

SSB 6455 - S AMD 103

By Senators Benton, Sheldon

NOT ADOPTED 02/13/2012

1 On page 1, after line 12, insert the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (i) Two identical license plates each containing the license plate
2 number; or
3 (ii) One license plate if the vehicle is a trailer, semitrailer,
4 camper, moped, collector vehicle, horseless carriage, or motorcycle.
5 (b) The director may adopt types of license plates to be used as
6 long as the license plates are legible.
7 (5)(a) **Display.** License plates must be:
8 (i) Attached conspicuously at the front and rear of each vehicle if
9 two license plates have been issued;
10 (ii) Attached to the rear of the vehicle if one license plate has
11 been issued;
12 (iii) Kept clean and be able to be plainly seen and read at all
13 times; and
14 (iv) Attached in a horizontal position at a distance of not more
15 than four feet from the ground.
16 (b) The Washington state patrol may grant exceptions to this
17 subsection if the body construction of the vehicle makes compliance
18 with this section impossible.
19 (6) **Change of license classification.** A person who has altered a
20 vehicle that makes the current license plate or plates invalid for the
21 vehicle's use shall:
22 (a) Surrender the current license plate or plates to the
23 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the
24 director;
25 (b) Apply for a new license plate or plates; and
26 (c) Pay a change of classification fee required under RCW
27 46.17.310.
28 (7) **Unlawful acts.** It is unlawful to:
29 (a) Display a license plate or plates on the front or rear of any
30 vehicle that were not issued by the director for the vehicle;
31 (b) Display a license plate or plates on any vehicle that have been
32 changed, altered, or disfigured, or have become illegible;
33 (c) Use holders, frames, or other materials that change, alter, or
34 make a license plate or plates illegible. License plate frames may be
35 used on license plates only if the frames do not obscure license tabs
36 or identifying letters or numbers on the plates and the license plates
37 can be plainly seen and read at all times;

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

3 (e) Transfer a license plate or plates issued under this chapter
4 between two or more vehicles without first making application to
5 transfer the license plates. A violation of this subsection (7)(e) is
6 a traffic infraction subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred
7 dollars. Any law enforcement agency that determines that a license
8 plate or plates have been transferred between two or more vehicles
9 shall confiscate the license plate or plates and return them to the
10 department for nullification along with full details of the reasons for
11 confiscation. Each vehicle identified in the transfer will be issued
12 a new license plate or plates upon application by the owner or owners
13 and the payment of full fees and taxes; or

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

17 (8) **Transfer.** (a) Standard issue license plates follow the vehicle
18 when ownership of the vehicle changes unless the registered owner
19 wishes to retain the license plates and transfer them to a replacement
20 vehicle of the same use. A registered owner wishing to keep standard
21 issue license plates shall pay the license plate transfer fee required
22 under RCW 46.17.200(1)(c) when applying for license plate transfer.

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

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

30 (9) **Replacement.** (a) An owner or the owner's authorized
31 representative shall apply for a replacement license plate or plates if
32 the current license plate or plates assigned to the vehicle have been
33 lost, defaced, or destroyed, or if one or both plates have become so
34 illegible or are in such a condition as to be difficult to distinguish.
35 An owner or the owner's authorized representative may apply for a
36 replacement license plate or plates at any time the owner chooses.

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

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

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

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

6 (10) ~~((**Periodic replacement.**—License plates must be replaced~~
7 ~~periodically to ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity.—The~~
8 ~~department shall:~~

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

11 ~~(b) Determine how frequently license plates must be replaced; and~~

12 ~~(c) Offer to owners the option of retaining the current license~~
13 ~~plate number when obtaining replacement license plates for the fee~~
14 ~~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)) (11) **Tabs or emblems.** The director may issue tabs or~~
27 ~~emblems to be attached to license plates or elsewhere on the vehicle to~~
28 ~~signify initial registration and renewals. Renewals become effective~~
29 ~~when tabs or emblems have been issued and properly displayed on license~~
30 ~~plates."~~

31 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
32 internal references accordingly.

33 On page 2, beginning on line 12, after "(b)" strike all material
34 through "(c)" on line 18 and insert "~~((A license plate retention fee,~~
35 ~~as required under RCW 46.16A.200(10)(a)(iii), of twenty dollars if the~~
36 ~~owner wishes to retain the current license plate number upon license~~

1 ~~plate replacement, unless the owner or type of vehicle is exempt from~~
2 ~~payment. The twenty dollar fee must be deposited in the multimodal~~
3 ~~transportation account created in RCW 47.66.070.~~

4 ~~(e))"~~

5 On page 2, at the beginning of line 23, strike "(d)" and insert
6 "((~~d~~)) (c)"

SSB 6455 - S AMD

By Senators Benton, Sheldon

NOT ADOPTED 02/13/2012

7 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "46.17.100," insert
8 "46.16A.200,"

EFFECT: Eliminates the periodic replacement requirement for
license plates.

--- END ---