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SENATE BILL 6678

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Prentice, Hobbs, Swecker, McCaslin, Brandland, Spanel, Jacobsen, Oemig, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, King, Eide, Marr, Brown, Carrell, Berkey, Hatfield, Rasmussen, Rockefeller, Regala, Pridemore, Tom, Sheldon, Hargrove, Weinstein, Shin, Parlette, Murray, McAuliffe, Stevens, Kohl-Welles, Roach, and Holmquist

Read first time 01/21/08. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to special license plates for mothers of United  
2 States armed forces members killed in combat; amending RCW 46.16.725;  
3 reenacting and amending RCW 46.16.305; and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.305 and 1997 c 291 s 6 and 1997 c 241 s 10 are  
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 The department shall continue to issue the categories of special  
8 plates issued by the department under the sections repealed under  
9 section 12 (1) through (7), chapter 250, Laws of 1990. Special license  
10 plates issued under those repealed sections before January 1, 1991, are  
11 valid to the extent and under the conditions provided in those repealed  
12 sections. The following conditions, limitations, or requirements apply  
13 to certain special license plates issued after January 1, 1991:

14 (1) A horseless carriage plate and a plate or plates issued for  
15 collectors' vehicles more than thirty years old, upon payment of the  
16 initial fees required by law and the additional special license plate  
17 fee established by the department, are valid for the life of the  
18 vehicle for which application is approved by the department. When a

1 single plate is issued, it shall be displayed on the rear of the  
2 vehicle.

3 (2) The department may issue special license plates denoting  
4 amateur radio operator status only to persons having a valid official  
5 radio operator license issued by the federal communications commission.

6 (3) The department shall issue one set of special license plates to  
7 each resident of this state who has been awarded the Congressional  
8 Medal of Honor for use on a passenger vehicle registered to that  
9 person. The department shall issue the plate without the payment of  
10 licensing fees and motor vehicle excise tax.

11 (4) The department may issue for use on only one motor vehicle  
12 owned by the qualified applicant special license plates denoting that  
13 the recipient of the plate is a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor  
14 on December 7, 1941, to persons meeting all of the following criteria:

15 (a) Is a resident of this state;

16 (b) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7,  
17 1941;

18 (c) Was on station on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55  
19 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Hawaii time at Pearl Harbor, the island of Oahu, or  
20 offshore at a distance not to exceed three miles;

21 (d) Received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed  
22 Forces; and

23 (e) Is certified by a Washington state chapter of the Pearl Harbor  
24 survivors association as satisfying the qualifications in (c) of this  
25 subsection.

26 The department may issue such plates to the surviving spouse of any  
27 deceased Pearl Harbor survivor who met the requirements of this  
28 subsection. If the surviving spouse remarries, he or she shall return  
29 the special plates to the department within fifteen days and apply for  
30 regular plates. The surviving spouse must be a resident of this state.

31 The department shall issue these plates upon payment by the  
32 applicant of all other license fees, but the department may not set or  
33 charge an additional fee for these special license plates.

34 (5) Effective with registrations that are due or become due on or  
35 after January 1, 2009, the department may issue for use on motor  
36 vehicles owned by the qualified applicant special license plates  
37 denoting that the recipient of the plate is a member of gold star  
38 mothers to persons meeting all of the following criteria:

1       (a) Is a resident of this state; and

2       (b) Is a mother of a member of the United States armed forces  
3 killed in combat, as certified by the Washington state department of  
4 veterans affairs.

5       The department shall issue these plates upon payment by the  
6 applicant of all other license fees, but the department may not set or  
7 charge an additional fee for these special plates.

8       (6) The department shall replace, free of charge, special license  
9 plates issued under subsections (3) (~~and (4)~~) through (5) of this  
10 section if they are lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or destroyed. Such  
11 plates shall remain with the persons upon transfer or other disposition  
12 of the vehicle for which they were initially issued, and may be used on  
13 another vehicle registered to the recipient in accordance with the  
14 provisions of RCW 46.16.316(1).

15       **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.725 and 2007 c 518 s 711 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17       (1) The creation of the board does not in any way preclude the  
18 authority of the legislature to independently propose and enact special  
19 license plate legislation.

20       (2) The board must review and either approve or reject special  
21 license plate applications submitted by sponsoring organizations.

22       (3) Duties of the board include but are not limited to the  
23 following:

24       (a) Review and approve the annual financial reports submitted by  
25 sponsoring organizations with active special license plate series and  
26 present those annual financial reports to the senate and house  
27 transportation committees;

28       (b) Report annually to the senate and house transportation  
29 committees on the special license plate applications that were  
30 considered by the board;

31       (c) Issue approval and rejection notification letters to sponsoring  
32 organizations, the department, the chairs of the senate and house of  
33 representatives transportation committees, and the legislative sponsors  
34 identified in each application. The letters must be issued within  
35 seven days of making a determination on the status of an application;

36       (d) Review annually the number of plates sold for each special  
37 license plate series created after January 1, 2003. The board may

1 submit a recommendation to discontinue a special plate series to the  
2 chairs of the senate and house of representatives transportation  
3 committees;

4 (e) Provide policy guidance and directions to the department  
5 concerning the adoption of rules necessary to limit the number of  
6 special license plates that an organization or a governmental entity  
7 may apply for.

8 (4) Except as provided in this act, in order to assess the effects  
9 and impact of the proliferation of special license plates, the  
10 legislature declares a temporary moratorium on the issuance of any  
11 additional plates until July 1, 2009. During this period of time, the  
12 special license plate review board created in RCW 46.16.705 and the  
13 department of licensing are prohibited from accepting, reviewing,  
14 processing, or approving any applications. Additionally, no special  
15 license plate may be enacted by the legislature during the moratorium,  
16 unless the proposed license plate has been approved by the board before  
17 February 15, 2005.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act is exempt from the  
19 requirements of RCW 46.16.775.

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