
HOUSE BILL 2106

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Frockt, Anderson, Lias, Hurst, Lytton, Billig, Morris, Eddy, Roberts, Moeller, Stanford, McCoy, and Zeiger

Read first time 04/22/11. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to a high occupancy vehicle lane exemption for
2 plug-in vehicles; adding a new section to chapter 46.61 RCW; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.61 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) For the purposes of this section, "plug-in vehicle" means a
8 four-wheeled motor vehicle that:

9 (a) Is made by a manufacturer;

10 (b) Is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and
11 highways;

12 (c) Has not been modified from original manufacturer
13 specifications;

14 (d) Does not have a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 8,500
15 pounds;

16 (e) Has a maximum speed capability of at least sixty-five miles per
17 hour;

18 (f) Is propelled to a significant extent by an electric motor that
19 draws electricity from a battery that:

1 (i) Has a capacity of not less than 3.4 kilowatt hours; and
2 (ii) Is capable of being recharged from an external source of
3 electricity; and
4 (g) Is acquired by the owner on or after October 1, 2010.

5 (2) Whenever the department of transportation places a traffic
6 control device on a highway designating a portion of the highway as a
7 high occupancy vehicle lane, the traffic control device must also
8 indicate that the high occupancy vehicle lane may be used at all times
9 by plug-in vehicles that have obtained a permit from the department of
10 transportation under this section, regardless of the number of
11 passengers in the vehicle.

12 (3)(a) The department of transportation shall consult with the
13 Washington state patrol and the local authorities to design a permit
14 using existing resources by July 1, 2012, to designate a vehicle as a
15 plug-in vehicle authorized to use a high occupancy vehicle lane.

16 (b) The secretary of transportation may limit the number of permits
17 issued to ensure that high occupancy vehicle lane operations are not
18 degraded to an unacceptable level.

19 (4) Beginning December 1, 2012, and by every December 1st
20 thereafter, the department of transportation shall report to the
21 legislature on the effect of the use of plug-in vehicle permits issued
22 under this section on the operation of high occupancy vehicle lanes in
23 Washington state.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act expires August 1, 2015.

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