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HOUSE BILL 1952

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Donaghy and Reed

Prefiled 02/11/25. Read first time 02/12/25. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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) The state's ability to recoup the cost of new special license  
19 plates; and

20 (d) Efficiency in processing special license plate legislation.

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

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

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

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

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

37 (1) The department must review and either approve or reject  
38 special license plate applications submitted by sponsoring  
39 organizations. Except for the special license plates created in

1 chapter . . . (House Bill No. 1368), Laws of 2025, the department may  
2 not approve special license plate applications until June 30, 2029.

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

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

9 (b) Report annually to the joint transportation committee on the  
10 special license plate applications that were considered by the  
11 department;

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

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

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

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