
SENATE BILL 5000

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Schoesler, Benson, McCaslin, Deccio, Mulliken and Johnson

Read first time 01/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to license plate replacement; and reenacting and
2 amending RCW 46.16.233.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.233 and 2003 c 361 s 501 and 2003 c 196 s 401
5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Except for those license plates issued under RCW 46.16.305(1)
7 before January 1, 1987, under RCW 46.16.305(3), and to commercial
8 vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds,
9 effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1,
10 2001, the appearance of the background of all vehicle license plates
11 may vary in color and design but must be legible and clearly
12 identifiable as a Washington state license plate, as designated by the
13 department. ~~((Additionally, to ensure maximum legibility and
14 reflectivity, the department shall periodically provide for the
15 replacement of license plates, except for commercial vehicles with a
16 gross weight in excess of twenty six thousand pounds. Frequency of
17 replacement shall be established in accordance with empirical studies
18 documenting the longevity of the reflective materials used to make
19 license plates.))~~

1 (2) Special license plate series approved by the special license
2 plate review board created under RCW 46.16.705 and enacted by the
3 legislature may display a symbol or artwork approved by the special
4 license plate review board.

5 ~~((3) By November 1, 2003, in providing for the periodic
6 replacement of license plates, the department shall offer to vehicle
7 owners the option of retaining their current license plate numbers.
8 The department shall charge a retention fee of twenty dollars if this
9 option is exercised. Revenue generated from the retention fee must be
10 deposited into the multimodal transportation account.))~~

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