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HOUSE BILL 1470

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hope, O'Brien, Herrera, McCoy, Sells, Warnick, Parker, Smith, Kristiansen, Pearson, Dunshee, Lias, Rolfes, Orcutt, Appleton, Orwall, Ormsby, Finn, Conway, Roach, Kelley, McCune, Dammeier, and Bailey

Read first time 01/21/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to honoring recipients of the purple heart through  
2 exemptions from vehicle licensing fees; amending RCW 46.16.237,  
3 46.16.270, and 46.16.305; and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.237 and 2005 c 314 s 301 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) All vehicle license number plates issued after January 1, 1968,  
8 or such earlier date as the director may prescribe with respect to  
9 plates issued in any county, shall be treated with fully reflectorized  
10 materials designed to increase the visibility and legibility of such  
11 plates at night.

12 (2) In addition to all other fees prescribed by law, there shall be  
13 paid and collected for each vehicle license number plate treated with  
14 such materials, the sum of two dollars and for each set of two plates,  
15 the sum of four dollars. However, one plate is available only to those  
16 vehicles that by law require only one plate. Such fees shall be  
17 deposited in the motor vehicle fund. Purple heart special license  
18 plates authorized by RCW 46.16.305 are exempt from this fee.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.270 and 2005 c 314 s 302 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       The total replacement plate fee shall be deposited in the motor  
4 vehicle fund.

5       Upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of one or both of the  
6 vehicle license number plates issued for any vehicle where more than  
7 one plate was originally issued or where one or both have become so  
8 illegible or in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish, or  
9 upon the owner's option, the owner of the vehicle shall make  
10 application for new vehicle license number plates upon a form furnished  
11 by the director. The application shall be filed with the director or  
12 the director's authorized agent, accompanied by the certificate of  
13 license registration of the vehicle and a fee in the amount of ten  
14 dollars per plate, whereupon the director, or the director's authorized  
15 agent, shall issue new vehicle license number plates to the applicant.  
16 It shall be accompanied by a fee of two dollars for a new motorcycle  
17 license number plate. In the event the director has issued license  
18 period tabs or a windshield emblem instead of vehicle license number  
19 plates, and upon the loss, defacement, or destruction of the tabs or  
20 windshield emblem, application shall be made on a form provided by the  
21 director and in the same manner as above described, and shall be  
22 accompanied by a fee of one dollar for each pair of tabs or for each  
23 windshield emblem, whereupon the director shall issue to the applicant  
24 a duplicate pair of tabs, year tabs, and when necessary month tabs or  
25 a windshield emblem to replace those lost, defaced, or destroyed. For  
26 vehicles owned, rented, or leased by the state of Washington or by any  
27 county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision of  
28 the state of Washington or United States government, or owned or leased  
29 by the governing body of an Indian tribe as defined in RCW 46.16.020,  
30 a fee shall be charged for replacement of a vehicle license number  
31 plate only to the extent required by the provisions of RCW 46.16.020,  
32 46.16.237, and 46.01.140. For vehicles owned, rented, or leased by  
33 foreign countries or international bodies to which the United States  
34 government is a signatory by treaty, the payment of any fee for the  
35 replacement of a vehicle license number plate shall not be required.  
36 The reissuance of purple heart special license plates authorized by RCW  
37 46.16.305 are exempt from any fees required under this section.

1       **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16.305 and 2008 c 72 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       The department shall continue to issue the categories of special  
4 plates issued by the department under the sections repealed under  
5 section 12 (1) through (7), chapter 250, Laws of 1990. Special license  
6 plates issued under those repealed sections before January 1, 1991, are  
7 valid to the extent and under the conditions provided in those repealed  
8 sections. The following conditions, limitations, or requirements apply  
9 to certain special license plates issued after January 1, 1991:

10       (1) A horseless carriage plate and a plate or plates issued for  
11 collectors' vehicles more than thirty years old, upon payment of the  
12 initial fees required by law and the additional special license plate  
13 fee established by the department, are valid for the life of the  
14 vehicle for which application is approved by the department. When a  
15 single plate is issued, it shall be displayed on the rear of the  
16 vehicle.

17       (2) The department may issue special license plates denoting  
18 amateur radio operator status only to persons having a valid official  
19 radio operator license issued by the federal communications commission.

20       (3) The department shall issue one set of special license plates to  
21 each resident of this state who has been awarded the Congressional  
22 Medal of Honor for use on a passenger vehicle registered to that  
23 person. The department shall issue the plate without the payment of  
24 licensing fees and motor vehicle excise tax.

25       (4) The department may issue for use on only one motor vehicle  
26 owned by the qualified applicant special license plates denoting that  
27 the recipient of the plate is a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor  
28 on December 7, 1941, to persons meeting all of the following criteria:

29       (a) Is a resident of this state;

30       (b) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7,  
31 1941;

32       (c) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55  
33 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or  
34 offshore at a distance not to exceed three miles;

35       (d) Received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed  
36 Forces; and

37       (e) Is certified by a Washington state chapter of the Pearl Harbor

1 survivors association as satisfying the qualifications in (c) of this  
2 subsection.

3 The department may issue such plates to the surviving spouse of any  
4 deceased Pearl Harbor survivor who met the requirements of this  
5 subsection. If the surviving spouse remarries, he or she shall return  
6 the special plates to the department within fifteen days and apply for  
7 regular plates. The surviving spouse must be a resident of this state.

8 The department shall issue these plates upon payment by the  
9 applicant of all other license fees, but the department may not set or  
10 charge an additional fee for these special license plates.

11 (5) Effective with registrations that are due or become due on or  
12 after January 1, 2009, the department may issue for use on motor  
13 vehicles owned by the qualified applicant special license plates  
14 denoting that the recipient of the plate is a parent of a member of the  
15 United States armed forces who died while in service to his or her  
16 country or as a result of such service to persons meeting all of the  
17 following criteria:

18 (a) Is a resident of this state; and

19 (b) Is a mother or father of a member of the United States armed  
20 forces who died while in service to his or her country or who died as  
21 a result of such service, as certified by the Washington state  
22 department of veterans affairs.

23 The department shall issue these plates upon payment by the  
24 applicant of all other license fees, but the department may not set or  
25 charge an additional fee for these special plates.

26 (6) The department may issue a purple heart special license plate  
27 that may be used in lieu of regular or personalized license plates for  
28 vehicles required to display one or two vehicle license plates,  
29 excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW. The department  
30 may issue the special license plate, denoting that the applicant of the  
31 plate has been awarded the purple heart medal, if the applicant:

32 (a) Is a Washington resident;

33 (b) Was issued the purple heart medal by any branch of the United  
34 States armed forces, including the merchant marines and the women's air  
35 forces service pilots;

36 (c) Was wounded during one of this nation's wars or conflicts  
37 identified in RCW 41.04.005; and

38 (d) Owns, co-owns, leases, or coleases the vehicle.

1        The department shall issue the plates without the payment of  
2 licensing fees and the motor vehicle excise tax.

3        (7) The department shall replace, free of charge, special license  
4 plates issued under subsections (3) through (5) of this section if they  
5 are lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or destroyed. Such plates shall  
6 remain with the persons upon transfer or other disposition of the  
7 vehicle for which they were initially issued, and may be used on  
8 another vehicle registered to the recipient in accordance with the  
9 provisions of RCW 46.16.316(1).

10        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.** This act applies to vehicle registrations  
11 that are due or become due on or after January 1, 2010.

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