
SENATE BILL 6445

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2002 Regular Session

By Senators Gardner, Spanel, Prentice, Rasmussen and Fairley

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a license plate emblem to
2 benefit orca whale research; adding a new section to chapter 46.16 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the population of
6 certain pods of orca whales had peaked at ninety-nine in 1995, but
7 since that time the number of these whales has dropped to seventy-eight
8 in 2001. Monitoring the status and the dynamics affecting these whales
9 is important because as top predators within their environment, they
10 act as an important indicator of the health of prey species such as
11 salmon. The legislature finds that the creation of an orca whale
12 emblem that will affix to a vehicle license plate will appeal to
13 citizens interested in supporting orca whale research.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.16 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) Any person may purchase an orca whale research emblem for
17 display on vehicle license plates in the manner described by the
18 department. The emblems shall be designed to be affixed to a vehicle

1 license number plate by pressure-sensitive adhesive so as not to
2 obscure the plate identification numbers or letters. The department,
3 after consulting with the Washington state patrol, shall determine
4 whether the emblems use fully reflectorized materials designed to
5 provide visibility at night. The department shall include language
6 describing the opportunity to buy these emblems within each notice of
7 license plate tab renewals.

8 (2) The department of fish and wildlife shall announce a
9 competition for the design of the orca whale research emblem among
10 Washington K-12 students. The governor shall appoint five individuals
11 to serve as a committee for selection of the orca whale research
12 emblem. The student who designs the winning emblem that will be issued
13 by the department shall receive a scholarship award. The department
14 shall determine whether it is cost-effective to issue different emblem
15 designs for orca whale research in subsequent years. If the department
16 determines that it is cost-effective to issue a different emblem design
17 in subsequent years, a competition for the emblem design shall be
18 conducted in the same manner as the original competition.

19 (3) The director may adopt fees to be charged by the department for
20 emblems issued by the department under this section. The fee for each
21 orca whale research emblem issued under this section shall be in an
22 amount sufficient to offset the costs of production of the emblems and
23 the administration of that program by the department plus an amount for
24 use by the department of fish and wildlife in accordance with section
25 3 of this act, not to exceed a total fee of twenty-five dollars per
26 emblem.

27 (4) The director shall adopt rules to implement this section,
28 including the setting of fees.

29 (5) The orca whale research account is created in the custody of
30 the state treasurer. All receipts by the department from the issuance
31 of orca whale research emblems under this section shall be deposited
32 into this account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for
33 the costs of production of orca whale research emblems and
34 administration of the program by the department of licensing, with the
35 balance used only by the department of fish and wildlife for orca whale
36 research in accordance with section 3 of this act. Only the director
37 of licensing, the director of the department of fish and wildlife, or
38 their designees may authorize expenditures from the account. The

1 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but
2 no appropriation is required for expenditures.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.300 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department shall administer a grant program for orca whale
6 research by Washington state researchers for J-K-L whalepods in the
7 Salish sea. Funding for the program shall come from sales of orca
8 whale research emblems pursuant to section 2 of this act. The
9 department must award research grants under this section through a
10 competitive request-for-proposal process. The department shall develop
11 and adopt policies to establish an application process for the grants,
12 criteria to evaluate the applications, and to monitor the activities of
13 grant recipients. The department may adopt rules necessary to
14 implement the grant program established in this section and section 2
15 of this act.

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