
HOUSE BILL 1480

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Holy, Riccelli, Orcutt, Haler, Shea, Johnson, Clibborn, Ormsby, Condotta, Tharinger, and McCaslin

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of intermittent-use trailer
2 license plates; amending RCW 46.18.277 and 46.19.060; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 46.17.220 and 46.16A.200; adding a new section to
4 chapter 46.18 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; and
5 prescribing penalties.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.18
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department, county
10 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for an
11 intermittent-use trailer license plate for an intermittent-use
12 trailer. The applicant for the intermittent-use trailer license plate
13 must:

14 (a) Purchase a registration for the intermittent-use trailer as
15 required under chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW; and

16 (b) Pay the special license plate fee established under RCW
17 46.17.220(1)(1).

18 (2) A person applying for an intermittent-use trailer license
19 plate may:

20 (a) Receive an intermittent-use trailer license plate assigned by
21 the department; or

1 (b) Provide an actual Washington state issued license plate
2 designated for general use in the year of the intermittent-use
3 trailer's manufacture.

4 (3) Intermittent-use trailer license plates:

5 (a) Are valid for the life of the intermittent-use trailer;

6 (b) Are not required to be renewed; and

7 (c) Must be displayed on the rear of the intermittent-use
8 trailer.

9 (4) If the owner of an intermittent-use trailer obtains an
10 intermittent-use trailer license plate and then sells, transfers, or
11 otherwise conveys the intermittent-use trailer to another individual
12 or entity, the intermittent-use trailer license plate must be removed
13 prior to the sale, transfer, or conveyance and the new owner of the
14 intermittent-use trailer must obtain a new registration and
15 appropriate license plate.

16 (5) Any person who knowingly provides a false or facsimile
17 license plate under subsection (2)(b) of this section is subject to a
18 traffic infraction and fine in an amount equal to the monetary
19 penalty for a violation of RCW 46.16A.200(7)(b). Additionally, the
20 person must pay for the cost of an intermittent-use trailer license
21 plate as listed under RCW 46.17.220(1)(1), unless already paid.

22 (6) A person that is determined to be in violation of this
23 section is subject to a traffic infraction of a maximum fine of one
24 hundred fifty dollars including all other applicable assessments and
25 fees.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.04
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 "Intermittent-use trailer" means a trailer in good working order
29 that is used only for participation in club activities, exhibitions,
30 tours, and parades, and for occasional pleasure use. For purposes of
31 this section, "occasional pleasure use" means use of an intermittent
32 trailer that is not general or daily, but seasonal or sporadic and
33 not more than once per week on average.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.220 and 2014 c 77 s 2 and 2014 c 6 s 2 are
35 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

36 (1) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
37 application for a vehicle registration in chapter 46.16A RCW, the

1 holder of a special license plate shall pay the appropriate special
 2 license plate fee as listed in this section.

3	PLATE TYPE	INITIAL	RENEWAL	DISTRIBUTED
4		FEE	FEE	UNDER
5	(a) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	(b) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
7	(c) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
8	(d) Baseball stadium	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	Subsection (2) of this
9				section
10	(e) Breast cancer awareness	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
11	(f) Collector vehicle	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
12	(g) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430
13	(h) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
14	(i) Gonzaga University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
15	alumni association			
16	(j) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
17	(k) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
18	(l) <u>Intermittent-use trailer</u>	<u>\$ 187.50</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>RCW 46.68.030</u>
19	(m) Keep kids safe	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
20	((n)) (n) Law enforcement	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
21	memorial			
22	((o)) (o) Military affiliate	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
23	radio system			
24	((p)) (p) Music matters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	((q)) (q) Professional	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
26	firefighters and			
27	paramedics			
28	((r)) (r) Ride share	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
29	((s)) (s) Seattle Seahawks	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
30	((t)) (t) Seattle Sounders	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
31	FC			
32	((u)) (u) Seattle University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
33	((v)) (v) Share the road	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420

1	((w)) <u>(w)</u> Ski & ride	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	Washington			
3	((x)) <u>(x)</u> Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
4	((y)) <u>(y)</u> State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
5	((z)) <u>(z)</u> Volunteer	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	firefighters			
7	((aa)) <u>(aa)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
8	lighthouses			
9	((ab)) <u>(ab)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
10	state parks			
11	((ac)) <u>(ac)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
12	national parks			
13	((ad)) <u>(ad)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
14	wildlife collection			
15	((ae)) <u>(ae)</u> We love our	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
16	pets			
17	((af)) <u>(af)</u> Wild on	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
18	Washington			

19 (2) After deducting administration and collection expenses for
20 the sale of baseball stadium license plates, the remaining proceeds
21 must be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the
22 principal and interest payments on bonds issued by the county to
23 construct a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including
24 reasonably necessary preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being
25 collected under RCW 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer
26 shall credit the funds to the state general fund.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.16A.200 and 2014 c 181 s 2 and 2014 c 80 s 1 are
28 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

29 (1) **Design.** All license plates may be obtained by the director
30 from the metal working plant of a state correctional facility or from
31 any source in accordance with existing state of Washington purchasing
32 procedures. License plates:

- 33 (a) May vary in background, color, and design;
- 34 (b) Must be legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington
- 35 state license plate;

1 (c) Must designate the name of the state of Washington without
2 abbreviation;

3 (d) Must be treated with fully reflectorized materials designed
4 to increase visibility and legibility at night;

5 (e) Must be of a size and color and show the registration period
6 as determined by the director; and

7 (f) Before July 1, 2010, may display a symbol or artwork approved
8 by the former special license plate review board and the legislature.
9 Beginning July 1, 2010, special license plate series approved by the
10 department and enacted into law by the legislature may display a
11 symbol or artwork approved by the department.

12 (2) **Exceptions to reflectorized materials.** License plates issued
13 before January 1, 1968, are not required to be treated with
14 reflectorized materials.

15 (3) **Dealer license plates.** License plates issued to a dealer must
16 contain an indication that the license plates have been issued to a
17 vehicle dealer.

18 (4)(a) **Furnished.** The director shall furnish to all persons
19 making satisfactory application for a vehicle registration:

20 (i) Two identical license plates each containing the license
21 plate number; or

22 (ii) One license plate if the vehicle is a trailer, semitrailer,
23 intermittent-use trailer, camper, moped, collector vehicle, horseless
24 carriage, or motorcycle.

25 (b) The director may adopt types of license plates to be used as
26 long as the license plates are legible.

27 (5)(a) **Display.** License plates must be:

28 (i) Attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle
29 if two license plates have been issued;

30 (ii) Attached to the rear of the vehicle if one license plate has
31 been issued;

32 (iii) Kept clean and be able to be plainly seen and read at all
33 times; and

34 (iv) Attached in a horizontal position at a distance of not more
35 than four feet from the ground.

36 (b) The Washington state patrol may grant exceptions to this
37 subsection if the body construction of the vehicle makes compliance
38 with this section impossible.

1 (6) **Change of license classification.** A person who has altered a
2 vehicle that makes the current license plate or plates invalid for
3 the vehicle's use shall:

4 (a) Surrender the current license plate or plates to the
5 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by
6 the director;

7 (b) Apply for a new license plate or plates; and

8 (c) Pay a change of classification fee required under RCW
9 46.17.310.

10 (7) **Unlawful acts.** It is unlawful to:

11 (a) Display a license plate or plates on the front or rear of any
12 vehicle that were not issued by the director for the vehicle;

13 (b) Display a license plate or plates on any vehicle that have
14 been changed, altered, or disfigured, or have become illegible;

15 (c) Use holders, frames, or other materials that change, alter,
16 or make a license plate or plates illegible. License plate frames may
17 be used on license plates only if the frames do not obscure license
18 tabs or identifying letters or numbers on the plates and the license
19 plates can be plainly seen and read at all times;

20 (d) Operate a vehicle unless a valid license plate or plates are
21 attached as required under this section;

22 (e) Transfer a license plate or plates issued under this chapter
23 between two or more vehicles without first making application to
24 transfer the license plates. A violation of this subsection (7)(e) is
25 a traffic infraction subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred
26 dollars. Any law enforcement agency that determines that a license
27 plate or plates have been transferred between two or more vehicles
28 shall confiscate the license plate or plates and return them to the
29 department for nullification along with full details of the reasons
30 for confiscation. Each vehicle identified in the transfer will be
31 issued a new license plate or plates upon application by the owner or
32 owners and the payment of full fees and taxes; or

33 (f) Fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the registration
34 certificate, except as authorized under this section.

35 (8) **Transfer.** (a) Standard issue license plates must be replaced
36 when ownership of the vehicle changes, pursuant to subsection
37 (9)(a)(i) of this section, but the registered owner may retain the
38 license plates and transfer them to a replacement vehicle of the same
39 use. In addition to all other taxes and fees due upon change in
40 ownership, a registered owner wishing to keep standard issue license

1 plates shall pay the license plate transfer fee required under RCW
2 46.17.200(1)(c) when applying for license plate transfer.

3 (b) Special license plates and personalized license plates may be
4 treated in the same manner as described in (a) of this subsection
5 unless otherwise limited by law.

6 (c) License plates issued to the state or any county, city, town,
7 school district, or other political subdivision entitled to exemption
8 as provided by law may be treated in the same manner as described in
9 (a) of this subsection.

10 (d) License plate replacement is not required when a change in
11 vehicle ownership is the result of one or more of the following
12 circumstances:

13 (i) When adding a lien holder to the certificate of title or
14 removing a lien holder from the certificate of title;

15 (ii) When a vehicle is transferred from one spouse or registered
16 domestic partner to another;

17 (iii) When removing a deceased spouse or registered domestic
18 partner from the certificate of title;

19 (iv) When a vehicle is transferred by gift or inheritance to one
20 or more members of the registered owner's immediate family;

21 (v) When a vehicle is transferred into or out of a trust in which
22 the registered owner or one or more immediate family members of the
23 registered owner is the beneficiary;

24 (vi) When a leaseholder buys out the leased vehicle; or

25 (vii) When a person changes his or her name.

26 (9) **Replacement.** (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(a) of
27 this section, an owner or the owner's authorized representative must
28 apply for a replacement license plate or plates: (i) When taking
29 ownership of the vehicle; (ii) if the current license plate or plates
30 assigned to the vehicle have been lost, defaced, or destroyed; or
31 (iii) if one or both plates have become so illegible or are in such a
32 condition as to be difficult to distinguish. An owner or the owner's
33 authorized representative may apply for a replacement license plate
34 or plates at any time the owner chooses. The department shall offer
35 to owners the option of retaining the current license plate number
36 when obtaining replacement license plates for the fee required in RCW
37 46.17.200(1)(b).

38 (b) The application for a replacement license plate or plates
39 must:

40 (i) Be on a form furnished or approved by the director; and

1 (ii) Be accompanied by the fee required under RCW
2 46.17.200(1)(a).

3 (c) When a vehicle is sold to a vehicle dealer for resale, the
4 application for a replacement plate or plates need not be made until
5 the vehicle is sold by the vehicle dealer.

6 (d) The department shall not require the payment of any fee to
7 replace a license plate or plates for vehicles owned, rented, or
8 leased by foreign countries or international bodies to which the
9 United States government is a signatory by treaty.

10 (10) **Replacement—Exceptions.** The following license plates are not
11 required to be replaced as required in subsection (9) of this
12 section:

13 (a) Horseless carriage license plates issued under RCW 46.18.255
14 before January 1, 1987;

15 (b) Medal of Honor license plates issued under RCW 46.18.230;

16 (c) License plates for commercial motor vehicles with a gross
17 weight greater than twenty-six thousand pounds.

18 (11) **Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this
19 section.

20 (12) **Tabs or emblems.** The director may issue tabs or emblems to
21 be attached to license plates or elsewhere on the vehicle to signify
22 initial registration and renewals. Renewals become effective when
23 tabs or emblems have been issued and properly displayed.

24 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.18.277 and 2014 c 181 s 3 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) A registered owner may purchase personalized license plates
27 with a special license plate background for any vehicle required to
28 display one or two vehicle license plates, excluding:

29 (a) Amateur radio license plates;

30 (b) Collector vehicle license plates;

31 (c) Disabled American veteran license plates;

32 (d) Former prisoner of war license plates;

33 (e) Horseless carriage license plates;

34 (f) Intermittent-use trailer license plates;

35 (g) Medal of Honor license plates;

36 ~~((g))~~ (h) Military affiliate radio system license plates;

37 ~~((h))~~ (i) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates;

38 ~~((i))~~ (j) Restored license plates; and

39 ~~((j))~~ (k) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW.

1 (2) Personalized special license plates issued under this section
2 must:

3 (a) Consist of numbers or letters or any combination of numbers
4 or letters;

5 (b) Not exceed seven characters; and

6 (c) Not contain less than one character.

7 (3) The department may not issue or may refuse to issue
8 personalized special license plates that:

9 (a) Duplicate or conflict with existing or projected vehicle
10 license plate series or other numbering systems for records kept by
11 the department; or

12 (b) May carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or
13 which would be misleading.

14 (4) Personalized special license plates must be issued only to
15 the registered owner of the vehicle on which they are to be
16 displayed. The registered owner must:

17 (a) Pay both the personalized license plate fee required under
18 RCW 46.17.210 and the special license plate fee required under the
19 applicable special license plate provision, in addition to any other
20 fee or taxes due. License plate fees must be distributed as provided
21 in chapter 46.68 RCW;

22 (b) Renew personalized special license plates annually,
23 regardless of whether or not the vehicle on which the personalized
24 special license plates are displayed will be driven on the public
25 highways;

26 (c) Surrender personalized special license plates that have not
27 been renewed to the department. The failure to surrender expired
28 personalized special license plates is a traffic infraction; and

29 (d) Immediately report to the department when personalized
30 special license plates have been transferred to another vehicle or
31 another owner.

32 (5) The department may establish rules as necessary to carry out
33 this section including, but not limited to, identifying the maximum
34 number of positions on personalized special license plates for
35 motorcycles.

36 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.19.060 and 2012 c 71 s 1 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) An additional fee may not be charged for special license
2 plates for persons with disabilities except for any other fees and
3 taxes required to be paid upon registration of a motor vehicle.

4 (2) A registered owner who qualifies for special parking
5 privileges as described in RCW 46.19.010 may apply to the department
6 for special license plates for persons with disabilities or special
7 license plates with a special year tab for persons with disabilities.
8 Special license plates with a special year tab for persons with
9 disabilities are available on any special license plate created under
10 chapter 46.18 RCW, except ((the)) collector vehicle license plates,
11 horseless carriage license plates, intermittent-use trailer license
12 plates, and ride share ((~~special~~)) license plates.

13 (3) A registered owner who chooses to purchase special license
14 plates as described in subsection (2) of this section shall pay the
15 applicable special license plate fee, in addition to any other fees
16 or taxes required for registering a motor vehicle.

17 (4) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or
18 special license plates with a special year tab for persons with
19 disabilities must be renewed in the same manner and at the time
20 required for the renewal of standard motor vehicle license plates
21 under chapter 46.16A RCW.

22 (5) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or
23 special license plates with a special year tab for persons with
24 disabilities may be transferred from one motor vehicle to another
25 motor vehicle owned by the person with the parking privilege upon
26 application to the department, county auditor or other agent, or
27 subagent appointed by the director.

28 (6) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or
29 special license plates with a special year tab for persons with
30 disabilities must be removed from the motor vehicle when the person
31 with disabilities transfers or assigns his or her interest in the
32 motor vehicle.

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