
HOUSE BILL 1864

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris and Rockefeller

Read first time 02/12/2003. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to digitally printed license plates to fund a new
2 class of ferries; amending RCW 46.16.230 and 46.16.233; and adding a
3 new section to chapter 47.60 RCW.

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

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

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

1 by the director from the metal working plant of a state correctional
2 facility or from any source in accordance with existing state of
3 Washington purchasing procedures.

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

15 (3) The department shall implement a flat, digitally printed
16 license plate system that must be used to manufacture all license
17 plates issued under this chapter. This system must be in place and
18 operational by July 1, 2004, and the system must be used to produce all
19 license plates issued under this chapter no later than July 1, 2011.

20 (4) The department shall solicit a request for proposal for
21 implementing a flat, digitally printed license plate system. The
22 department must report back to the legislature by December 1, 2003, on
23 the results of the request for proposal process, which must, at a
24 minimum, inform the legislature on who responded to the request for
25 proposal, the specifications of each proposal and the associated costs,
26 and the department's recommendation on which proposal is preferred,
27 accompanied with a proposed phased-in implementation plan that will
28 meet the implementation deadline of July 1, 2011, as set forth in
29 subsection (3) of this section.

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

32 (1) Except for those license plates issued under RCW 46.16.305(1)
33 before January 1, 1987, under RCW 46.16.305(3), and to commercial
34 vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds,
35 effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,
36 2001, all vehicle license plates must be issued on a standard
37 background, as designated by the department.

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

7 (3) In providing for the periodic replacement of license plates,
8 the department shall offer vehicle owners the option of retaining their
9 current license plate numbers. The department shall charge a retention
10 fee of twenty dollars if this option is exercised by a vehicle owner.
11 Revenue generated from the retention fee will be deposited into the
12 steel electric ferry replacement account.

13 **NEW SECTION. Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 47.60 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The steel electric ferry replacement account is created in the
16 motor vehicle fund. All moneys deposited in the account are subject to
17 the following conditions:

18 (a) All funds will be used by the department of transportation for
19 replacing the steel electric class of ferries, including the design,
20 construction, and financing of a new class of ferry.

21 (b) The department of transportation will use these funds to
22 maximize the benefit to the taxpayer.

23 (c) The department of transportation will pursue all financing
24 opportunities available in order to make the best use of these funds.

25 (d) Use of these funds must adhere to the legislative intent of
26 chapter 226, Laws of 2001.

27 (2) The treasurer shall never transfer any moneys from the steel
28 electric ferry replacement account for use by the department of
29 transportation for state highway purposes so long as there is due and
30 unpaid obligations for payment of principal, interest, sinking funds,
31 or reserves as required by any pledge of the steel electric ferry
32 replacement account.

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