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HOUSE BILL 1632

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State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Shewmake, Lekanoff, Chapman, Ramel, Rule, Santos, and Harris-Talley

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1 AN ACT Relating to the issuance of tribal license plates; and  
2 amending RCW 46.16A.230.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16A.230 and 2020 c 118 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The governor may enter into compacts with federally  
7 recognized Indian tribes principally located within this state  
8 concerning the licensing and registration of tribal government  
9 vehicles, vehicles owned by individuals who are designated by a  
10 tribal government, and tribal member-owned vehicles, with tribal  
11 license plates issued by the department.

12 (2) Each compact entered into under this section must contain the  
13 following provisions:

14 (a) The design of a tribal license plate or plates shall be  
15 determined by the compacting tribe or a tribally chartered nonprofit  
16 designated by the compacting tribe, except that the design must be  
17 readable by toll collection facilities and configured in a manner  
18 allowing for electronic distribution through state and national law  
19 enforcement databases;

20 (b) Tribal license plate recipients must pay all applicable  
21 taxes, fees, and vehicle tolls, except that the compacting tribe may

1 pay these expenses on behalf of its enrolled members as provided in  
2 the compact;

3 (c) That the eligibility for a tribal license plate is limited to  
4 tribal governments, individuals designated by a tribal government who  
5 reside in the state, and enrolled members of the compacting tribe who  
6 reside in the state, and that the compact may address additional  
7 requirements;

8 (d) Information regarding a vehicle that has been issued a tribal  
9 license plate, including vehicle description and ownership  
10 information, be maintained in the department's recordkeeping systems.

11 (3) Each compact must also address the following subjects:

12 (a) The department's administrative costs for issuing tribal  
13 license plates and maintaining information regarding vehicles that  
14 have been issued tribal license plates;

15 (b) Information sharing between the department and the compacting  
16 tribe;

17 (c) The process for applying for and receiving tribal license  
18 plates; and

19 (d) Dispute resolution, including the use of mediation or other  
20 nonjudicial process.

21 (4) The governor may delegate the power to negotiate compacts  
22 under this section to the department.

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