
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1952

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Donaghy and Reed)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to special license plates; amending RCW
2 46.18.060; creating new sections; providing a contingent effective
3 date; providing expiration dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The high cost of implementing a new
6 special license plate series, coupled with the uncertainty of the
7 state's ability to recoup its costs, has led the legislature to delay
8 the implementation of new special license plates. In order to address
9 these issues, it is the intent of the legislature to create a
10 mechanism that will allow for the opportunity to review and evaluate
11 the special license plate process, to ensure efficacy of the program,
12 and to ensure this program does not result in undue costs to the
13 state of Washington. With the creation of a task force, the
14 legislature will be better equipped to efficiently process special
15 license plate legislation.

16 (2) This section expires December 1, 2026.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A legislative task force to review
18 the special license plate process is established, with members as
19 provided in this subsection:

1 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two senate members
2 from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate;

3 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint
4 two house members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
5 of representatives;

6 (iii) At least one member from each caucus must be a member of
7 the transportation committee, or successor committee; and

8 (iv) The governor shall appoint two members representing the
9 department of licensing.

10 (b) The task force shall choose its chair from among its
11 legislative membership. Legislators shall convene the initial meeting
12 of the task force.

13 (2) The task force shall review the following issues:

14 (a) Application requirements and evaluation of special license
15 plate requests;

16 (b) Cost of implementing new special license plates and a funding
17 policy for future requests;

18 (c) Identifying metrics the department must use to recommend the
19 discontinuation of special license plates;

20 (d) The state's ability to recoup the cost of new special license
21 plates; and

22 (e) Efficiency in processing special license plate legislation.

23 (3) Legislative members of the task force may be reimbursed for
24 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
25 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
26 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
27 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
28 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

29 (4) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
30 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
31 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
32 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor
33 committees.

34 (5) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
35 to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2025.

36 (6) This section expires December 1, 2026.

37 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.18.060 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 25 s 40 are each
38 amended to read as follows:

1 (1) The department must review and either approve or reject
2 special license plate applications submitted by sponsoring
3 organizations. Except for the special license plates created in
4 chapter . . . (House Bill No. 1368), Laws of 2025, the department may
5 not approve special license plate applications until June 30, 2029.

6 (2) Duties of the department include, but are not limited to, the
7 following:

8 (a) Review and approve the annual financial reports submitted by
9 sponsoring organizations with active special license plate series and
10 present those annual financial reports to the joint transportation
11 committee;

12 (b) Report annually to the joint transportation committee on the
13 special license plate applications that were considered by the
14 department;

15 (c) Issue approval and rejection notification letters to
16 sponsoring organizations, the executive committee of the joint
17 transportation committee, and the legislative sponsors identified in
18 each application. The letters must be issued within seven days of
19 making a determination on the status of an application; and

20 (d) Review annually the number of plates sold for each special
21 license plate series created after January 1, 2003. The department
22 may submit a recommendation to discontinue a special plate series to
23 the executive committee of the joint transportation committee.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
26 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
27 effect when chapter . . . (House Bill No. 1368), Laws of 2025 is
28 enacted. If chapter . . . (House Bill No. 1368) is not enacted by
29 June 30, 2025, this act is null and void.

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