
HOUSE BILL 1726

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Wylie, Roberts, and Ryu

Read first time 02/06/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle registration renewal requirements;
2 amending RCW 46.16A.090, 46.16A.200, and 46.17.200; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16A.090 and 2012 c 261 s 9 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
8 appointed by the director must provide an opportunity for a vehicle
9 owner to make a voluntary donation as provided in this section when
10 applying for an initial or renewal vehicle registration.

11 (2)(a) A vehicle owner who registers a vehicle under this chapter
12 may donate one dollar or more to the organ and tissue donation
13 awareness account to promote the donation of organs and tissues under
14 the uniform anatomical gift act as described in chapter 68.64 RCW. The
15 donation of one or more dollars is voluntary and may be refused by the
16 vehicle owner.

17 (b) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
18 appointed by the director must:

1 (i) Ask a vehicle owner applying for a vehicle registration if the
2 owner would like to donate one dollar or more;

3 (ii) Inform a vehicle owner of the option for organ and tissue
4 donations as required under RCW 46.20.113; and

5 (iii) Make information booklets or other informational material
6 available regarding the importance of organ and tissue donations to
7 vehicle owners.

8 (c) All reasonable costs associated with the creation of the
9 donation program created under this section must be paid proportionally
10 or by another agreement by a participating Washington state organ
11 procurement organization established for organ and tissue donation
12 awareness purposes by the Washington state organ procurement
13 organizations. For the purposes of this section, "reasonable costs"
14 and "Washington state organ procurement organization" have the same
15 meaning as in RCW 68.64.010.

16 (3) The department must collect from a vehicle owner who pays a
17 vehicle license fee under RCW 46.17.350(1) (a), (d) through (l), (n),
18 (o), or (q) or who registers a vehicle under RCW 46.16A.455 with a
19 declared gross weight of twelve thousand pounds or less a voluntary
20 donation of five dollars. The donation may not be collected from any
21 vehicle owner actively opting not to participate in the donation
22 program. The department must ensure that the opt-out donation under
23 this section is clear, visible, and prominently displayed in both paper
24 and online vehicle registration renewals. The department must provide
25 education about and market the benefits that are derived from the
26 donation. Notification of intent to not participate in the donation
27 program must be provided annually at the time of vehicle registration
28 renewal. The donation must be deposited in the state parks renewal and
29 stewardship account established in RCW 79A.05.215 to be used for the
30 operation and maintenance of state parks.

31 (4) A vehicle owner who registers a vehicle under this chapter may
32 purchase a discover pass for the price amount established in RCW
33 79A.80.020. Purchase of a discover pass is voluntary by the vehicle
34 owner. The discover pass fee must be deposited in the recreation
35 access pass account created in RCW 79A.80.090. The department, county
36 auditor((τ)) or other agent_ or subagent appointed by the director is
37 not responsible for delivering a purchased discover pass to a motor

1 vehicle owner. The agencies, as defined in RCW 79A.80.010, must
2 deliver the purchased discover pass to a motor vehicle owner.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16A.200 and 2011 c 171 s 46 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

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

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

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

12 (c) Must designate the name of the state of Washington without
13 abbreviation;

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (i) Two identical license plates each containing the license plate
32 number; or

33 (ii) One license plate if the vehicle is a trailer, semitrailer,
34 camper, moped, collector vehicle, horseless carriage, or motorcycle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (a) Surrender the current license plate or plates to the
16 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the
17 director;

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

19 (c) Pay a change of classification fee required under RCW
20 46.17.310.

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

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

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

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

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

33 (e) Transfer a license plate or plates issued under this chapter
34 between two or more vehicles without first making application to
35 transfer the license plates. A violation of this subsection (7)(e) is
36 a traffic infraction subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred
37 dollars. Any law enforcement agency that determines that a license
38 plate or plates have been transferred between two or more vehicles

1 shall confiscate the license plate or plates and return them to the
2 department for nullification along with full details of the reasons for
3 confiscation. Each vehicle identified in the transfer will be issued
4 a new license plate or plates upon application by the owner or owners
5 and the payment of full fees and taxes; or

6 (f) Fail, neglect, or refuse to endorse the registration
7 certificate and deliver the license plate or plates to the purchaser or
8 transferee of the vehicle, except as authorized under this section.

9 (8) **Transfer.** (a) Standard issue license plates follow the vehicle
10 when ownership of the vehicle changes unless the registered owner
11 wishes to retain the license plates and transfer them to a replacement
12 vehicle of the same use. A registered owner wishing to keep standard
13 issue license plates shall pay the license plate transfer fee required
14 under RCW 46.17.200(1)(c) when applying for license plate transfer.

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

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

22 (9) **Replacement.** (a) An owner or the owner's authorized
23 representative shall apply for a replacement license plate or plates if
24 the current license plate or plates assigned to the vehicle have been
25 lost, defaced, or destroyed, or if one or both plates have become so
26 illegible or are in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish.
27 An owner or the owner's authorized representative may apply for a
28 replacement license plate or plates at any time the owner chooses.

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

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

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

32 (c) The department shall not require the payment of any fee to
33 replace a license plate or plates for vehicles owned, rented, or leased
34 by foreign countries or international bodies to which the United States
35 government is a signatory by treaty.

36 (10) **Periodic replacement.** (~~License plates must be replaced~~
37 ~~periodically to ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity.~~) The
38 department shall:

1 (a) (~~Use empirical studies documenting the longevity of the~~
2 ~~reflective materials used to make license plates;~~

3 ~~(b) Determine how frequently license plates must be replaced))~~
4 Replace license plates every ten years by collecting one dollar and
5 twenty-five cents per license plate initially and at each registration
6 renewal period up to the tenth year of registration renewal. Any
7 replacement license plate fee amounts not collected during the ten-year
8 period must be collected on the tenth year of registration renewal;

9 (b) At the time license plates are replaced, provide any license
10 plate fasteners necessary to attach the license plate to the vehicle at
11 the manufacturer's suggested retail price; and

12 (c) Offer to owners on the tenth-year registration renewal notice
13 the option of retaining the current license plate number when obtaining
14 replacement license plates for the fee required in RCW 46.17.200(1)(b).

15 (11) **Periodic replacement--Exceptions.** The following license
16 plates are not required to be periodically replaced as required in
17 subsection (10) of this section:

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

20 (b) Congressional Medal of Honor license plates issued under RCW
21 46.18.230;

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

24 (12) **Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this
25 section.

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

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.200 and 2012 c 74 s 3 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 (1) In addition to all other fees and taxes required by law, the
33 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the
34 director shall charge:

35 (a) The following license plate fees for each license plate, unless
36 the owner or type of vehicle is exempt from payment:

	FEE TYPE	FEE	DISTRIBUTION
1			
2	Original issue	\$ 10.00	RCW 46.68.070
3	Reflectivity	\$ 2.00	RCW 46.68.070
4	Replacement	\$ ((10.00))	RCW 46.68.070
5		<u>12.50</u>	
6	Original issue,	\$ 4.00	RCW 46.68.070
7	motorcycle		
8	Replacement,	\$ 4.00	RCW 46.68.070
9	motorcycle		
10	Original issue, moped	\$1.50	RCW 46.68.070

11 (b) A license plate retention fee, as required under RCW
12 46.16A.200(10)(c), of twenty dollars if the owner wishes to retain the
13 current license plate number upon license plate replacement, unless the
14 owner or type of vehicle is exempt from payment. The twenty dollar fee
15 must be deposited in the multimodal transportation account created in
16 RCW 47.66.070.

17 (c) A ten dollar license plate transfer fee, as required under RCW
18 46.16A.200(8)(a), when transferring standard issue license plates from
19 one vehicle to another, unless the owner or type of vehicle is exempt
20 from payment. The ten dollar license plate transfer fee must be
21 deposited in the motor vehicle fund created in RCW 46.68.070.

22 (d) Former prisoner of war license plates, as described in RCW
23 46.18.235, may be transferred to a replacement vehicle upon payment of
24 a five dollar license plate fee, in addition to any other fee required
25 by law.

26 (2) The department may, upon request, provide license plates that
27 have been used and returned to the department to individuals for
28 nonvehicular use. The department may charge a fee of up to five
29 dollars per license plate to cover costs or recovery for postage and
30 handling. The department may waive the fee for license plates used in
31 educational projects and may, by rule, provide standards for the fee
32 waiver and restrictions on the number of license plates provided to any
33 one person. The fee must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund
34 created in RCW 46.68.070.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act applies to vehicle registrations
2 that are due or become due on or after January 1, 2014.

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