

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6200

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As Passed Senate, February 15, 2016

**Title:** An act relating to providing funding for steelhead conservation through the issuance of Washington's fish license plate collection.

**Brief Description:** Providing funding for steelhead conservation through the issuance of Washington's fish license plate collection.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hewitt, Rolfes and Benton; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/08/16, 2/08/16 [DP].

Passed Senate: 2/15/16, 47-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators King, Chair; Fain, Vice Chair, Budget; Hobbs, Ranking Minority Member; Liias, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Carlyle, Cleveland, Ericksen, Miloscia, Rivers, Sheldon and Takko.

**Staff:** Kellee Keegan (786-7429)

**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.

For special license plates that are enacted by the Legislature, a sponsoring organization must submit prepayment of all start-up costs to the DOL within 30 days of enactment. 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

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special license plate. The reports are reviewed, approved, and presented to the Joint Transportation Committee.

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:** Washington's fish license plate collection specialty plates are created. In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration, a fee of \$40 must be charged for a Washington's fish license plate and \$30 for renewal of the special license plate.

Washington's fish license plate collection must be a collection of designs. Each license plate design must display a distinct symbol or artwork, to include steelhead, recognizing the fish of Washington.

After the costs associated with establishing the special license plates are recovered, proceeds from the sale of these special license plates must go to support the Department of Fish and Wildlife's steelhead species management activities including, but not limited to, activities supporting conservation, recovery, and research to promote healthy fishable steelhead.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2017.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This specialty plate has gone through the process with the Department of Licensing. The Department of Licensing is appreciated in their help with making this possible.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Mike Hewitt, sponsor; Kelly Cunningham, WDFW.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.