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HOUSE BILL 1227

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells and Moscoso

Read first time 01/15/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to working Washington special license plates;  
2 amending RCW 46.68.420; reenacting and amending RCW 46.18.200,  
3 46.17.220, and 46.18.060; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW;  
4 and providing an effective date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.18.200 and 2014 c 77 s 1 and 2014 c 6 s 1 are  
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) Special license plate series reviewed and approved by the  
9 department:

10 (a) May be issued in lieu of standard issue or personalized  
11 license plates for vehicles required to display one and two license  
12 plates unless otherwise specified;

13 (b) Must be issued under terms and conditions established by the  
14 department;

15 (c) Must not be issued for vehicles registered under chapter  
16 46.87 RCW; and

17 (d) Must display a symbol or artwork approved by the department.

18 (2) The department approves and shall issue the following special  
19 license plates:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37	LICENSE PLATE	DESCRIPTION, SYMBOL, OR ARTWORK
	4-H	Displays the "4-H" logo.
	Armed forces collection	Recognizes the contribution of veterans, active duty military personnel, reservists, and members of the national guard, and includes six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and national guard.
	Breast cancer awareness	Displays a pink ribbon symbolizing breast cancer awareness.
	Endangered wildlife	Displays a symbol or artwork symbolizing endangered wildlife in Washington state.
	Gonzaga University alumni association	Recognizes the Gonzaga University alumni association.
	Helping kids speak	Recognizes an organization that supports programs that provide no-cost speech pathology programs to children.
	Keep kids safe	Recognizes efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.
	Law enforcement memorial	Honors law enforcement officers in Washington killed in the line of duty.
	Music matters	Displays the "Music Matters" logo.
	Professional firefighters and paramedics	Recognizes professional firefighters and paramedics who are members of the Washington state council of firefighters.
	Seattle Seahawks	Displays the "Seattle Seahawks" logo.
	Seattle Sounders FC	Displays the "Seattle Sounders FC" logo.
	Seattle University	Recognizes Seattle University.

1	Share the road	Recognizes an organization that
2		promotes bicycle safety and
3		awareness education.
4	Ski & ride Washington	Recognizes the Washington
5		snowsports industry.
6	State flower	Recognizes the Washington state
7		flower.
8	Volunteer firefighters	Recognizes volunteer firefighters.
9	Washington lighthouses	Recognizes an organization that
10		supports selected Washington state
11		lighthouses and provides
12		environmental education programs.
13	Washington state parks	Recognizes Washington state parks
14		as premier destinations of uncommon
15		quality that preserve significant
16		natural, cultural, historical, and
17		recreational resources.
18	Washington's national park fund	Builds awareness of Washington's
19		national parks and supports priority
20		park programs and projects in
21		Washington's national parks, such as
22		enhancing visitor experience,
23		promoting volunteerism, engaging
24		communities, and providing
25		educational opportunities related to
26		Washington's national parks.
27	Washington's wildlife collection	Recognizes Washington's wildlife.
28	We love our pets	Recognizes an organization that
29		assists local member agencies of the
30		federation of animal welfare and
31		control agencies to promote and
32		perform spay/neuter surgery on
33		Washington state pets to reduce pet
34		overpopulation.
35	Wild on Washington	Symbolizes wildlife viewing in
36		Washington state.

(3) Applicants for initial and renewal professional firefighters and paramedics special license plates must show proof eligibility by providing a certificate of current membership from the Washington state council of firefighters.

(4) Applicants for initial volunteer firefighters special license plates must (a) have been a volunteer firefighter for at least ten years or be a volunteer firefighter for one or more years and (b) have documentation of service from the district of the appropriate fire service. If the volunteer firefighter leaves firefighting service before ten years of service have been completed, the volunteer firefighter shall surrender the license plates to the department on the registration renewal date. If the volunteer firefighter stays in service for at least ten years and then leaves, the license plate may be retained by the former volunteer firefighter and as long as the license plate is retained for use the person will continue to pay the future registration renewals. A qualifying volunteer firefighter may have no more than one set of license plates per vehicle, and a maximum of two sets per applicant, for their personal vehicles. If the volunteer firefighter is convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or a felony, the license plates must be surrendered upon conviction.

**Sec. 2.** RCW 46.17.220 and 2014 c 77 s 2 and 2014 c 6 s 2 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

PLATE TYPE	INITIAL FEE	RENEWAL FEE	DISTRIBUTED UNDER
(a) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(b) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
(c) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425

1	(d) Baseball stadium	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	Subsection (2) of this
2				section
3	(e) Breast cancer awareness	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
4	(f) Collector vehicle	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
5	(g) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430
6	(h) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
7	(i) Gonzaga University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
8	alumni association			
9	(j) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
10	(k) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
11	(l) Keep kids safe	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
12	(m) Law enforcement	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
13	memorial			
14	(n) Military affiliate radio	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
15	system			
16	(o) Music matters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
17	(p) Professional firefighters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
18	and paramedics			
19	(q) Ride share	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
20	(r) Seattle Seahawks	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
21	(s) Seattle Sounders FC	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
22	(t) Seattle University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
23	(u) Share the road	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
24	(v) Ski & ride Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	(w) Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
26	(x) State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
27	(y) Volunteer firefighters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
28	(z) Washington lighthouses	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
29	(aa) Washington state	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
30	parks			
31	(bb) Washington's national	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
32	parks			
33	(cc) Washington's wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
34	collection			

1	(dd) We love our pets	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	(ee) Wild on Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
3	(ff) Working Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420

4 (2) After deducting administration and collection expenses for  
5 the sale of baseball stadium license plates, the remaining proceeds  
6 must be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the  
7 principal and interest payments on bonds issued by the county to  
8 construct a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including  
9 reasonably necessary preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being  
10 collected under RCW 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer  
11 shall credit the funds to the state general fund.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.68.420 and 2014 c 6 s 3 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 (1) The department shall:

15 (a) Collect special license plate fees established under RCW  
16 46.17.220;

17 (b) Deduct an amount not to exceed twelve dollars for initial  
18 issue and two dollars for renewal issue for administration and  
19 collection expenses incurred by it; and

20 (c) Remit the remaining proceeds to the custody of the state  
21 treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report.

22 (2) The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor  
23 vehicle account until the department determines that the state has  
24 been reimbursed for the cost of implementing the special license  
25 plate. Upon determination by the department that the state has been  
26 reimbursed, the state treasurer shall credit the remaining special  
27 license plate fee amounts for each special license plate to the  
28 following appropriate account as created in this section in the  
29 custody of the state treasurer:

30	ACCOUNT	CONDITIONS FOR USE OF
31		FUNDS
32	4-H programs	Support Washington 4-H
33		programs
34	Gonzaga University alumni	Scholarship funds to needy and
35	association	qualified students attending or
36		planning to attend Gonzaga
37		University

1	Helping kids speak	Provide free diagnostic and
2		therapeutic services to families of
3		children who suffer from a delay
4		in language or speech
5		development
6	Law enforcement memorial	Provide support and assistance to
7		survivors and families of law
8		enforcement officers in
9		Washington killed in the line of
10		duty and to organize, finance,
11		fund, construct, utilize, and
12		maintain a memorial on the state
13		capitol grounds to honor those
14		fallen officers
15	Lighthouse environmental	Support selected Washington state
16	programs	lighthouses that are accessible to
17		the public and staffed by
18		volunteers; provide environmental
19		education programs; provide
20		grants for other Washington
21		lighthouses to assist in funding
22		infrastructure preservation and
23		restoration; encourage and support
24		interpretive programs by
25		lighthouse docents
26	Music matters awareness	Promote music education in
27		schools throughout Washington
28	Seattle Seahawks	Provide funds to InvestED to
29		encourage secondary students
30		who have economic needs to stay
31		in school, return to school, or get
32		involved within their learning
33		community

1	Seattle Sounders FC	Provide funds to Washington state
2		mentors and the association of
3		Washington generals created in
4		RCW 43.15.030 in the following
5		manner: (a) Seventy percent and
6		the remaining proceeds, if any, to
7		Washington state mentors, to
8		increase the number of mentors in
9		the state by offering mentoring
10		grants throughout Washington
11		state that foster positive youth
12		development and academic
13		success, with up to twenty percent
14		of these proceeds authorized for
15		program administration costs; and
16		(b) up to thirty percent, not to
17		exceed forty-thousand dollars
18		annually as adjusted for inflation
19		by the office of financial
20		management, to the association of
21		Washington generals, to develop
22		Washington state educational,
23		veterans, international relations,
24		and civics projects and to
25		recognize the outstanding public
26		service of individuals or groups in
27		the state of Washington
28	Seattle University	Fund scholarships for students
29		attending or planning to attend
30		Seattle University
31	Share the road	Promote bicycle safety and
32		awareness education in
33		communities throughout
34		Washington



1	Ski & ride Washington	Promote winter snowsports, such
2		as skiing and snowboarding, and
3		related programs, such as ski and
4		ride safety programs,
5		underprivileged youth ski and ride
6		programs, and active, healthy
7		lifestyle programs
8	State flower	Support Meerkerk Rhododendron
9		Gardens and provide for grants to
10		other qualified nonprofit
11		organizations' efforts to preserve
12		rhododendrons
13	Volunteer firefighters	Receive and disseminate funds for
14		purposes on behalf of volunteer
15		firefighters, their families, and
16		others deemed in need
17	Washington state council of	Receive and disseminate funds for
18	firefighters benevolent fund	charitable purposes on behalf of
19		members of the Washington state
20		council of firefighters, their
21		families, and others deemed in
22		need
23	Washington's national park fund	Build awareness of Washington's
24		national parks and support priority
25		park programs and projects in
26		Washington's national parks, such
27		as enhancing visitor experience,
28		promoting volunteerism, engaging
29		communities, and providing
30		educational opportunities related
31		to Washington's national parks
32	We love our pets	Support and enable the
33		Washington federation of animal
34		welfare and control agencies to
35		promote and perform spay/neuter
36		surgery of Washington state pets
37		in order to reduce pet population

(3) Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the accounts described in subsection (2) of this section. The accounts are subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

(4) Funds in the special license plate accounts described in subsection (2) of this section must be disbursed subject to the conditions described in subsection (2) of this section and under contract between the department and qualified nonprofit organizations that provide the services described in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a "qualified nonprofit organization" means a not-for-profit corporation operating in Washington that has received a determination of tax exempt status under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3). The qualified nonprofit organization must meet all the requirements under RCW 46.18.100(1).

**Sec. 4.** RCW 46.18.060 and 2014 c 77 s 5 and 2014 c 6 s 4 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) The department must review and either approve or reject special license plate applications submitted by sponsoring organizations.

(2) Duties of the department include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Review and approve the annual financial reports submitted by sponsoring organizations with active special license plate series and present those annual financial reports to the joint transportation committee;

(b) Report annually to the joint transportation committee on the special license plate applications that were considered by the department;

(c) Issue approval and rejection notification letters to sponsoring organizations, the executive committee of the joint transportation committee, and the legislative sponsors identified in

1 each application. The letters must be issued within seven days of  
2 making a determination on the status of an application; and

3 (d) Review annually the number of plates sold for each special  
4 license plate series created after January 1, 2003. The department  
5 may submit a recommendation to discontinue a special plate series to  
6 the executive committee of the joint transportation committee.

7 (3) In order to assess the effects and impact of the  
8 proliferation of special license plates, the legislature declares a  
9 temporary moratorium on the issuance of any additional plates until  
10 July 1, 2015. During this period of time, the department is  
11 prohibited from accepting, reviewing, processing, or approving any  
12 applications. Additionally, a special license plate may not be  
13 enacted by the legislature during the moratorium, unless the proposed  
14 license plate has been approved by the former special license plate  
15 review board before February 15, 2005.

16 (4) The limitations under subsection (3) of this section do not  
17 apply to the following special license plates:

18 (a) 4-H license plates created under RCW 46.18.200;

19 (b) Breast cancer awareness license plates created under RCW  
20 46.18.200;

21 (c) Gold star license plates created under RCW 46.18.245;

22 (d) Music Matters license plates created under RCW 46.18.200;

23 (e) Seattle Seahawks license plates created under RCW 46.18.200;

24 (f) Seattle Sounders FC license plates created under RCW  
25 46.18.200;

26 (g) Seattle University license plates created under RCW  
27 46.18.200;

28 (h) State flower license plates created under RCW 46.18.200;

29 (i) Volunteer firefighter license plates created under RCW  
30 46.18.200;

31 (j) Working Washington license plates created under RCW  
32 46.18.200.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04  
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 "Working Washington license plates" means special license plates  
36 issued under RCW 46.18.200 that display "working Washington" and  
37 provide a space for a decal for organizations and businesses approved  
38 by the department by rule.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    This act takes effect January 1, 2016.

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