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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1647**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Chapman and Lekanoff)

1 AN ACT Relating to creating keep Washington evergreen special  
2 license plates; reenacting and amending RCW 46.17.220, 46.18.200, and  
3 46.68.425; adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW; adding a new  
4 section to chapter 46.18 RCW; creating a new section; and providing  
5 an effective date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington  
8 state is known as the evergreen state and to celebrate that the  
9 legislature intends to fund electrical charging stations while  
10 resurrecting the original white and green license plate color scheme.

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

13 "Keep Washington evergreen license plate" means special license  
14 plates issued under RCW 46.18.200 that display green lettering on a  
15 white background in a style similar to the license plates issued by  
16 the department in the 1970s.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.18  
18 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The department shall create, design, and issue a keep Washington evergreen license plate that may be used in lieu of standard issue or personalized license plates for motor vehicles required to display one or two license plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the department.

(2) A registered owner may apply to the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a keep Washington evergreen license plate. The registered owner shall pay the special license plate fee required under RCW 46.17.220(13), in addition to any other fee or tax required by law.

**Sec. 4.** RCW 46.17.220 and 2022 c 239 s 1 and 2022 c 117 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

PLATE TYPE	INITIAL FEE	RENEWAL FEE	DISTRIBUTED UNDER
(1) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(2) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
(3) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(4) Breast cancer awareness	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(5) Collector vehicle	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
(6) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430
(7) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(8) Fred Hutch	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(9) Gonzaga University alumni association	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(10) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(11) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
(12) Keep kids safe	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(13) <u>Keep Washington evergreen</u>	<u>\$ 40.00</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>	<u>RCW 46.68.425</u>

1	(14) Law enforcement	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	memorial			
3	((14)) (15) Military	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
4	affiliate radio system			
5	((15)) (16) Music matters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	((16)) (17) Patches pal, or	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
7	alternative name as			
8	designated by the			
9	department under			
10	RCW 46.04.383			
11	((17)) (18) Professional	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
12	firefighters and			
13	paramedics			
14	((18)) (19) Purple Heart	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
15	((19)) (20) Ride share	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
16	((20)) (21) San Juan	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
17	Islands			
18	((21)) (22) Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
19	Mariners			
20	((22)) (23) Seattle NHL	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
21	hockey			
22	((23)) (24) Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
23	Seahawks			
24	((24)) (25) Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
25	Sounders FC			
26	((25)) (26) Seattle Storm	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
27	((26)) (27) Seattle	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
28	University			
29	((27)) (28) Share the road	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
30	((28)) (29) Ski & ride	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
31	Washington			
32	((29)) (30) Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
33	((30)) (31) State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
34	((31)) (32) Volunteer	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
35	firefighters			

1	<del>((32))</del> <u>(33)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	apples			
3	<del>((33))</del> <u>(34)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
4	farmers and ranchers			
5	<del>((34))</del> <u>(35)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
6	lighthouses			
7	<del>((35))</del> <u>(36)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
8	state aviation			
9	<del>((36))</del> <u>(37)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
10	state parks			
11	<del>((37))</del> <u>(38)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
12	state wrestling			
13	<del>((38))</del> <u>(39)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
14	tennis			
15	<del>((39))</del> <u>(40)</u> Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
16	wine			
17	<del>((40))</del> <u>(41)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
18	fish collection			
19	<del>((41))</del> <u>(42)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
20	national parks			
21	<del>((42))</del> <u>(43)</u> Washington's	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
22	wildlife collection			
23	<del>((43))</del> <u>(44)</u> We love our	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
24	pets			
25	<del>((44))</del> <u>(45)</u> Wild on	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
26	Washington			

27       **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.18.200 and 2022 c 239 s 2 and 2022 c 117 s 2 are  
28 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

29       (1) Special license plate series reviewed and approved by the  
30 department:

31       (a) May be issued in lieu of standard issue or personalized  
32 license plates for vehicles required to display one and two license  
33 plates unless otherwise specified;

34       (b) Must be issued under terms and conditions established by the  
35 department;

1 (c) Must not be issued for vehicles registered under chapter  
2 46.87 RCW; and

3 (d) Must display a symbol or artwork approved by the department.

4 (2) The department approves and shall issue the following special  
5 license plates, subject to subsection (5) of this section:

LICENSE PLATE	DESCRIPTION, SYMBOL, OR ARTWORK
4-H	Displays the "4-H" logo.
Armed forces collection	Recognizes the contribution of veterans, active duty military personnel, reservists, and members of the national guard, and includes six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and national guard.
Breast cancer awareness	Displays a pink ribbon symbolizing breast cancer awareness.
Endangered wildlife	Displays a symbol or artwork symbolizing endangered wildlife in Washington state.
Fred Hutch	Displays the Fred Hutch logo.
Gonzaga University alumni association	Recognizes the Gonzaga University alumni association.
Helping kids speak	Recognizes an organization that supports programs that provide no-cost speech pathology programs to children.
Keep kids safe	Recognizes efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

1	<u>Keep Washington evergreen</u>	<u>Recognizes Washington as the</u>
2		<u>evergreen state and funds electric</u>
3		<u>charging stations. Displays green</u>
4		<u>lettering on a white background in</u>
5		<u>a style similar to the license plates</u>
6		<u>issued by the department in the</u>
7		<u>1970s, but includes the words</u>
8		<u>evergreen state along the bottom</u>
9		<u>of the plate.</u>
10	Law enforcement memorial	Honors law enforcement officers
11		in Washington killed in the line of
12		duty.
13	Music matters	Displays the "Music Matters"
14		logo.
15	Patches pal, or alternative name	Displays the likenesses of the J.P.
16	as designated by the department	Patches and Gertrude characters
17	under RCW 46.04.383	from the J.P. Patches show, or
18		characters otherwise identified in
19		accordance with RCW 46.04.383.
20	Professional firefighters and	Recognizes professional
21	paramedics	firefighters and paramedics who
22		are members of the Washington
23		state council of firefighters.
24	San Juan Islands	Displays a symbol or artwork
25		recognizing the San Juan Islands.
26	Seattle Mariners	Displays the "Seattle Mariners"
27		logo.
28	Seattle NHL hockey	Displays the logo of the Seattle
29		NHL hockey team.
30	Seattle Seahawks	Displays the "Seattle Seahawks"
31		logo.
32	Seattle Sounders FC	Displays the "Seattle Sounders
33		FC" logo.
34	Seattle Storm	Displays the "Seattle Storm" logo.
35	Seattle University	Recognizes Seattle University.

1	Share the road	Recognizes an organization that
2		promotes bicycle safety and
3		awareness education.
4	Ski & ride Washington	Recognizes the Washington
5		snowsports industry.
6	State flower	Recognizes the Washington state
7		flower.
8	Volunteer firefighters	Recognizes volunteer firefighters.
9	Washington apples	Displays the Washington apple
10		logo that recognizes the state's
11		apple industry, the growers and
12		shippers who produce and pack
13		the world famous apples, and the
14		tree fruit community.
15	Washington farmers and ranchers	Recognizes farmers and ranchers
16		in Washington state.
17	Washington lighthouses	Recognizes an organization that
18		supports selected Washington
19		state lighthouses and provides
20		environmental education
21		programs.
22	Washington state aviation	Displays a Stearman biplane in
23		the foreground with an image of
24		Mount Rainier in the background.
25	Washington state parks	Recognizes Washington state
26		parks as premier destinations of
27		uncommon quality that preserve
28		significant natural, cultural,
29		historical, and recreational
30		resources.
31	Washington state wrestling	Promotes and supports college
32		wrestling in the state of
33		Washington.

1	Washington tennis	Builds awareness and year-round
2		opportunities for tennis in
3		Washington state. Displays a
4		symbol or artwork recognizing
5		tennis in Washington state.
6	Washington wine	Displays a landscape of
7		Washington's wine regions.
8	Washington's fish collection	Recognizes Washington's fish.
9	Washington's national park fund	Builds awareness of Washington's
10		national parks and supports
11		priority park programs and
12		projects in Washington's national
13		parks, such as enhancing visitor
14		experience, promoting
15		volunteerism, engaging
16		communities, and providing
17		educational opportunities related
18		to Washington's national parks.
19	Washington's wildlife collection	Recognizes Washington's
20		wildlife.
21	We love our pets	Recognizes an organization that
22		assists local member agencies of
23		the federation of animal welfare
24		and control agencies to promote
25		and perform spay/neuter surgery
26		on Washington state pets to
27		reduce pet overpopulation.
28	Wild on Washington	Symbolizes wildlife viewing in
29		Washington state.

30 (3) Applicants for initial and renewal professional firefighters  
31 and paramedics special license plates must show proof of eligibility  
32 by providing a certificate of current membership from the Washington  
33 state council of firefighters.

34 (4) Applicants for initial volunteer firefighters special license  
35 plates must (a) have been a volunteer firefighter for at least  
36 (~~ten~~) 10 years or be a volunteer firefighter for one or more years  
37 and (b) have documentation of service from the district of the  
38 appropriate fire service. If the volunteer firefighter leaves



1 firefighting service before (~~ten~~) 10 years of service have been  
2 completed, the volunteer firefighter shall surrender the license  
3 plates to the department on the registration renewal date. If the  
4 volunteer firefighter stays in service for at least (~~ten~~) 10 years  
5 and then leaves, the license plate may be retained by the former  
6 volunteer firefighter and as long as the license plate is retained  
7 for use the person will continue to pay the future registration  
8 renewals. A qualifying volunteer firefighter may have no more than  
9 one set of license plates per vehicle, and a maximum of two sets per  
10 applicant, for their personal vehicles. If the volunteer firefighter  
11 is convicted of a violation of RCW 46.61.502 or a felony, the license  
12 plates must be surrendered upon conviction.

13 (5) The department shall not issue the Seattle NHL hockey special  
14 license plate until the department receives signature sheets  
15 satisfying the requirements identified in RCW 46.18.110(2)(f).

16 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.68.425 and 2016 c 31 s 3 and 2016 c 30 s 4 are  
17 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

18 (1) The department shall:

19 (a) Collect special license plate fees established under RCW  
20 46.17.220;

21 (b) Deduct an amount not to exceed (~~twelve dollars~~) \$12 for  
22 initial issue and (~~two dollars~~) \$2 for renewal issue for  
23 administration and collection expenses incurred by it; and

24 (c) Remit the remaining proceeds to the custody of the state  
25 treasurer with a proper identifying detailed report.

26 (2) The state treasurer shall credit the proceeds to the motor  
27 vehicle fund until the department determines that the state has been  
28 reimbursed for the cost of implementing the special license plate.  
29 Upon determination by the department that the state has been  
30 reimbursed, the state treasurer shall credit the remaining special  
31 license plate fees to the following accounts by special license plate  
32 type:

33	SPECIAL LICENSE	ACCOUNT	CONDITIONS FOR
34	PLATE TYPE		USE OF FUNDS
35	Armed forces	RCW 43.60A.140	As specified in RCW
36			43.60A.140(4)

1	Breast cancer	RCW 43.70.327	Must be used only by
2	awareness		the department of
3			health for efforts
4			consistent with the
5			breast, cervical, and
6			colon health program
7	Endangered wildlife	RCW 77.12.170	Must be used only
8			for the department of
9			fish and wildlife's
10			endangered wildlife
11			program activities
12	Keep kids safe	RCW 43.121.100	As specified in RCW
13			43.121.100
14	<u>Keep Washington</u>	<u>RCW 82.44.200</u>	<u>Support of electric</u>
15	<u>evergreen</u>		<u>charging stations</u>
16			<u>throughout</u>
17			<u>Washington</u>
18	Purple Heart	RCW 43.60A.140	As specified in RCW
19			43.60A.140(4)
20	Washington state	RCW 79A.05.059	Provide public
21	parks		educational
22			opportunities and
23			enhancement of
24			Washington state
25			parks
26	Washington's fish	RCW 77.12.170	Only for the
27	collection		department of fish
28			and wildlife's use to
29			support steelhead
30			species management
31			activities including,
32			but not limited to,
33			activities supporting
34			conservation,
35			recovery, and
36			research to promote
37			healthy, fishable
38			steelhead

1 Washington's RCW 77.12.170 Only for the  
2 wildlife collection department of fish  
3 and wildlife's game  
4 species management  
5 activities  
6 Wild on Washington RCW 77.12.170 Dedicated to the  
7 department of fish  
8 and wildlife's  
9 watchable wildlife  
10 activities, as defined  
11 in RCW 77.32.560

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect November 1, 2023.

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