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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2612**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives  
Condotta and Steele)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/18.

1            AN ACT Relating to tow truck operators; amending RCW 46.76.030,  
2 46.76.060, 46.76.065, 46.76.067, 46.76.080, 46.79.060, and 46.80.060;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.55 RCW; creating a new section;  
4 prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The legislature finds that efficiency  
7 and public safety is served by consolidating the multiple license  
8 plates currently required on the vehicles of registered tow truck  
9 operators. These registered tow truck operators currently have up to  
10 four separate license plates that are required to be displayed on the  
11 vehicle at all times. The operators have the highest training and  
12 qualifications of any towing operators in Washington state.

13            (2) The legislature further finds that a single unified license  
14 plate with separate endorsement tabs prevents confusion and allows  
15 for easy identification and review of tow trucks by law enforcement  
16 and the motoring public. The unified license plate also saves  
17 resources by reducing the need for license plate production and  
18 reduces fraud by limiting access to these commercial license plates.

19            (3) A unified license plate for registered tow truck operators  
20 serves the purposes of Washington residents, the motoring public, and  
21 law enforcement, and saves money as well.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.55

2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) If a tow truck, the registered owner of which is a registered  
4    tow truck operator, is to conduct transporter business under chapter  
5    46.76 RCW, the license plate that is required to be displayed under  
6    RCW 46.16A.030 must contain an indicator tab that the vehicle is  
7    licensed to perform transporter services. The fee for an original  
8    transporter's license plate indicator tab for a tow truck, the  
9    registered owner of which is a registered tow truck operator, is  
10   twenty-five dollars. Vehicles that are used to conduct transporter  
11   business and are not owned by a registered tow truck operator must  
12   follow the requirements of chapter 46.76 RCW.

13        (2) If a tow truck, the registered owner of which is a registered  
14   tow truck operator, is used for a hulk hauler or scrap processor  
15   business under chapter 46.79 RCW, the license plate that is required  
16   under RCW 46.16A.030 must contain an indicator tab that the vehicle  
17   is licensed to perform hulk hauler or scrap processor purposes under  
18   the laws of the state of Washington. The fee for a hulk hauler or  
19   scrap processor business license plate indicator tab is five dollars  
20   for the original tab and two dollars for each additional tab.  
21   Vehicles that are used to conduct hulk hauler or scrap processor  
22   business and are not owned by a registered tow truck operator must  
23   follow the requirements of chapter 46.79 RCW.

24        (3) If a tow truck, the registered owner of which is a registered  
25   tow truck operator, is used for a wrecker business under chapter  
26   46.80 RCW, the license plate displayed that is required under RCW  
27   46.16A.030 must contain an indicator tab that the vehicle is licensed  
28   to perform wrecker services. The fee for a wrecker license plate  
29   indicator tab is five dollars for the original tab and two dollars  
30   for each additional tab. Vehicles that are used to conduct wrecker  
31   business and are not owned by a registered tow truck operator must  
32   follow the requirements of chapter 46.80 RCW.

33        (4)(a) The license plate indicator tabs must:

34        (i) Affix to the license plate required to be displayed under RCW  
35    46.16A.030;

36        (ii) Clearly identify the business purpose of the licensed  
37    vehicle;

38        (iii) Use some combination of letters and numbers to indicate a  
39    vehicle is licensed to conduct transporter business under chapter

1 46.76 RCW, hulk hauler or scrap processor business under chapter  
2 46.79 RCW, or wrecker business under chapter 46.80 RCW; and

3 (iv) Be approved by the department.

4 (b) All other requirements concerning registration and display of  
5 plates as required under chapter 46.16A RCW may not conflict with  
6 this section.

7 (5) This act does not allow for the use of indicator tabs,  
8 authorized in this section, on a special or personalized license  
9 plate authorized in chapter 46.18 RCW.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.76.030 and 1967 c 32 s 92 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 Upon receiving an application for transporter's license the  
13 director, if satisfied that the applicant is entitled thereto, shall  
14 issue a proper certificate of license registration and a distinctive  
15 set of license plates or an indicator tab pursuant to section 2 of  
16 this act and shall transmit the fees obtained therefor with a proper  
17 identifying report to the state treasurer, who shall deposit such  
18 fees in the motor vehicle fund. The certificate of license  
19 registration and license plates or indicator tab issued by the  
20 director shall authorize the holder of the license to drive or tow  
21 any motor vehicle or trailers upon the public highways.

22 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.76.060 and 2010 c 8 s 9093 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 Transporter's license plates or indicator tabs pursuant to  
25 section 2 of this act shall be conspicuously displayed on all  
26 vehicles being delivered by the driveaway or towaway methods. These  
27 plates or indicator tabs shall not be loaned to or used by any person  
28 other than the holder of the license or his or her employees.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.76.065 and 1977 ex.s. c 254 s 1 are each amended  
30 to read as follows:

31 The following conduct shall be sufficient grounds pursuant to RCW  
32 34.05.422 for the director or a designee to deny, suspend, or revoke  
33 the license of a motor vehicle transporter:

34 (1) Using transporter plates or indicator tabs pursuant to  
35 section 2 of this act for driveaway or towaway of any vehicle owned  
36 by such transporter;

1 (2) Knowingly, as that term is defined in RCW 9A.08.010(1)(b),  
2 having possession of a stolen vehicle or a vehicle with a defaced,  
3 missing, or obliterated manufacturer's identification serial number;

4 (3) Loaning transporter plates or indicator tabs;

5 (4) Using transporter plates or indicator tabs for any purpose  
6 other than as provided under RCW 46.76.010; or

7 (5) Violation of provisions of this chapter or of rules and  
8 regulations adopted relating to enforcement and proper operation of  
9 this chapter.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.76.067 and 1988 c 239 s 4 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Any person or organization that transports any mobile home or  
13 other vehicle for hire shall comply with this chapter and chapter  
14 81.80 RCW. Persons or organizations that do not have a valid permit  
15 or meet other requirements under chapter 81.80 RCW shall not be  
16 issued a transporter license or transporter plates or an indicator  
17 tab pursuant to section 2 of this act to transport mobile homes or  
18 other vehicles. RCW 46.76.065(5) applies to persons or organizations  
19 that have transporter licenses or plates or indicator tabs and do not  
20 meet the requirements of chapter 81.80 RCW.

21 (2) This section does not apply to mobile home manufacturers or  
22 dealers that are licensed and delivering the mobile home under  
23 chapter 46.70 RCW.

24 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.76.080 and 1979 ex.s. c 136 s 96 are each amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 The violation of any provision of this chapter is a traffic  
27 infraction. In addition to any other penalty imposed upon a violator  
28 of the provisions of this chapter, the director may confiscate any  
29 transporter license plates or indicator tabs used in connection with  
30 such violation.

31 **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.79.060 and 2010 c 8 s 9096 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 The hulk hauler or scrap processor shall obtain a special set of  
34 license plates or an indicator tab pursuant to section 2 of this act  
35 in addition to the regular licenses and plates required for the  
36 operation of vehicles owned and/or operated by him or her and used in  
37 the conduct of his or her business. Such special license shall be

1 displayed on the operational vehicles and shall be in lieu of a trip  
2 permit or current license on any vehicle being transported. The fee  
3 for these plates shall be five dollars for the original plates and  
4 two dollars for each additional set of plates bearing the same  
5 license number.

6 **Sec. 9.** RCW 46.80.060 and 1995 c 256 s 8 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 The vehicle wrecker shall obtain a special set of license plates  
9 or an indicator tab pursuant to section 2 of this act in addition to  
10 the regular licenses and plates required for the operation of such  
11 vehicles. The special plates must be displayed on vehicles owned  
12 and/or operated by the wrecker and used in the conduct of the  
13 business. The fee for these plates shall be five dollars for the  
14 original plates and two dollars for each additional set of plates  
15 bearing the same license number. A wrecker with more than one  
16 licensed location in the state may use special plates bearing the  
17 same license number for vehicles operated out of any of the licensed  
18 locations.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act takes effect June 1, 2019.

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