. Funding for the program shall come from sales of orca
37 whale research emblems pursuant to section 2 of this act. The

1 department must award research grants under this section through a
2 competitive request-for-proposal process. The department shall develop
3 and adopt policies to establish an application process for the grants,
4 criteria to evaluate the applications, and to monitor the activities of
5 grant recipients. The department may adopt rules necessary to
6 implement the grant program established in this section.

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