
Transportation Committee

HB 2017

Brief Description: Creating Washington farmers and ranchers special license plates.

Sponsors: Representatives Klippert, Cody, Blake, Dent, Hayes, Fagan and Kretz.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates the Washington Farmers and Ranchers special license plate.
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Hearing Date: 2/25/15

Staff: Paul Ingiosi (786-7114).

Background:

The Department of Licensing (DOL) issues special vehicle license plates that may be used in lieu of standard plates. A governmental or nonprofit sponsoring organization seeking to sponsor a special plate either submits an application to the DOL or requests legislation to create the special plate. The sponsoring organization seeking to sponsor the special plate is required to reimburse the DOL for the costs of establishing the new special plate. There is a moratorium on the issuance of new special plates by the DOL until July 1, 2015.

For special license plates that are enacted by the Legislature, a sponsoring organization must, within 30 days of enactment, submit prepayment of all start-up costs to the DOL. If the sponsoring organization is not able to meet the prepayment requirement, revenues generated from the sale of the special license plate are first used to pay off any costs associated with establishing the new plate. The sponsoring organization must also provide a proposed license plate design to the DOL. Additionally, the sponsoring organization must submit an annual financial report to the DOL detailing actual revenues generated from the sale of the special license plate. The reports are reviewed, approved, and presented to the Joint Transportation Committee.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The DOL collects special license plate fees and, for administrative expenses, deducts an amount not to exceed \$12 for new plate issuance and \$2 for renewal. After these expenses are paid, the State Treasurer deposits the proceeds into the Motor Vehicle Account until the DOL determines the start-up costs for a special license plate are paid.

Summary of Bill:

The bill creates the Washington Farmers and Ranchers special license plate, which recognizes Washington farmers and ranchers. In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration, a fee of \$40 would be charged for a Washington Farmers and Ranchers special license plate and a \$30 fee is charged for renewal of the plate.

After the costs associated with establishing the special license plates are recovered, funds would go to the Washington FFA Foundation for educational programs in the state.

The bill exempts the Washington Farmers and Ranchers special license plate from the moratorium on new special license plates.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2017.