
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1480

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Holy, Riccelli, Orcutt, Haler, Shea, Johnson, Clibborn, Ormsby, Condotta, Tharinger, and McCaslin)

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of intermittent-use trailer
2 license plates; amending RCW 46.16A.110, 46.18.277, and 46.19.060;
3 reenacting and amending RCW 46.17.220 and 46.16A.200; adding a new
4 section to chapter 46.18 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.04
5 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

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. An intermittent-use trailer license plate
16 may be transferred to another intermittent-use trailer through
17 application to the department and payment of the fees in RCW
18 46.17.200(1)(c) and 46.17.220(1)(1).

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

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

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

31 "Intermittent-use trailer" means a trailer in good working order
32 that has a scale weight of two thousand pounds or less and is used
33 only for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours, and
34 parades, and for occasional pleasure use. For purposes of this
35 section: "Occasional pleasure use" means use of an intermittent
36 trailer that is not general or daily, but seasonal or sporadic and
37 not more than once per week on average; and "occasional pleasure use"
38 does not mean (1) being held for rent to the public or (2) use for
39 commercial or business purposes.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.16A.110 and 2014 c 80 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) A registered owner or the registered owner's authorized
4 representative must apply for a renewal vehicle registration to the
5 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by
6 the director on a form approved by the director. The application for
7 a renewal vehicle registration must be accompanied by a draft, money
8 order, certified bank check, or cash for all fees and taxes required
9 by law for the application for a renewal vehicle registration.

10 (2)(a) When a vehicle changes ownership, the person taking
11 ownership or his or her authorized representative must apply for a
12 renewal vehicle registration as provided in subsection (1) of this
13 section and, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, pay all
14 the taxes and fees that are due at the time of registration renewal.
15 For the purposes of this section, when a vehicle is sold to a vehicle
16 dealer for resale, the application for a renewal registration need
17 not be made until the vehicle is sold by the vehicle dealer.

18 (b) The person taking ownership or his or her authorized
19 representative must be given credit for the portion of a motor
20 vehicle excise tax, including the motor vehicle excise tax collected
21 under RCW 81.104.160, that reflects the remaining period for which
22 the tax was initially paid by the previous owner.

23 (3) An application and the fees and taxes for a renewal vehicle
24 registration must be handled in the same manner as an original
25 vehicle registration application. The registration does not need to
26 show the name of the lien holder when the application for renewal
27 vehicle registration becomes the renewal registration upon
28 validation.

29 (4) A person expecting to be out of state during the normal
30 renewal period of a vehicle registration may renew a vehicle
31 registration and have license plates or tabs preissued by applying
32 for a renewal as described in subsection (1) of this section. A
33 vehicle registration may be renewed for the subsequent registration
34 year up to eighteen months before the current expiration date and
35 must be displayed from the date of issue or from the day of the
36 expiration of the current registration year, whichever date is later.

37 (5) An application for a renewal vehicle registration is not
38 required for (~~those vehicles owned, rented, or leased by~~):

39 (a) A trailer registered as an intermittent-use trailer;

1 (b) Vehicles owned, rented, or leased by the state of Washington,
2 or by any county, city, town, school district, or other political
3 subdivision of the state of Washington; or

4 ~~((b))~~ (c) Vehicles owned, rented, or leased by a governing body
5 of an Indian tribe located within this state and recognized as a
6 governmental entity by the United States department of the interior.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.17.220 and 2014 c 77 s 2 and 2014 c 6 s 2 are
8 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

PLATE TYPE	INITIAL FEE	RENEWAL FEE	DISTRIBUTED UNDER
(a) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(b) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
(c) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(d) Baseball stadium	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	Subsection (2) of this section
(e) Breast cancer awareness	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(f) Collector vehicle	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
(g) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430
(h) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(i) Gonzaga University alumni association	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(j) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(k) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
(l) <u>Intermittent-use trailer</u>	<u>\$ 187.50</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>RCW 46.68.030</u>
(m) Keep kids safe	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
((m)) (n) Law enforcement memorial	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
((n)) (o) Military affiliate radio system	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
((o)) (p) Music matters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420

1	((p)) (q) Professional	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	firefighters and			
3	paramedics			
4	((q)) (r) Ride share	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
5	((r)) (s) Seattle Seahawks	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	((s)) (t) Seattle Sounders	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
7	FC			
8	((t)) (u) Seattle University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
9	((u)) (v) Share the road	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
10	((v)) (w) Ski & ride	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
11	Washington			
12	((w)) (x) Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
13	((x)) (y) State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
14	((y)) (z) Volunteer	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
15	firefighters			
16	((z)) (aa) Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
17	lighthouses			
18	((aa)) (bb) Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
19	state parks			
20	((bb)) (cc) Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
21	national parks			
22	((cc)) (dd) Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
23	wildlife collection			
24	((dd)) (ee) We love our	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	pets			
26	((ee)) (ff) Wild on	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
27	Washington			

28 (2) After deducting administration and collection expenses for
29 the sale of baseball stadium license plates, the remaining proceeds
30 must be distributed to a county for the purpose of paying the
31 principal and interest payments on bonds issued by the county to
32 construct a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485, including
33 reasonably necessary preconstruction costs, while the taxes are being
34 collected under RCW 82.14.360. After this date, the state treasurer
35 shall credit the funds to the state general fund.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.16A.200 and 2014 c 181 s 2 and 2014 c 80 s 1 are
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

7 (a) May vary in background, color, and design;

8 (b) Must be legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington
9 state license plate;

10 (c) Must designate the name of the state of Washington without
11 abbreviation;

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

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

16 (f) Before July 1, 2010, may display a symbol or artwork approved
17 by the former special license plate review board and the legislature.
18 Beginning July 1, 2010, special license plate series approved by the
19 department and enacted into law by the legislature may display a
20 symbol or artwork approved by the department.

21 (2) **Exceptions to reflectorized materials.** License plates issued
22 before January 1, 1968, are not required to be treated with
23 reflectorized materials.

24 (3) **Dealer license plates.** License plates issued to a dealer must
25 contain an indication that the license plates have been issued to a
26 vehicle dealer.

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

29 (i) Two identical license plates each containing the license
30 plate number; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (a) Surrender the current license plate or plates to the
12 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by
13 the director;

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

15 (c) Pay a change of classification fee required under RCW
16 46.17.310.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (8) **Transfer.** (a) Standard issue license plates must be replaced
4 when ownership of the vehicle changes, pursuant to subsection
5 (9)(a)(i) of this section, but the registered owner may retain the
6 license plates and transfer them to a replacement vehicle of the same
7 use. In addition to all other taxes and fees due upon change in
8 ownership, a registered owner wishing to keep standard issue license
9 plates shall pay the license plate transfer fee required under RCW
10 46.17.200(1)(c) when applying for license plate transfer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (9) **Replacement.** (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(a) of
35 this section, an owner or the owner's authorized representative must
36 apply for a replacement license plate or plates: (i) When taking
37 ownership of the vehicle; (ii) if the current license plate or plates
38 assigned to the vehicle have been lost, defaced, or destroyed; or
39 (iii) if one or both plates have become so illegible or are in such a
40 condition as to be difficult to distinguish. An owner or the owner's

1 authorized representative may apply for a replacement license plate
2 or plates at any time the owner chooses. The department shall offer
3 to owners the option of retaining the current license plate number
4 when obtaining replacement license plates for the fee required in RCW
5 46.17.200(1)(b).

6 (b) The application for a replacement license plate or plates
7 must:

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

9 (ii) Be accompanied by the fee required under RCW
10 46.17.200(1)(a).

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (11) **Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this
27 section.

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

32 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.18.277 and 2014 c 181 s 3 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

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

37 (a) Amateur radio license plates;

38 (b) Collector vehicle license plates;

39 (c) Disabled American veteran license plates;

1 (d) Former prisoner of war license plates;
2 (e) Horseless carriage license plates;
3 (f) Intermittent-use trailer license plates;
4 (g) Medal of Honor license plates;
5 ~~((g))~~ (h) Military affiliate radio system license plates;
6 ~~((h))~~ (i) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates;
7 ~~((i))~~ (j) Restored license plates; and
8 ~~((j))~~ (k) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW.
9 (2) Personalized special license plates issued under this section
10 must:
11 (a) Consist of numbers or letters or any combination of numbers
12 or letters;
13 (b) Not exceed seven characters; and
14 (c) Not contain less than one character.
15 (3) The department may not issue or may refuse to issue
16 personalized special license plates that:
17 (a) Duplicate or conflict with existing or projected vehicle
18 license plate series or other numbering systems for records kept by
19 the department; or
20 (b) May carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or
21 which would be misleading.
22 (4) Personalized special license plates must be issued only to
23 the registered owner of the vehicle on which they are to be
24 displayed. The registered owner must:
25 (a) Pay both the personalized license plate fee required under
26 RCW 46.17.210 and the special license plate fee required under the
27 applicable special license plate provision, in addition to any other
28 fee or taxes due. License plate fees must be distributed as provided
29 in chapter 46.68 RCW;
30 (b) Renew personalized special license plates annually,
31 regardless of whether or not the vehicle on which the personalized
32 special license plates are displayed will be driven on the public
33 highways;
34 (c) Surrender personalized special license plates that have not
35 been renewed to the department. The failure to surrender expired
36 personalized special license plates is a traffic infraction; and
37 (d) Immediately report to the department when personalized
38 special license plates have been transferred to another vehicle or
39 another owner.

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

5 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.19.060 and 2012 c 71 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

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

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

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

23 (4) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or
24 special license plates with a special year tab for persons with
25 disabilities must be renewed in the same manner and at the time
26 required for the renewal of standard motor vehicle license plates
27 under chapter 46.16A RCW.

28 (5) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or
29 special license plates with a special year tab for persons with
30 disabilities may be transferred from one motor vehicle to another
31 motor vehicle owned by the person with the parking privilege upon
32 application to the department, county auditor or other agent, or
33 subagent appointed by the director.

34 (6) Special license plates for persons with disabilities or
35 special license plates with a special year tab for persons with
36 disabilities must be removed from the motor vehicle when the person
37 with disabilities transfers or assigns his or her interest in the
38 motor vehicle.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act takes effect July 1, 2016.

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