
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5432

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Lias, J. Wilson, Conway, Chapman, C. Wilson, Shewmake, Goehner, MacEwen, Nobles, and Riccelli)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing license plate production issues;
2 amending RCW 46.16A.305; and adding a new section to chapter 72.60
3 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16A.305 and 2022 c 132 s 5 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
8 appointed by the director may grant a temporary license plate to
9 operate a vehicle for which an application for registration has been
10 made. The application for a temporary license plate must be made by
11 the owner or the owner's representative to the department, county
12 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director on a
13 form furnished by the department and must contain:

14 (a) A full description of the vehicle, including its make, model,
15 vehicle identification number, and type of body;

16 (b) The name and address of the applicant;

17 (c) The date of application; and

18 (d) Other information that the department may require.

19 (2) Temporary license plates must:

20 (a) Be consecutively numbered;

1 (b) Be displayed as described for permanent license plates in RCW
2 46.16A.200(5)(a);

3 (c) Be composed of material that must be durable and remain
4 unaltered in field conditions for a minimum of four months; and

5 (d) Remain on the vehicle only until the receipt of permanent
6 license plates.

7 (3) The application must be accompanied by the fee required under
8 RCW 46.17.400(1)(b).

9 (4) Pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the department
10 may adopt rules for the design and display of temporary license
11 plates.

12 (5) By December 1, 2025, the department must adopt rules
13 implementing contingency extensions of the expiration date for
14 department temporary license plates in cases of shortages of
15 permanent license plates. The rules must prioritize reducing customer
16 return trips for department temporary license plates, and include a
17 communication plan with state and local law enforcement agencies
18 regarding the implementation of the contingency extensions.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 72.60
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 When the department of corrections, in conjunction with the
22 department of licensing, anticipates a projected license plate
23 shortage statewide or in particular locations, the department of
24 licensing must promptly communicate such shortage to the county
25 auditors or other agents, and subagents appointed by the director of
26 the department of licensing. The department of corrections, in
27 conjunction with the department of licensing, must also develop and
28 implement a mitigation plan to address the shortage that may include
29 the contracting with a third-party vendor for production of license
30 plates until such time as the shortage is eliminated and a sufficient
31 license plate inventory is available for the subsequent 90-day
32 period. Use of a third-party vendor may thereafter be initiated by
33 the department of corrections, the department of licensing, or
34 jointly by the two agencies.

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