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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2522**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Pike, Blake, Kraft, Peterson, Orcutt, Shea, Vick, Caldier, Manweller, Reeves, Doglio, Riccelli, Smith, Muri, McBride, Wylie, Hargrove, Eslick, Stanford, Tharinger, Kilduff, and Young)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/18.

1       AN ACT Relating to modifying qualifications for disabled veterans  
2 to receive fee exempt license plates; and amending RCW 46.18.235.

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

4       **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.18.235 and 2011 c 332 s 6 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6       (1) A registered owner who is a veteran, as defined in RCW  
7 41.04.007, may apply to the department for disabled American veteran  
8 or former prisoner of war license plates, for use on one personal use  
9 motor vehicle required to display one or two license plates,  
10 excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and  
11 conditions established by the department. The veteran must be  
12 recorded as the registered owner of the motor vehicle on which the  
13 disabled American veteran or former prisoner of war license plate or  
14 plates will be displayed and:

15       (a) Provide certification from the veterans administration or the  
16 military service from which the veteran was discharged that the  
17 veteran has a service-connected disability rating;

18       (b) Have lost the use of both hands or one foot;

19       (c) Have been captured and incarcerated by an enemy of the United  
20 States during a period of war with the United States and have  
21 received a prisoner of war medal;

1 (d) Have become blind in both eyes as the result of military  
2 service; or

3 (e) Be rated by the veterans administration or the military  
4 service from which the veteran was discharged and be receiving  
5 service-connected compensation at the (~~one hundred~~) seventy percent  
6 rate or more that is expected to exist for more than one year.

7 (2) The special license plates under this section must:

8 (a) Display distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating  
9 that the registered owner is a disabled American veteran or former  
10 prisoner of war; and

11 (b) Be issued for one personal use vehicle without the payment of  
12 any vehicle license fees, license plate fees, or excise taxes.

13 (3) A registered owner who is a veteran, as defined in RCW  
14 41.04.007, may, in lieu of applying for the special license plates  
15 under this section, apply for regular issue or any qualifying special  
16 license plate and receive the full benefit of the vehicle license fee  
17 and excise tax exemption provided in subsection (2)(b) of this  
18 section.

19 (4) The department may periodically verify the (~~one hundred~~  
20 ~~percent~~) rate as described in subsection (1)(e) of this section.

21 (5) A veteran who has been issued disabled American veteran or  
22 former prisoner of war license plates under this section before July  
23 1, 1983, continues to be eligible for the vehicle license fee and  
24 excise tax exemption described in subsection (2)(b) of this section.

25 (6) A disabled American veteran and former prisoner of war  
26 license plate or plates may be transferred from one motor vehicle to  
27 another motor vehicle owned by the veteran upon application to the  
28 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by  
29 the director.

30 (7) For the purposes of this section:

31 (a) "Blind" means the definition of "blind" used by the state of  
32 Washington in determining eligibility for financial assistance to the  
33 blind under Title 74 RCW; and

34 (b) "Special license plates" does not include any plate from the  
35 armed forces license plate collection established in RCW  
36 46.18.200(~~(+3)~~) (2).

37 (8) Any unauthorized use of a special license plate under this  
38 section is a gross misdemeanor.

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