
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1902

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Holy, Shea, Short, Clibborn, Schmick, Ormsby, Fagan, Crouse, Riccelli, Blake, and Kristiansen)

READ FIRST TIME 04/03/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of intermittent-use trailer license
2 plates; amending RCW 46.17.220, 46.16A.200, 46.18.277, and 46.19.060;
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.18 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 46.04 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.18 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department, county auditor
9 or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for an
10 intermittent-use trailer license plate for an intermittent-use trailer.
11 The applicant for the intermittent-use trailer license plate must:

12 (a) Purchase a registration for the intermittent-use trailer as
13 required under chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW; and

14 (b) Pay the special license plate fee established under RCW
15 46.17.220(1)(k).

16 (2) A person applying for an intermittent-use trailer license plate
17 may:

18 (a) Receive an intermittent-use trailer license plate assigned by
19 the department; or

1 (b) Provide an actual Washington state issued license plate
2 designated for general use in the year of the intermittent-use
3 trailer's manufacture.

4 (3) Intermittent-use trailer license plates:

5 (a) Are valid for the life of the intermittent-use trailer;

6 (b) Are not required to be renewed; and

7 (c) Must be displayed on the rear of the intermittent-use trailer.

8 (4) If the owner of an intermittent-use trailer obtains an
9 intermittent-use trailer license plate and then sells, transfers, or
10 otherwise conveys the intermittent-use trailer to another individual or
11 entity, the intermittent-use trailer license plate must be removed
12 prior to the sale, transfer, or conveyance and the new owner of the
13 intermittent-use trailer must obtain a new registration and appropriate
14 license plate.

15 (5) Any person who knowingly provides a false or facsimile license
16 plate under subsection (2)(b) of this section is subject to a traffic
17 infraction and fine in an amount equal to the monetary penalty for a
18 violation of RCW 46.16A.200(7)(b). Additionally, the person must pay
19 for the cost of an intermittent-use trailer license plate as listed
20 under RCW 46.17.220(1)(k), unless already paid.

21 (6) A person that is determined to be in violation of this section:

22 (a) Must surrender the intermittent-use trailer license plate to
23 the department;

24 (b) Is subject to a traffic infraction and fine in an amount equal
25 to the monetary penalty for a violation of RCW 46.16A.200(7)(b);

26 (c) Must apply for an original issue trailer license plate under
27 RCW 46.17.200 and pay the appropriate license fees under RCW 46.17.350;
28 and

29 (d) Shall be prohibited from applying for an intermittent-use
30 trailer license plate for any trailer in the future.

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

33 "Intermittent-use trailer" means a trailer in good working order
34 that is used only for participation in club activities, exhibitions,
35 tours, and parades, and for occasional pleasure use. For purposes of
36 this section, "occasional pleasure use" means use of an intermittent

1 trailer that is not general or daily, but seasonal or sporadic and not
2 more than once per week on average.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.220 and 2012 c 65 s 4 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
6 application for a vehicle registration in chapter 46.16A RCW, the
7 holder of a special license plate shall pay the appropriate special
8 license plate fee as listed in this section.

9	PLATE TYPE	INITIAL FEE	RENEWAL FEE	DISTRIBUTED UNDER
10	(a) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
11	(b) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
12	(c) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
13	(d) Baseball stadium	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	Subsection (2) of this
14				section
15	(e) Collector vehicle	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
16	(f) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430
17	(g) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
18	(h) Gonzaga University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
19	alumni association			
20	(i) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
21	(j) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
22	(k) <u>Intermittent-use trailer</u>	<u>\$ 187.50</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>RCW 46.68.030</u>
23	<u>(l) Keep kids safe</u>	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
24	((h)) <u>(m) Law enforcement</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	memorial			
26	((m)) <u>(n) Military affiliate</u>	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
27	radio system			
28	((n)) <u>(o) Music matters</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
29	((o)) <u>(p) Professional</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
30	firefighters and			
31	paramedics			
32	((p)) <u>(q) Ride share</u>	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
33	((q)) <u>(r) Share the road</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
34	((r)) <u>(s) Ski & ride</u>	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
35	Washington			

1	((s)) <u>(t)</u> Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
2	((t)) <u>(u)</u> State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
3	((u)) <u>(v)</u> Volunteer	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
4	firefighters			
5	((v)) <u>(w)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	lighthouses			
7	((w)) <u>(x)</u> Washington state	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
8	parks			
9	((x)) <u>(y)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
10	national parks			
11	((y)) <u>(z)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
12	wildlife collection			
13	((z)) <u>(aa)</u> We love our pets	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
14	((aa)) <u>(bb)</u> Wild on	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
15	Washington			

16 (2) After deducting administration and collection expenses for the
17 sale of baseball stadium license plates, the remaining proceeds must be
18 distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the principal and
19 interest payments on bonds issued by the county to construct a baseball
20 stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including reasonably necessary
21 preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being collected under RCW
22 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer shall credit the funds
23 to the state general fund.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16A.200 and 2011 c 171 s 46 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) **Design.** All license plates may be obtained by the director
27 from the metal working plant of a state correctional facility or from
28 any source in accordance with existing state of Washington purchasing
29 procedures. License plates:

30 (a) May vary in background, color, and design;

31 (b) Must be legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state
32 license plate;

33 (c) Must designate the name of the state of Washington without
34 abbreviation;

35 (d) Must be treated with fully reflectorized materials designed to
36 increase visibility and legibility at night;

1 (e) Must be of a size and color and show the registration period as
2 determined by the director; and

3 (f) Before July 1, 2010, may display a symbol or artwork approved
4 by the former special license plate review board and the legislature.
5 Beginning July 1, 2010, special license plate series approved by the
6 department and enacted into law by the legislature may display a symbol
7 or artwork approved by the department.

8 (2) **Exceptions to reflectorized materials.** License plates issued
9 before January 1, 1968, are not required to be treated with
10 reflectorized materials.

11 (3) **Dealer license plates.** License plates issued to a dealer must
12 contain an indication that the license plates have been issued to a
13 vehicle dealer.

14 (4)(a) **Furnished.** The director shall furnish to all persons making
15 satisfactory application for a vehicle registration:

16 (i) Two identical license plates each containing the license plate
17 number; or

18 (ii) One license plate if the vehicle is a trailer, semitrailer,
19 intermittent-use trailer, camper, moped, collector vehicle, horseless
20 carriage, or motorcycle.

21 (b) The director may adopt types of license plates to be used as
22 long as the license plates are legible.

23 (5)(a) **Display.** License plates must be:

24 (i) Attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle if
25 two license plates have been issued;

26 (ii) Attached to the rear of the vehicle if one license plate has
27 been issued;

28 (iii) Kept clean and be able to be plainly seen and read at all
29 times; and

30 (iv) Attached in a horizontal position at a distance of not more
31 than four feet from the ground.

32 (b) The Washington state patrol may grant exceptions to this
33 subsection if the body construction of the vehicle makes compliance
34 with this section impossible.

35 (6) **Change of license classification.** A person who has altered a
36 vehicle that makes the current license plate or plates invalid for the
37 vehicle's use shall:

1 (a) Surrender the current license plate or plates to the
2 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the
3 director;

4 (b) Apply for a new license plate or plates; and

5 (c) Pay a change of classification fee required under RCW
6 46.17.310.

7 (7) **Unlawful acts.** It is unlawful to:

8 (a) Display a license plate or plates on the front or rear of any
9 vehicle that were not issued by the director for the vehicle;

10 (b) Display a license plate or plates on any vehicle that have been
11 changed, altered, or disfigured, or have become illegible;

12 (c) Use holders, frames, or other materials that change, alter, or
13 make a license plate or plates illegible. License plate frames may be
14 used on license plates only if the frames do not obscure license tabs
15 or identifying letters or numbers on the plates and the license plates
16 can be plainly seen and read at all times;

17 (d) Operate a vehicle unless a valid license plate or plates are
18 attached as required under this section;

19 (e) Transfer a license plate or plates issued under this chapter
20 between two or more vehicles without first making application to
21 transfer the license plates. A violation of this subsection (7)(e) is
22 a traffic infraction subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred
23 dollars. Any law enforcement agency that determines that a license
24 plate or plates have been transferred between two or more vehicles
25 shall confiscate the license plate or plates and return them to the
26 department for nullification along with full details of the reasons for
27 confiscation. Each vehicle identified in the transfer will be issued
28 a new license plate or plates upon application by the owner or owners
29 and the payment of full fees and taxes; or

30 (f) Fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the registration
31 certificate and deliver the license plate or plates to the purchaser or
32 transferee of the vehicle, except as authorized under this section.

33 (8) **Transfer.** (a) Standard issue license plates follow the vehicle
34 when ownership of the vehicle changes unless the registered owner
35 wishes to retain the license plates and transfer them to a replacement
36 vehicle of the same use. A registered owner wishing to keep standard
37 issue license plates shall pay the license plate transfer fee required
38 under RCW 46.17.200(1)(c) when applying for license plate transfer.

1 (b) Special license plates and personalized license plates may be
2 treated in the same manner as described in (a) of this subsection
3 unless otherwise limited by law.

4 (c) License plates issued to the state or any county, city, town,
5 school district, or other political subdivision entitled to exemption
6 as provided by law may be treated in the same manner as described in
7 (a) of this subsection.

8 (9) **Replacement.** (a) An owner or the owner's authorized
9 representative shall apply for a replacement license plate or plates if
10 the current license plate or plates assigned to the vehicle have been
11 lost, defaced, or destroyed, or if one or both plates have become so
12 illegible or are in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish.
13 An owner or the owner's authorized representative may apply for a
14 replacement license plate or plates at any time the owner chooses.

15 (b) The application for a replacement license plate or plates must:

16 (i) Be on a form furnished or approved by the director; and

17 (ii) Be accompanied by the fee required under RCW 46.17.200(1)(a).

18 (c) The department shall not require the payment of any fee to
19 replace a license plate or plates for vehicles owned, rented, or leased
20 by foreign countries or international bodies to which the United States
21 government is a signatory by treaty.

22 (10) **Periodic replacement.** License plates must be replaced
23 periodically to ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity. The
24 department shall:

25 (a) Use empirical studies documenting the longevity of the
26 reflective materials used to make license plates;

27 (b) Determine how frequently license plates must be replaced; and

28 (c) Offer to owners the option of retaining the current license
29 plate number when obtaining replacement license plates for the fee
30 required in RCW 46.17.200(1)(b).

31 (11) **Periodic replacement--Exceptions.** The following license
32 plates are not required to be periodically replaced as required in
33 subsection (10) of this section:

34 (a) Horseless carriage license plates issued under RCW 46.18.255
35 before January 1, 1987;

36 (b) Congressional Medal of Honor license plates issued under RCW
37 46.18.230;

1 (c) License plates for commercial motor vehicles with a gross
2 weight greater than twenty-six thousand pounds.

3 (12) **Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this
4 section.

5 (13) **Tabs or emblems.** The director may issue tabs or emblems to be
6 attached to license plates or elsewhere on the vehicle to signify
7 initial registration and renewals. Renewals become effective when tabs
8 or emblems have been issued and properly displayed on license plates.

9 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.18.277 and 2010 c 161 s 627 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) A registered owner may purchase personalized license plates
12 with a special license plate background for any vehicle required to
13 display one or two vehicle license plates, excluding:

- 14 (a) Amateur radio license plates;
- 15 (b) Collector vehicle license plates;
- 16 (c) Disabled American veteran license plates;
- 17 (d) Former prisoner of war license plates;
- 18 (e) Horseless carriage license plates;
- 19 (f) Intermittent-use trailer license plates;
- 20 (g) Congressional Medal of Honor license plates;
- 21 (~~(g)~~) (h) Military affiliate radio system license plates;
- 22 (~~(h)~~) (i) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates;
- 23 (~~(i)~~) (j) Restored license plates; and
- 24 (~~(j)~~) (k) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW.

25 (2) Personalized special license plates issued under this section
26 must:

27 (a) Consist of numbers or letters or any combination of numbers or
28 letters;

29 (b) Not exceed seven characters; and

30 (c) Not contain less than one character.

31 (3) The department may not issue or may refuse to issue
32 personalized special license plates that:

33 (a) Duplicate or conflict with existing or projected vehicle
34 license plate series or other numbering systems for records kept by the
35 department; or

36 (b) May carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or
37 which would be misleading.

1 (4) Personalized special license plates must be issued only to the
2 registered owner of the vehicle on which they are to be displayed. The
3 registered owner must:

4 (a) Pay both the personalized license plate fee required under RCW
5 46.17.210 and the special license plate fee required under the
6 applicable special license plate provision, in addition to any other
7 fee or taxes due. License plate fees must be distributed as provided
8 in chapter 46.68 RCW;

9 (b) Renew personalized special license plates annually, regardless
10 of whether or not the vehicle on which the personalized special license
11 plates are displayed will be driven on the public highways;

12 (c) Surrender personalized special license plates that have not
13 been renewed to the department. The failure to surrender expired
14 personalized special license plates is a traffic infraction; and

15 (d) Immediately report to the department when personalized special
16 license plates have been transferred to another vehicle or another
17 owner.

18 (5) The department may establish rules as necessary to carry out
19 this section including, but not limited to, identifying the maximum
20 number of positions on personalized special license plates for
21 motorcycles.

22 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.19.060 and 2012 c 71 s 1 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (1) An additional fee may not be charged for special license plates
25 for persons with disabilities except for any other fees and taxes
26 required to be paid upon registration of a motor vehicle.

27 (2) A registered owner who qualifies for special parking privileges
28 as described in RCW 46.19.010 may apply to the department for special
29 license plates for persons with disabilities or special license plates
30 with a special year tab for persons with disabilities. Special license
31 plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities are
32 available on any special license plate created under chapter 46.18 RCW,
33 except ((the)) collector vehicle license plates, horseless carriage
34 license plates, intermittent-use trailer license plates, and ride share
35 ((special)) license plates.

36 (3) A registered owner who chooses to purchase special license

1 plates as described in subsection (2) of this section shall pay the
2 applicable special license plate fee, in addition to any other fees or
3 taxes required for registering a motor vehicle.

4 (4) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or special
5 license plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities
6 must be renewed in the same manner and at the time required for the
7 renewal of standard motor vehicle license plates under chapter 46.16A
8 RCW.

9 (5) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or special
10 license plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities
11 may be transferred from one motor vehicle to another motor vehicle
12 owned by the person with the parking privilege upon application to the
13 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the
14 director.

15 (6) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or special
16 license plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities
17 must be removed from the motor vehicle when the person with
18 disabilities transfers or assigns his or her interest in the motor
19 vehicle.

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