
HOUSE BILL 1778

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Haigh, Bailey, Wallace, Ericksen, Bush, Sehlin, Campbell and Simpson

Read first time 02/10/2003. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to branch of service license plates; amending RCW
2 46.16.290, 46.16.313, and 46.16.316; adding a new section to chapter
3 46.04 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 46.16 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that veterans and
7 active duty military service personnel have placed themselves in harms
8 way so that we may live free. It is the intent of the legislature to
9 honor veterans and active duty military service personnel who have
10 served their country honorably in times of both war and peace for the
11 public service they have provided to their country.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 "Branch of service license plates" means license plates that
15 separately display the symbol of the following branches of service:
16 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Washington National Guard, and Coast
17 Guard.

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

3 (1) In cooperation with the Washington state patrol and the
4 department of veterans affairs, the department of licensing shall
5 create and design, and the department issue, six branch of service
6 special license plates, each displaying the symbol of the Army, Navy,
7 Air Force, Marines, Washington National Guard, or Coast Guard that may
8 be used in lieu of regular or personalized license plates, excluding
9 vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions
10 established by the department. The special plates will commemorate the
11 brave men and women who protect the freedom of our nation on a daily
12 basis.

13 (2) The special branch of service license plate may be purchased
14 by:

15 (a) Veterans who served on active duty for at least one hundred
16 eighty days and were discharged under honorable conditions; and

17 (b) Military personnel who have honorably served their country for
18 at least one hundred eighty days while on active duty; and

19 (c) National Guard or Reserves or those honorably discharged from
20 service.

21 (3) Veterans or active duty military personnel requesting a branch
22 of service license plate must:

23 (a) Pay the appropriate fee prescribed in RCW 46.16.313; and

24 (b) Show proof of eligibility through:

25 (i) Providing a DD-214 or discharge papers if a veteran;

26 (ii) Providing a copy of orders if an individual serving on
27 military active duty;

28 (iii) Providing a military ID card either active or retired; or

29 (iv) Attesting in a certified affidavit of their eligibility as
30 required under this section.

31 (4) A surviving spouse of an individual who qualified under
32 subsection (2) of this section may continue the privilege of displaying
33 the branch of service license plate on a vehicle registered in the name
34 of the spouse until the surviving spouse remarries, is no longer a
35 registered owner of the vehicle displaying the plates, or fails to pay
36 for the renewal of the branch of service license plates.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16.290 and 1997 c 291 s 4 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 In any case of a valid sale or transfer of the ownership of any
4 vehicle, the right to the certificates properly transferable therewith,
5 except as provided in RCW 46.16.280, and to the vehicle license plates
6 passes to the purchaser or transferee. It is unlawful for the holder
7 of such certificates, except as provided in RCW 46.16.280, or vehicle
8 license plates to fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the certificates
9 and deliver the vehicle license plates to the purchaser or transferee.
10 If the sale or transfer is of a vehicle licensed by the state or any
11 county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision
12 entitled to exemption as provided by law, or, if the vehicle is
13 licensed with personalized plates, amateur radio operator plates,
14 Congressional Medal of Honor plates, disabled person plates, disabled
15 veteran plates, prisoner of war plates, or other special license plates
16 issued under RCW 46.16.301 as it existed before amendment by section 5,
17 chapter 291, Laws of 1997, the vehicle license plates therefor shall be
18 retained and may be displayed upon a vehicle obtained in replacement of
19 the vehicle so sold or transferred.

20 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.16.313 and 1997 c 291 s 8 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 (1) The department may establish a fee for each type of special
23 license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c), as
24 existing before amendment by section 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, (~~in~~
25 ~~an amount calculated~~) to offset the cost of production of the special
26 license plates and the administration of this program. (~~Until~~
27 ~~December 31, 1997, the fee shall not exceed thirty five dollars, but~~
28 ~~effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,~~
29 ~~1998, the department may adjust the fee to no more than forty~~
30 ~~dollars.~~) This fee is in addition to all other fees required to
31 register and license the vehicle for which the plates have been
32 requested. All such additional special license plate fees collected by
33 the department shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to
34 the motor vehicle fund.

35 (2) (~~Until December 31, 1997, in addition to all fees and taxes~~
36 ~~required to be paid upon application, registration, and renewal~~
37 ~~registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a collegiate license~~

1 ~~plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct~~
2 ~~an amount not to exceed two dollars of each fee collected under this~~
3 ~~subsection for administration and collection expenses incurred by it.~~
4 ~~The remaining proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be~~
5 ~~remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper~~
6 ~~identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the~~
7 ~~funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in~~
8 ~~RCW 28B.10.890.~~

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

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

30 ~~((5))~~ (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
31 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
32 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay an initial fee of
33 forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
34 twelve dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
35 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
36 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to
37 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments
38 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as

1 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
2 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
3 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
4 to the state general fund.

5 ~~((6) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on~~
6 ~~January 1, 1999,))~~ (5) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be
7 paid upon renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a
8 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee of thirty
9 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
10 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
11 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
12 be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and
13 interest payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball
14 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
15 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
16 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
17 to the state general fund.

18 (6) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
19 January 1, 2004, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
20 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
21 branch of service license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
22 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve
23 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
24 and collection expenses. The remaining proceeds will be remitted to
25 the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying report.
26 The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle
27 account until the department determines that the state has been
28 reimbursed for the cost of implementing the branch of service license
29 plates. Upon the department's determination, the treasurer shall
30 credit the proceeds to the branch of service license plate account
31 established under section 7 of this act.

32 (7) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on January
33 1, 2005, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
34 renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a branch of
35 service license plate shall, upon application, pay a fee of thirty
36 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
37 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
38 and collection expenses. The remaining proceeds will be remitted to

1 the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying report.
2 The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle
3 account until the department determines that the state has been
4 reimbursed for the cost of implementing the branch of service license
5 plates. Upon the department's determination, the treasurer shall
6 credit the proceeds to the branch of service license plate account
7 established under section 7 of this act.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.16.316 and 1997 c 291 s 10 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 Except as provided in RCW 46.16.305:

11 (1) When a person who has been issued a special license plate or
12 plates under section 3 of this act or RCW 46.16.301 as it existed
13 before amendment by section 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, sells,
14 trades, or otherwise transfers or releases ownership of the vehicle
15 upon which the special license plate or plates have been displayed, he
16 or she shall immediately report the transfer of such plate or plates to
17 an acquired vehicle or vehicle eligible for such plates pursuant to
18 departmental rule, or he or she shall surrender such plates to the
19 department immediately if such surrender is required by departmental
20 rule. If a person applies for a transfer of the plate or plates to
21 another eligible vehicle, a transfer fee of five dollars shall be
22 charged in addition to all other applicable fees. Such transfer fees
23 shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund. Failure to surrender the
24 plates when required is a traffic infraction.

25 (2) If the special license plate or plates issued by the department
26 become lost, defaced, damaged, or destroyed, application for a
27 replacement special license plate or plates shall be made and fees paid
28 as provided by law for the replacement of regular license plates.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 The branch of service license plate account is established in the
32 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts, except as provided in
33 RCW 46.16.313 (6) and (7), from the branch of service license plates
34 must be deposited into the account. The director of the department of
35 veterans affairs may authorize expenditures from the account. The
36 funds in the account are to be used solely to support veterans'

1 services outreach to veterans and a future eastern Washington veterans'
2 cemetery. The account is not subject to allotment procedures under
3 chapter 43.88 RCW, and no appropriation is required for expenditures.

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