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SENATE BILL 6237

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Kilmer, Haugen, Shin, McCaslin, Rasmussen, Hobbs, and Marr; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs

Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to armed forces and veterans license plates; and  
2 amending RCW 46.16.30920, 46.16.30921, 43.60A.140, and 73.04.110.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.30920 and 2005 c 216 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature recognizes that the armed forces license plate  
7 collection has been reviewed and approved by the special license plate  
8 review board.

9 (2) The department shall issue a special license plate collection,  
10 approved by the special license plate review board and the legislature,  
11 recognizing the contribution of veterans, active duty military  
12 personnel, reservists, and members of the ((Washington)) national  
13 guard. The collection includes six separate designs, each containing  
14 a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include  
15 army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and ((Washington))  
16 national guard.

17 (3) Armed forces special license plates may be used in lieu of  
18 regular or personalized license plates for vehicles required to display

1 one and two vehicle license plates, excluding vehicles registered under  
2 chapter 46.87 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the  
3 department.

4 (4) Upon request, the department must make available to the  
5 purchaser, at no additional cost, a decal indicating the purchaser's  
6 military status. The department must work with the department of  
7 veterans affairs to establish a list of the decals to be made  
8 available. The list of available decals must include, but is not  
9 limited to, "veteran," "disabled veteran," "reservist," "retiree," or  
10 "active duty." The department may specify where the decal may be  
11 placed on the license plate. Decals are required to be made available  
12 only for standard six-inch by twelve-inch license plates.

13 (5) Armed forces license plates and decals are available only to  
14 veterans as defined in RCW 41.04.007, active duty military personnel,  
15 reservists, members of the (~~Washington~~) national guard, and the  
16 (~~spouses~~) families of (~~deceased~~) veterans and service members.  
17 Upon initial application, any purchaser requesting an armed forces  
18 license plate and decal will be required to show proof of eligibility  
19 by providing: A DD-214 or discharge papers if a veteran; a military  
20 identification or retired military identification card; or a  
21 declaration of fact attesting to the purchaser's eligibility as  
22 required under this section. "Family" or "families" means an  
23 individual's spouse, child, parent, sibling, aunt, uncle, or cousin.  
24 A child includes stepchild, adopted child, foster child, grandchild,  
25 and son or daughter-in-law. A parent includes stepparent, grandparent,  
26 and in-laws. A sibling includes brother, half brother, stepbrother,  
27 sister, half sister, stepsister, and brother or sister-in-law.

28 (6) The department of veterans affairs must enter into an agreement  
29 with the department to reimburse the department for the costs  
30 associated with providing military status decals described in  
31 subsection (4) of this section.

32 (7) Armed forces license plates are not available free of charge to  
33 disabled veterans, former prisoners of war, or spouses of deceased  
34 former prisoners of war under the privileges defined in RCW 73.04.110  
35 and 73.04.115.

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.30921 and 2005 c 216 s 2 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1 (1) "Armed forces license plate collection" means the collection of  
2 six separate license plate designs issued under RCW 46.16.30920. Each  
3 license plate design displays a symbol representing one of the five  
4 branches of the armed forces, and one representing the ((Washington))  
5 national guard.

6 (2) Armed forces license plates are not available free of charge to  
7 disabled veterans, former prisoners of war, or spouses of deceased  
8 former prisoners of war under the privileges defined in RCW 73.04.110  
9 and 73.04.115.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.60A.140 and 2005 c 216 s 4 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 (1) The veterans stewardship account is created in the custody of  
13 the state treasurer. Disbursements of funds must be on the  
14 authorization of the director or the director's designee, and only for  
15 the purposes stated in subsection (4) of this section. In order to  
16 maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, funds are  
17 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is  
18 required to permit expenditure of the funds.

19 (2) The department may request and accept nondedicated  
20 contributions, grants, or gifts in cash or otherwise, including funds  
21 generated by the issuance of the armed forces license plate collection  
22 under chapter 46.16 RCW.

23 (3) All receipts, except as provided in RCW 46.16.313(20) (a) and  
24 (b), from the sale of armed forces license plates must be deposited  
25 into the veterans stewardship account.

26 (4) All moneys deposited into the veterans stewardship account must  
27 be used by the department for activities that benefit veterans or their  
28 families, including but not limited to, providing programs and services  
29 for homeless veterans; establishing memorials honoring veterans; and  
30 maintaining a future state veterans' cemetery. Funds from the account  
31 may not be used to supplant existing funds received by the department.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 73.04.110 and 2005 c 216 s 6 are each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 (1) Any person who is a veteran as defined in RCW 41.04.007 who  
35 submits to the department of licensing satisfactory proof of a service-

1 connected disability rating from the veterans administration or the  
2 military service from which the veteran was discharged and:

3 (a) Has lost the use of both hands or one foot;

4 (b) Was captured and incarcerated (~~for more than twenty nine~~  
5 ~~days~~) by an enemy of the United States during a period of war with the  
6 United States and received a prisoner of war medal;

7 (c) Has become blind in both eyes as the result of military  
8 service; or

9 (d) Is rated by the veterans administration or the military service  
10 from which the veteran was discharged and is receiving service-  
11 connected compensation at the one hundred percent rate that is expected  
12 to exist for more than one year;

13 is entitled to regular or special license plates issued by the  
14 department of licensing. The special license plates shall bear  
15 distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating that the motor  
16 vehicle is owned by a disabled veteran or former prisoner of war. This  
17 license shall be issued annually for one personal use vehicle without  
18 payment of any license fees or excise tax thereon. Whenever any person  
19 who has been issued license plates under the provisions of this section  
20 applies to the department for transfer of the plates to a subsequently  
21 acquired motor vehicle, a transfer fee of ten dollars shall be charged  
22 in addition to all other appropriate fees. The department may  
23 periodically verify the one hundred percent rate as provided in  
24 subsection (1)(d) of this section.

25 (2) Any person who has been issued free motor vehicle license  
26 plates under this section prior to July 1, 1983, shall continue to be  
27 eligible for the annual free license plates.

28 (3) For the purposes of this section: (a) "Blind" means the  
29 definition of "blind" used by the state of Washington in determining  
30 eligibility for financial assistance to the blind under Title 74 RCW;  
31 and (b) "special license plates" does not include any plate from the  
32 armed forces license plate collection established in RCW 46.16.30920.

33 Any unauthorized use of a special plate is a gross misdemeanor.

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