
HOUSE BILL 3018

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Benson, Jarrett, Simpson, G., Campbell, Boldt, Rockefeller and Chase

Read first time 01/26/2004. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to veterans' 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
7 have placed themselves in harm's way so that we may live free. It is
8 the intent of the legislature to honor veterans who have served their
9 country honorably in times of both war and peace for the public service
10 they have provided to their country.

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

13 "Veterans' special license plates" means license plates issued
14 under section 3 of this act that display a symbol denoting veteran
15 status.

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

1 (1) After seeking input from veterans and veterans' groups from
2 around the state, and in cooperation with the Washington state patrol
3 and the department of veterans affairs, the department of licensing
4 shall create and design, and the department issue, veterans' special
5 license plates. The veterans' special license plate must display a
6 symbol denoting veteran status. The veterans' special license plate
7 may be used in lieu of regular or personalized license plates for motor
8 vehicles required to display one or two motor vehicle license plates,
9 excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and
10 conditions established by the department. The special plates will
11 commemorate the brave men and women who have served to protect the
12 freedom of our nation.

13 (2) The special veterans' license plate may be purchased by
14 veterans who served on active duty for at least one hundred eighty days
15 and were discharged under honorable conditions.

16 (3) Veterans requesting a veterans' special license plate must:

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

18 (b) Show proof of eligibility through:

19 (i) Providing a DD-214 or discharge papers; or

20 (ii) Attesting in a certified affidavit of their eligibility as
21 required under this section.

22 (4) A surviving spouse of a person who qualified under subsection
23 (2) of this section may continue the privilege of displaying the
24 veterans' special license plate on a vehicle registered in the name of
25 the spouse until the surviving spouse remarries, is no longer a
26 registered owner of the vehicle displaying the plates, or fails to pay
27 for the renewal of the veterans' special license plates.

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

30 In any case of a valid sale or transfer of the ownership of any
31 vehicle, the right to the certificates properly transferable therewith,
32 except as provided in RCW 46.16.280, and to the vehicle license plates
33 passes to the purchaser or transferee. It is unlawful for the holder
34 of such certificates, except as provided in RCW 46.16.280, or vehicle
35 license plates to fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the certificates
36 and deliver the vehicle license plates to the purchaser or transferee.
37 If the sale or transfer is of a vehicle licensed by the state or any

1 county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision
2 entitled to exemption as provided by law, or, if the vehicle is
3 licensed with personalized plates, amateur radio operator plates,
4 Congressional Medal of Honor plates, disabled person plates, disabled
5 veteran plates, prisoner of war plates, veterans' special license
6 plates, or other special license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301 as
7 it existed before amendment by section 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997,
8 the vehicle license plates therefor shall be retained and may be
9 displayed upon a vehicle obtained in replacement of the vehicle so sold
10 or transferred.

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

13 (1) The department may establish a fee for each type of special
14 license plates issued under RCW 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c), as
15 existing before amendment by section 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, (~~in~~
16 ~~an amount calculated~~) to offset the cost of production of the special
17 license plates and the administration of this program. (~~Until~~
18 ~~December 31, 1997, the fee shall not exceed thirty five dollars, but~~
19 ~~effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,~~
20 ~~1998, the department may adjust the fee to no more than forty~~
21 ~~dollars.~~) This fee is in addition to all other fees required to
22 register and license the vehicle for which the plates have been
23 requested. All such additional special license plate fees collected by
24 the department shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to
25 the motor vehicle fund.

26 (2) (~~Until December 31, 1997, in addition to all fees and taxes~~
27 ~~required to be paid upon application, registration, and renewal~~
28 ~~registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a collegiate license~~
29 ~~plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct~~
30 ~~an amount not to exceed two dollars of each fee collected under this~~
31 ~~subsection for administration and collection expenses incurred by it.~~
32 ~~The remaining proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be~~
33 ~~remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper~~
34 ~~identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the~~
35 ~~funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in~~
36 ~~RCW 28B.10.890.~~

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

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

22 ~~((5))~~ (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
23 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
24 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay an initial fee of
25 forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
26 twelve dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
27 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
28 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to
29 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments
30 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as
31 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
32 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
33 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
34 to the state general fund.

35 ~~((6) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on~~
36 ~~January 1, 1999,~~) (5) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be
37 paid upon renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a
38 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee of thirty

1 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
2 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
3 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
4 be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and
5 interest payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball
6 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
7 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
8 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
9 to the state general fund.

10 (6) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
11 January 1, 2005, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
12 upon application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
13 veterans' special license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
14 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve
15 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
16 and collection expenses. The remaining proceeds will be remitted to
17 the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying report.
18 The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle
19 account until the department determines that the state has been
20 reimbursed for the cost of implementing the veterans' special license
21 plates. Upon the department's determination, the treasurer shall
22 credit the proceeds to the veterans' license plate account established
23 under section 7 of this act.

24 (7) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on January
25 1, 2006, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
26 renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a veteran's
27 special license plate shall, upon application, pay a fee of thirty
28 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
29 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
30 and collection expenses. The remaining proceeds will be remitted to
31 the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying report.
32 The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle
33 account until the department determines that the state has been
34 reimbursed for the cost of implementing the veterans' special license
35 plates. Upon the department's determination, the treasurer shall
36 credit the proceeds to the veterans' license plate account established
37 under section 7 of this act.

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

3 Except as provided in RCW 46.16.305:

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

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

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

24 The veterans' license plate account is established in the custody
25 of the state treasurer. All receipts, except as provided in RCW
26 46.16.313 (6) and (7), from the veterans' special license plates must
27 be deposited into the account. The director of the department of
28 veterans affairs may authorize expenditures from the account. The
29 funds in the account are to be used solely to support veterans'
30 services outreach. The account is not subject to allotment procedures
31 under chapter 43.88 RCW, and no appropriation is required for
32 expenditures.

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