

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5741

As Reported by House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to creating Patches pal special license plates.

Brief Description: Creating Patches pal special license plates.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Lovick, Pedersen, Conway, Nobles, Saldaña, Wellman and Wilson, C.).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 2/23/22, 2/25/22 [DPA].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Creates the Patches Pal special license plate.
- Directs proceeds from the plate be directed to the Seattle Children's Hospital's Strong Against Cancer Program.
- Allows for the renaming and redesign of the plate in the future.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 24 members: Representatives Fey, Chair; Wylie, 1st Vice Chair; Bronoske, 2nd Vice Chair; Ramos, 2nd Vice Chair; Barkis, Ranking Minority Member; Eslick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Volz, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Berry, Chapman, Donaghy, Duerr, Goehner, Griffey, Hackney, Klicker, Orcutt, Paul, Ramel, Riccelli, Slatter, Taylor, Valdez, Walsh and Wicks.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Dent, Entenman, McCaslin and Sutherland.

Staff: Michael Hirsch (786-7195).

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

Background:

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 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.

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 startup 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, 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 that the start-up fee for a special license plate is paid. Once the start-up fee is paid, the State Treasurer credits the remaining special license plate fee amounts into an account specified for the sponsoring organization.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The Patches Pal special license plate is created. 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 Patches Pal special license plate, and a \$30 fee is charged for the renewal of the plate. Revenue from the sale of the plates will provide funds to the Seattle Children's Hospital's "Strong Against Cancer" program.

Beginning October 1, 2031, and each decade thereafter, the Seattle Children's Hospital may consult with the DOL about the design of the Patches Pal license plate. Following the

consultation, the Seattle Children's Hospital may request a redesign of the Patches Pal license plate with new characters and a new corresponding plate name if the hospital determines that another group of appropriate children's characters would better support the Strong Against Cancer program. The costs associated with this consultation and redesign may be paid from the proceeds from the special license plate sales or else must be covered by Seattle Children's Hospital as the sponsoring organization.

Amended Bill Compared to Substitute Bill:

Instead of a requirement for the DOL to consult with the Seattle Children's Hospital by October 1, 2031, the Seattle Children's Hospital may consult with the DOL after October 1, 2031. The Seattle Children's Hospital determines whether the license plate should be redesigned. The costs for a future plate redesign must be covered by the sponsor if funds are not available from the proceeds of special plate sales.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect on October 1, 2022.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) J.P. Patches was a beloved television icon to the children of Washington. J.P. and friends often visited the Seattle Children's Hospital offering entertainment to children and their families. Chris Wedes passed away 10 years ago and Bob Newman passed away in 2020. Both actors were key members of the community long after the show ended in 1981. The J.P. Patches license plate honors their memory by providing funding to support cancer immunotherapy research at Seattle Children's Hospital.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator John Lovick, prime sponsor; and Christopher Rimple, J.P. Patches License Plate Committee.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.