

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 2187

As of October 23, 2020

Title: An act relating to creating Washington state women veterans special license plates.

Brief Description: Creating Washington state women veterans special license plates.

Sponsors: House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Kilduff, Mosbrucker, Morgan, Leavitt, Orwall, Callan, Dufault, Graham, Kraft, Appleton, Paul, Lovick, Chapman, Ryu, Van Werven, Barkis, Slatter, Bergquist, Griffey, Sells, Doglio and Riccelli).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/19/20, 98-0.

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/25/20.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates the Washington State Women Veterans special license plate.
- Establishes original and renewal fees for the special license plate.
- Provides funds to create and implement programs to benefit women veterans.
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Shani Bauer (786-7468)

Background: Special License Plates.

The Department of Licensing (DOL) issues special vehicle license plates that may be used in lieu

of standard plates. An organization seeking to sponsor a special license plate must be a nonprofit

organization, a professional sports franchise working in conjunction with a nonprofit organization, or a government agency. The sponsoring organization may choose one of two ways of creating a special license plate.

Application Process and Legislation. In this method, a sponsoring organization submits an application to the DOL prior to pursuing legislation. The application packet must include

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the design of the special license plate, proof of 3,500 signatures in support of the special license plate, and the start-up fee of \$6,300. After the DOL approves the application, the sponsoring organization must pursue legislation to create the special license plate.

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Legislation Without the Department of Licensing's Review. In this method, a sponsoring organization pursues legislation without applying to the DOL first. Once the bill is enacted, the sponsoring organization must provide the design of the special license plate and the start-up fee

of \$6,300 to the DOL within 30 days.

In both methods, if the sponsoring organization can prove that they are unable to provide the

start-up fee up front, then revenues from the sale of the special license plate will be used to pay

this fee. On an annual basis, the sponsoring organization must submit a financial report to the

DOL detailing actual revenues from the sale of the special license plate. The DOL compiles these reports and presents them to the transportation committees of the Legislature.

The DOL collects special license plate fees and, for administrative expenses, retains an amount

not to exceed \$12 for new plate issuance and \$2 for renewal of the plate. The State Treasurer

then deposits the remaining proceeds into the Motor Vehicle Account until the DOL determines

that the start-up fee of \$6,300 is paid.

organization.

Women Veterans.

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, women have served in the military through all periods of United States history. Although women were not formally under

military command until the early 20th century, they fought in disguise during the Revolutionary

and Civil Wars, as well as acted as spies. Under formal military command, women have served

in various capacities including as nurses, truck drivers, intelligence analysts, airplane mechanics,

and helicopter pilots in combat zones. Women comprise 10 percent of the nation's veteran population and Washington is home to approximately 58,000 women veterans.

Summary of First Substitute Bill: The Washington State Women Veterans special license plate is created to benefit women veterans. In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration, a fee of \$40 is charged for the original issuance of a Washington State Women Veterans special license plate, and a \$30 fee is charged for the renewal of the plate. Revenue from the fees collected for the special license plates will provide funds to women veterans to create and implement programs to benefit women veterans.

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Appropriation:

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2020.