
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5096

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Esser, Kastama, Swecker, Franklin, Kohl-Welles, Benson, Oke, Schmidt, Sheldon and Roach; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to the armed forces license plate collection;
2 amending RCW 73.04.115 and 41.04.007; reenacting and amending RCW
3 46.16.313 and 73.04.110; adding new sections to chapter 46.16 RCW; and
4 adding a new section to chapter 43.60A RCW.

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

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

8 (1) The legislature recognizes that the armed forces license plate
9 collection has been reviewed and approved by the special license plate
10 review board.

11 (2) The department shall issue a special license plate collection,
12 approved by the special license plate review board and the legislature,
13 recognizing the contribution of veterans, active duty military
14 personnel, reservists, and members of the Washington national guard.
15 The collection includes six separate designs, each containing a symbol
16 representing a different branch of the armed forces to include army,
17 navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and Washington national
18 guard.

1 (3) Armed forces special license plates may be used in lieu of
2 regular or personalized license plates for vehicles required to display
3 one and two vehicle license plates, excluding vehicles registered under
4 chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the
5 department.

6 (4) Upon request, the department must make available to the
7 purchaser, at no additional cost, a decal indicating the purchaser's
8 military status. The department must work with the department of
9 veterans affairs to establish a list of the decals to be made
10 available. The list of available decals must include, but is not
11 limited to, "veteran," "disabled veteran," "reservist," "retiree," or
12 "active duty." The department may specify where the decal may be
13 placed on the license plate. Decals are required to be made available
14 only for standard six-inch by twelve-inch license plates.

15 (5) Armed forces license plates and decals are available only to
16 veterans as defined in RCW 41.04.007, active duty military personnel,
17 reservists, members of the Washington national guard, and the spouses
18 of deceased veterans. Upon initial application, any purchaser
19 requesting an armed forces license plate and decal will be required to
20 show proof of eligibility by providing: A DD-214 or discharge papers
21 if a veteran; a military identification or retired military
22 identification card; or a declaration of fact attesting to the
23 purchaser's eligibility as required under this section.

24 (6) The department of veterans affairs must enter into an agreement
25 with the department to reimburse the department for the costs
26 associated with providing military status decals described in
27 subsection (4) of this section.

28 (7) Armed forces license plates are not available free of charge to
29 disabled veterans, former prisoners of war, or spouses of deceased
30 former prisoners of war under the privileges defined in RCW 73.04.110
31 and 73.04.115.

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

34 (1) "Armed forces license plate collection" means the collection of
35 six separate license plate designs issued under section 1 of this act.
36 Each license plate design displays a symbol representing one of the

1 five branches of the armed forces, and one representing the Washington
2 national guard.

3 (2) Armed forces license plates are not available free of charge to
4 disabled veterans, former prisoners of war, or spouses of deceased
5 former prisoners of war under the privileges defined in RCW 73.04.110
6 and 73.04.115.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.313 and 2004 c 221 s 3, 2004 c 48 s 3, and 2004
8 c 35 s 3 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

9 (1) The department may establish a fee of no more than forty
10 dollars for each type of special license plates issued under RCW
11 46.16.301(1) (a), (b), or (c), as existing before amendment by section
12 5, chapter 291, Laws of 1997, in an amount calculated to offset the
13 cost of production of the special license plates and the administration
14 of this program. This fee is in addition to all other fees required to
15 register and license the vehicle for which the plates have been
16 requested. All such additional special license plate fees collected by
17 the department shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to
18 the motor vehicle fund.

19 (2) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
20 application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
21 collegiate license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty dollars.
22 The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve dollars of
23 each fee collected under this subsection for administration and
24 collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall be
25 remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
26 identifying detailed report. The state treasurer shall credit the
27 funds to the appropriate collegiate license plate fund as provided in
28 RCW 28B.10.890.

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

1 (4) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
2 application and registration of a motor vehicle, the holder of a
3 special baseball stadium license plate shall pay an initial fee of
4 forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed
5 twelve dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
6 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
7 proceeds, minus the cost of plate production, shall be distributed to
8 a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments
9 on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium, as
10 defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
11 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
12 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
13 to the state general fund.

14 (5) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
15 renewal of a motor vehicle registration, the holder of a special
16 baseball stadium license plate shall pay a fee of thirty dollars. The
17 department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two dollars of each fee
18 collected under this subsection for administration and collection
19 expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall be distributed
20 to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and interest
21 payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball stadium,
22 as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
23 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
24 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
25 to the state general fund.

26 (6) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
27 January 1, 2005, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
28 upon application and registration of a vehicle, the holder of a
29 professional fire fighters and paramedics license plate shall pay an
30 initial fee of forty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount
31 not to exceed twelve dollars of each fee collected under this
32 subsection for administration and collection expenses incurred by it.
33 The remaining proceeds must be remitted to the custody of the state
34 treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report. Under RCW
35 46.16.755, the state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor
36 vehicle account until the department determines that the state has been
37 reimbursed for the cost of implementing the professional fire fighters
38 and paramedics license plates. Upon the determination by the

1 department that the state has been reimbursed, the treasurer shall
2 credit the proceeds to the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters
3 benevolent fund established under RCW 46.16.30902.

4 (7) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on January
5 1, 2006, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
6 renewal of a vehicle registration, the holder of a professional fire
7 fighters and paramedics license plate shall, upon application, pay a
8 fee of thirty dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to
9 exceed two dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for
10 administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining
11 proceeds must be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a
12 proper identifying detailed report. Under RCW 46.16.755, the state
13 treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle account until
14 the department determines that the state has been reimbursed for the
15 cost of implementing the professional fire fighters and paramedics
16 special license plate. Upon the determination by the department that
17 the state has been reimbursed, the treasurer shall credit the proceeds
18 to the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters benevolent fund
19 established under RCW 46.16.30902.

20 (8) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
21 November 1, 2004, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
22 upon application and registration of a vehicle, the holder of a
23 "Helping Kids Speak" license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
24 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve
25 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
26 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds must be
27 remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
28 identifying detailed report. Pursuant to RCW 46.16.755, the state
29 treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle account until
30 the department determines that the state has been reimbursed for the
31 cost of implementing the "Helping Kids Speak" special license plate.
32 Upon the determination by the department that the state has been
33 reimbursed, the treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the "Helping
34 Kids Speak" account established under RCW 46.16.30904.

35 (9) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on November
36 1, 2005, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
37 renewal of a vehicle registration, the holder of a "Helping Kids Speak"
38 license plate shall, upon application, pay a fee of thirty dollars.

1 The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two dollars of each
2 fee collected under this subsection for administration and collection
3 expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds must be remitted to
4 the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying detailed
5 report. Pursuant to RCW 46.16.755, the state treasurer shall credit
6 the proceeds to the motor vehicle account until the department
7 determines that the state has been reimbursed for the cost of
8 implementing the "Helping Kids Speak" special license plate. Upon the
9 determination by the department that the state has been reimbursed, the
10 treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the "Helping Kids Speak" account
11 established under RCW 46.16.30904.

12 (10) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on
13 January 1, 2005, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
14 upon application and registration of a vehicle, the holder of a "law
15 enforcement memorial" license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
16 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed twelve
17 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
18 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
19 be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
20 identifying detailed report. Pursuant to RCW 46.16.755, the state
21 treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle account until
22 the department determines that the state has been reimbursed for the
23 cost of implementing the law enforcement memorial special license
24 plate. Upon the determination by the department that the state has
25 been reimbursed, the treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the law
26 enforcement memorial account established under RCW 46.16.30906.

27 (11) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on January
28 1, 2006, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
29 renewal of a vehicle registration, the holder of a "law enforcement
30 memorial" license plate shall, upon application, pay a fee of thirty
31 dollars. The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two
32 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
33 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds shall
34 be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
35 identifying detailed report. Pursuant to RCW 46.16.755, the state
36 treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle account until
37 the department determines that the state has been reimbursed for the
38 cost of implementing the law enforcement memorial special license

1 plate. Upon the determination by the department that the state has
2 been reimbursed, the treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the law
3 enforcement memorial account established under RCW 46.16.30906.

4 (12)(a) Effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due
5 on or after January 1, 2006, in addition to all fees and taxes required
6 to be paid upon application and registration of a vehicle, the holder
7 of an armed forces license plate shall pay an initial fee of forty
8 dollars. The department shall retain an amount not to exceed twelve
9 dollars of each fee collected under this subsection for administration
10 and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds must be
11 remitted to the custody of the state treasurer with a proper
12 identifying report. Under RCW 46.16.755, the state treasurer shall
13 credit the proceeds to the motor vehicle account until the department
14 determines that the state has been reimbursed for the cost of
15 implementing the armed forces special license plate collection. Upon
16 determination by the department that the state has been reimbursed, the
17 treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the veterans stewardship account
18 established under section 4 of this act.

19 (b) Effective with annual renewals due or to become due on or after
20 January 1, 2007, in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid
21 upon renewal of a vehicle registration, the holder of an armed forces
22 license plate shall, upon application, pay a fee of thirty dollars.
23 The department shall deduct an amount not to exceed two dollars of each
24 fee collected under this subsection for administration and collection
25 expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds must be remitted to
26 the custody of the state treasurer with a proper identifying report.
27 Under RCW 46.16.755, the state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to
28 the motor vehicle account until the department determines that the
29 state has been reimbursed for the cost of implementing the armed forces
30 special license plate collection. Upon the determination by the
31 department that the state has been reimbursed, the treasurer shall
32 credit the proceeds to the veterans stewardship account established in
33 section 4 of this act.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 43.60A RCW
35 to read as follows:

36 (1) The veterans stewardship account is created in the custody of
37 the state treasurer. Disbursements of funds must be on the

1 authorization of the director or the director's designee, and only for
2 the purposes stated in subsection (4) of this section. In order to
3 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, funds are
4 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
5 required to permit expenditure of the funds.

6 (2) The department may request and accept nondedicated
7 contributions, grants, or gifts in cash or otherwise, including funds
8 generated by the issuance of the armed forces license plate collection
9 under chapter 46.16 RCW.

10 (3) All receipts, except as provided in RCW 46.16.313 (12) and
11 (13), from the sale of armed forces license plates must be deposited
12 into the veterans stewardship account.

13 (4) All moneys deposited into the veterans stewardship account must
14 be used by the department for activities that benefit veterans,
15 including but not limited to, providing programs and services for
16 homeless veterans; establishing memorials honoring veterans; and
17 maintaining a future state veterans' cemetery. Funds from the account
18 may not be used to supplant existing funds received by the department.

19 **Sec. 5.** RCW 73.04.115 and 1990 c 250 s 91 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) The department shall issue to the surviving spouse of any
22 deceased former prisoner of war described in RCW 73.04.110(2), one set
23 of regular or special license plates for use on a personal passenger
24 vehicle registered to that person.

25 (2) The plates shall be issued without the payment of any license
26 fees or excise tax on the vehicle. Whenever any person who has been
27 issued license plates under this section applies to the department for
28 transfer of the plates to a subsequently acquired motor vehicle, a
29 transfer fee of five dollars shall be charged in addition to all other
30 appropriate fees. If the surviving spouse remarries, he or she shall
31 return the special plates to the department within fifteen days and
32 apply for regular license plates.

33 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "special license plates"
34 does not include any plate from the armed forces license plate
35 collection established in section 1 of this act.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 73.04.110 and 2004 c 223 s 6 and 2004 c 125 s 1 are
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 (1) Any person who is a veteran as defined in RCW 41.04.007 who
4 submits to the department of licensing satisfactory proof of a service-
5 connected disability rating from the veterans administration or the
6 military service from which the veteran was discharged and:

7 ~~((1))~~ (a) Has lost the use of both hands or one foot;

8 ~~((2))~~ (b) Was captured and incarcerated for more than twenty-nine
9 days by an enemy of the United States during a period of war with the
10 United States;

11 ~~((3))~~ (c) Has become blind in both eyes as the result of military
12 service; or

13 ~~((4))~~ (d) Is rated by the veterans administration or the military
14 service from which the veteran was discharged and is receiving service-
15 connected compensation at the one hundred percent rate that is expected
16 to exist for more than one year;

17 is entitled to regular or special license plates issued by the
18 department of licensing. The special license plates shall bear
19 distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating that the motor
20 vehicle is owned by a disabled veteran or former prisoner of war. This
21 license shall be issued annually for one personal use vehicle without
22 payment of any license fees or excise tax thereon. Whenever any person
23 who has been issued license plates under the provisions of this section
24 applies to the department for transfer of the plates to a subsequently
25 acquired motor vehicle, a transfer fee of ten dollars shall be charged
26 in addition to all other appropriate fees. The department may
27 periodically verify the one hundred percent rate as provided in
28 subsection ~~((4))~~ (1)(d) of this section.

29 (2) Any person who has been issued free motor vehicle license
30 plates under this section prior to July 1, 1983, shall continue to be
31 eligible for the annual free license plates.

32 (3) For the purposes of this section, (a): "Blind" means the
33 definition of "blind" used by the state of Washington in determining
34 eligibility for financial assistance to the blind under Title 74 RCW;
35 and (b) "special license plates" does not include any plate from the
36 armed forces license plate collection established in section 1 of this
37 act.

38 Any unauthorized use of a special plate is a gross misdemeanor.

1 **Sec. 7.** RCW 41.04.007 and 2002 c 292 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 "Veteran" includes every person, who at the time he or she seeks
4 the benefits of section 1 of this act, RCW 72.36.030, 41.04.010,
5 73.04.090, 73.04.110, 73.08.010, 73.08.060, 73.08.070, or 73.08.080 has
6 received an honorable discharge or received a discharge for medical
7 reasons with an honorable record, where applicable, and who has served
8 in at least one of the following capacities:

9 (1) As a member in any branch of the armed forces of the United
10 States, including the national guard and armed forces reserves, and has
11 fulfilled his or her initial military service obligation;

12 (2) As a member of the women's air forces service pilots;

13 (3) As a member of the armed forces reserves, national guard, or
14 coast guard, and has been called into federal service by a presidential
15 select reserve call up for at least one hundred eighty cumulative days;

16 (4) As a civil service crewmember with service aboard a U.S. army
17 transport service or U.S. naval transportation service vessel in
18 oceangoing service from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946; or

19 (5) As a member of the Philippine armed forces/scouts during the
20 period of armed conflict from December 7, 1941, through August 15,
21 1945.

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