

HOUSE BILL 1401

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Paul, Reed, and Shavers

Read first time 01/20/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the nautical Northwest special
2 license plate; reenacting and amending RCW 46.17.220, 46.18.200, and
3 46.68.420; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; and providing
4 an effective date.

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

6 Sec. 1. RCW 46.17.220 and 2022 c 239 s 1 and 2022 c 117 s 1 are
7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

PLATE TYPE	INITIAL FEE	RENEWAL FEE	DISTRIBUTED UNDER
(1) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(2) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
(3) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(4) Breast cancer awareness	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(5) Collector vehicle	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
(6) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430

1	(7) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
2	(8) Fred Hutch	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
3	(9) Gonzaga University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
4	alumni association			
5	(10) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	(11) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
7	(12) Keep kids safe	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
8	(13) Law enforcement	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
9	memorial			
10	(14) Military affiliate radio	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
11	system			
12	(15) Music matters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
13	(16) <u>Nautical Northwest</u>	<u>\$ 40.00</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>	<u>RCW 46.68.420</u>
14	(17) Patches pal, or	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
15	alternative name as			
16	designated by the			
17	department under			
18	RCW 46.04.383			
19	((17)) (18) Professional	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
20	firefighters and			
21	paramedics			
22	((18)) (19) Purple Heart	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
23	((19)) (20) Ride share	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
24	((20)) (21) San Juan	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	Islands			
26	((21)) (22) Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
27	Mariners			
28	((22)) (23) Seattle NHL	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
29	hockey			
30	((23)) (24) Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
31	Seahawks			
32	((24)) (25) Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
33	Sounders FC			
34	((25)) (26) Seattle Storm	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420

1	((26)) <u>(27)</u> Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	University			
3	((27)) <u>(28)</u> Share the road	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
4	((28)) <u>(29)</u> Ski & ride	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
5	Washington			
6	((29)) <u>(30)</u> Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
7	((30)) <u>(31)</u> State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
8	((31)) <u>(32)</u> Volunteer	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
9	firefighters			
10	((32)) <u>(33)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
11	apples			
12	((33)) <u>(34)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
13	farmers and ranchers			
14	((34)) <u>(35)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
15	lighthouses			
16	((35)) <u>(36)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
17	state aviation			
18	((36)) <u>(37)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
19	state parks			
20	((37)) <u>(38)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
21	state wrestling			
22	((38)) <u>(39)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
23	tennis			
24	((39)) <u>(40)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	wine			
26	((40)) <u>(41)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
27	fish collection			
28	((41)) <u>(42)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
29	national parks			
30	((42)) <u>(43)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
31	wildlife collection			
32	((43)) <u>(44)</u> We love our	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
33	pets			
34	((44)) <u>(45)</u> Wild on	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
35	Washington			

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.18.200 and 2022 c 239 s 2 and 2022 c 117 s 2 are
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 (1) Special license plate series reviewed and approved by the
4 department:

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

8 (b) Must be issued under terms and conditions established by the
9 department;

10 (c) Must not be issued for vehicles registered under chapter
11 46.87 RCW; and

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

13 (2) The department approves and shall issue the following special
14 license plates, subject to subsection (5) of this section:

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.
Fred Hutch	Displays the Fred Hutch logo.
Gonzaga University alumni association	Recognizes the Gonzaga University alumni association.

1	Helping kids speak	Recognizes an organization that
2		supports programs that provide
3		no-cost speech pathology
4		programs to children.
5	Keep kids safe	Recognizes efforts to prevent
6		child abuse and neglect.
7	Law enforcement memorial	Honors law enforcement officers
8		in Washington killed in the line of
9		duty.
10	Music matters	Displays the "Music Matters"
11		logo.
12	<u>Nautical Northwest</u>	<u>Displays a Northwest maritime</u>
13		<u>scene.</u>
14	Patches pal, or alternative name	Displays the likenesses of the J.P.
15	as designated by the department	Patches and Gertrude characters
16	under RCW 46.04.383	from the J.P. Patches show, or
17		characters otherwise identified in
18		accordance with RCW 46.04.383.
19	Professional firefighters and	Recognizes professional
20	paramedics	firefighters and paramedics who
21		are members of the Washington
22		state council of firefighters.
23	San Juan Islands	Displays a symbol or artwork
24		recognizing the San Juan Islands.
25	Seattle Mariners	Displays the "Seattle Mariners"
26		logo.
27	Seattle NHL hockey	Displays the logo of the Seattle
28		NHL hockey team.
29	Seattle Seahawks	Displays the "Seattle Seahawks"
30		logo.
31	Seattle Sounders FC	Displays the "Seattle Sounders
32		FC" logo.
33	Seattle Storm	Displays the "Seattle Storm" logo.
34	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 apples	Displays the Washington apple
10		logo that recognizes the state's
11		apple industry, the growers and
12		shippers who produce and pack
13		the world famous apples, and the
14		tree fruit community.
15	Washington farmers and ranchers	Recognizes farmers and ranchers
16		in Washington state.
17	Washington lighthouses	Recognizes an organization that
18		supports selected Washington
19		state lighthouses and provides
20		environmental education
21		programs.
22	Washington state aviation	Displays a Stearman biplane in
23		the foreground with an image of
24		Mount Rainier in the background.
25	Washington state parks	Recognizes Washington state
26		parks as premier destinations of
27		uncommon quality that preserve
28		significant natural, cultural,
29		historical, and recreational
30		resources.
31	Washington state wrestling	Promotes and supports college
32		wrestling in the state of
33		Washington.

1	Washington tennis	Builds awareness and year-round
2		opportunities for tennis in
3		Washington state. Displays a
4		symbol or artwork recognizing
5		tennis in Washington state.
6	Washington wine	Displays a landscape of
7		Washington's wine regions.
8	Washington's fish collection	Recognizes Washington's fish.
9	Washington's national park fund	Builds awareness of Washington's
10		national parks and supports
11		priority park programs and
12		projects in Washington's national
13		parks, such as enhancing visitor
14		experience, promoting
15		volunteerism, engaging
16		communities, and providing
17		educational opportunities related
18		to Washington's national parks.
19	Washington's wildlife collection	Recognizes Washington's
20		wildlife.
21	We love our pets	Recognizes an organization that
22		assists local member agencies of
23		the federation of animal welfare
24		and control agencies to promote
25		and perform spay/neuter surgery
26		on Washington state pets to
27		reduce pet overpopulation.
28	Wild on Washington	Symbolizes wildlife viewing in
29		Washington state.

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

34 (4) Applicants for initial volunteer firefighters special license
35 plates must (a) have been a volunteer firefighter for at least
36 ((ten)) 10 years or be a volunteer firefighter for one or more years
37 and (b) have documentation of service from the district of the
38 appropriate fire service. If the volunteer firefighter leaves

1 firefighting service before (~~ten~~) 10 years of service have been
2 completed, the volunteer firefighter shall surrender the license
3 plates to the department on the registration renewal date. If the
4 volunteer firefighter stays in service for at least (~~ten~~) 10 years
5 and then leaves, the license plate may be retained by the former
6 volunteer firefighter and as long as the license plate is retained
7 for use the person will continue to pay the future registration
8 renewals. A qualifying volunteer firefighter may have no more than
9 one set of license plates per vehicle, and a maximum of two sets per
10 applicant, for their personal vehicles. If the volunteer firefighter
11 is convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or a felony, the license
12 plates must be surrendered upon conviction.

13 (5) The department shall not issue the Seattle NHL hockey special
14 license plate until the department receives signature sheets
15 satisfying the requirements identified in RCW 46.18.110(2)(f).

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.68.420 and 2022 c 239 s 3, 2022 c 117 s 3, and
17 2022 c 96 s 4 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

18 (1) The department shall:

19 (a) Collect special license plate fees established under RCW
20 46.17.220;

21 (b) Deduct an amount not to exceed (~~twelve dollars~~) \$12 for
22 initial issue and (~~two dollars~~) \$2 for renewal issue for
23 administration and collection expenses incurred by it; and

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

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

34	ACCOUNT	CONDITIONS FOR USE OF
35		FUNDS
36	4-H programs	Support Washington 4-H
37		programs

1	Fred Hutch	Support cancer research at the
2		Fred Hutchinson cancer research
3		center
4	Gonzaga University alumni	Scholarship funds to needy and
5	association	qualified students attending or
6		planning to attend Gonzaga
7		University
8	Helping kids speak	Provide free diagnostic and
9		therapeutic services to families of
10		children who suffer from a delay
11		in language or speech
12		development
13	Law enforcement memorial	Provide support and assistance to
14		survivors and families of law
15		enforcement officers in
16		Washington killed in the line of
17		duty and to organize, finance,
18		fund, construct, utilize, and
19		maintain a memorial on the state
20		capitol grounds to honor those
21		fallen officers
22	Lighthouse environmental	Support selected Washington state
23	programs	lighthouses that are accessible to
24		the public and staffed by
25		volunteers; provide environmental
26		education programs; provide
27		grants for other Washington
28		lighthouses to assist in funding
29		infrastructure preservation and
30		restoration; encourage and support
31		interpretive programs by
32		lighthouse docents
33	Music matters awareness	Promote music education in
34		schools throughout Washington
35	<u>Nautical Northwest</u>	<u>Support historic resources of</u>
36		<u>Whidbey Island's maritime</u>
37		<u>communities</u>

1	Patches pal, or alternative name	Provide funds to the Seattle
2	as designated by the department	children's hospital strong against
3	under RCW 46.04.383	cancer program
4	San Juan Islands programs	Provide funds to the Madrona
5		institute
6	Seattle Mariners	Provide funds to the sports
7		mentoring program and to support
8		the Washington world fellows
9		program in the following manner:
10		(a) Seventy-five percent to the
11		Washington state leadership board
12		solely to administer the sports
13		mentoring program established
14		under RCW 43.388.040, to
15		encourage youth who have
16		economic needs or face
17		adversities to experience spectator
18		sports or get involved in youth
19		sports, and (b) up to (twenty-
20		five) <u>25</u> percent to the
21		Washington state leadership board
22		solely to administer the
23		Washington world fellows
24		program, an equity focused
25		program

1 Seattle NHL hockey Provide funds to the NHL Seattle
2 foundation and to support the
3 boundless Washington program in
4 the following manner: (a) Fifty
5 percent to the NHL Seattle
6 foundation, or its successor
7 organization, to help marginalized
8 youth succeed in life through
9 increased access to sports and
10 other opportunities; (b) ~~((twenty-~~
11 ~~five)) 25~~ percent to the
12 Washington state leadership board
13 solely to administer the boundless
14 Washington program to facilitate
15 opportunities for young people
16 with physical and sensory
17 disabilities to enjoy and
18 experience the outdoors; and (c)
19 ~~((twenty-five)) 25~~ percent to the
20 NHL Seattle foundation, or its
21 successor organization, for
22 providing financial support to
23 allow youth to participate in
24 hockey

25 Seattle Seahawks Provide funds to InvestED and to
26 support the Washington world
27 fellows program in the following
28 manner: (a) Seventy-five percent,
29 to InvestED, to encourage
30 secondary students who have
31 economic needs to stay in school,
32 return to school, or get involved
33 within their learning community;
34 and (b) ~~((twenty-five)) 25~~ percent
35 to the Washington state leadership
36 board solely to administer the
37 Washington world fellows
38 program, including the provision
39 of fellowships

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Seattle Sounders FC

Provide funds to Washington state mentors and the Washington state leadership board in the following manner: (a) Seventy percent and the remaining proceeds, if any, to Washington state mentors, to increase the number of mentors in the state by offering mentoring grants throughout Washington state that foster positive youth development and academic success, with up to ~~((twenty))~~ 20 percent of these proceeds authorized for program administration costs; and (b) up to ~~((thirty))~~ 30 percent, not to exceed ~~((forty thousand dollars))~~ \$40,000 annually as adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management, to the Washington state leadership board, to develop Washington state educational, veterans, international relations, and civics projects and to recognize the outstanding public service of individuals or groups in the state of Washington

1	Seattle Storm	Provide funds to the Washington
2		state legislative youth advisory
3		council and the Washington state
4		leadership board in the following
5		manner: (Twenty-five thousand
6		dollars)) <u>\$25,000</u> per year of the
7		net proceeds to the legislative
8		youth advisory council, or its
9		successor organization; and the
10		remaining net proceeds on an
11		annual basis, to the Washington
12		state leadership board for the
13		purpose of providing grants to
14		support and enhance athletic,
15		recreational, and other
16		opportunities for women and girls,
17		and especially those with
18		disabilities
19	Seattle University	Fund scholarships for students
20		attending or planning to attend
21		Seattle University
22	Share the road	Promote bicycle safety and
23		awareness education in
24		communities throughout
25		Washington
26	Ski & ride Washington	Promote winter snowsports, such
27		as skiing and snowboarding, and
28		related programs, such as ski and
29		ride safety programs,
30		underprivileged youth ski and ride
31		programs, and active, healthy
32		lifestyle programs
33	State flower	Support Meerkerk Rhododendron
34		Gardens and provide for grants to
35		other qualified nonprofit
36		organizations' efforts to preserve
37		rhododendrons

1	Volunteer firefighters	Receive and disseminate funds for
2		purposes on behalf of volunteer
3		firefighters, their families, and
4		others deemed in need
5	Washington apples	Provide scholarship funding to the
6		tree fruit industry's official
7		charity, the Washington apple
8		education foundation, which
9		provides financial support,
10		professional employment
11		preparedness training, and
12		mentorship to students with ties to
13		the apple industry pursuing a
14		higher education
15	Washington farmers and ranchers	Provide funds to the Washington
16		FFA Foundation for educational
17		programs in Washington state
18	Washington state aviation	Provide funds to the department
19		of transportation to support
20		infrastructure improvements at
21		public use airports in Washington
22		state
23	Washington state council of	Receive and disseminate funds for
24	firefighters benevolent fund	charitable purposes on behalf of
25		members of the Washington state
26		council of firefighters, their
27		families, and others deemed in
28		need
29	Washington state wrestling	Provide funds to the Washington
30		state wrestling foundation to fund
31		new and existing college
32		wrestling programs

1 Washington tennis Provide funds to cities to assist in
2 the construction and maintenance
3 of a public tennis facility with at
4 least four indoor tennis courts. A
5 city is eligible for construction
6 funds if the city does not already
7 have a public or private facility
8 with at least four indoor tennis
9 courts. Funds for construction
10 must first be made available to the
11 most populous eligible city,
12 according to the most recent
13 census, for a time period not to
14 exceed five years after January 1,
15 2017. After the five-year time
16 period, the funds for construction
17 must be made available to the
18 next most populous eligible city.
19 Funds for the maintenance of a
20 public tennis facility with at least
21 four indoor tennis courts must
22 first be made available to the first
23 eligible city that utilizes funds for
24 construction provided by chapter
25 16, Laws of 2016

26 Washington wine Provide funds to the state of
27 Washington tourism to promote
28 tourism throughout Washington
29 state

30 Washington's national park fund Build awareness of Washington's
31 national parks and support priority
32 park programs and projects in
33 Washington's national parks, such
34 as enhancing visitor experience,
35 promoting volunteerism, engaging
36 communities, and providing
37 educational opportunities related
38 to Washington's national parks

1 We love our pets

Support and enable the

2 Washington federation of animal

3 welfare and control agencies to

4 promote and perform spay/neuter

5 surgery of Washington state pets

6 in order to reduce pet population

7 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, only the
8 director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from
9 the accounts described in subsection (2) of this section. The
10 accounts are subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,
11 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

12 (4) Except as otherwise provided in this section, funds in the
13 special license plate accounts described in subsection (2) of this
14 section must be disbursed subject to the conditions described in
15 subsection (2) of this section and under contract between the
16 department and qualified nonprofit organizations that provide the
17 services described in subsection (2) of this section.

18 (5) Funds from the Seattle Seahawks account may be provided to
19 the Washington state leadership board solely for the purpose of
20 administering the Washington world fellows program. Of the amounts
21 received by the Washington state leadership board under this
22 subsection, at least (~~ninety~~) 90 percent must be provided as
23 fellowships under the program.

24 (6) Beginning January 1, 2019, funds from the Seattle Mariners
25 account may be provided to the Washington state leadership board
26 solely for the purpose of administering the sports mentoring program.
27 Of the amounts received by the Washington state leadership board, at
28 least (~~ninety~~) 90 percent must be applied towards services directly
29 provided to youth participants.

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

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 "Nautical Northwest license plates" means special license plates
38 issued under RCW 46.18.200 that display a Northwest maritime scene.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect November 1, 2025.

--- **END** ---