
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6156

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Takko, Wagoner, Saldaña, Conway, and Sheldon; by request of Department of Licensing)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the requirements for collector
2 vehicle registrations; amending RCW 46.17.210, 46.18.275, 46.04.126,
3 46.04.1261, 46.04.199, 46.18.220, 46.18.255, and 46.16A.070;
4 reenacting and amending RCW 46.17.220; creating a new section; and
5 providing an effective date.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.17.210 and 2013 c 329 s 6 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 ~~((In))~~ (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section,
10 in addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
11 application for a vehicle registration under chapter 46.16A RCW, the
12 holder of a personalized license plate shall pay an initial fee of
13 fifty-two dollars and forty-two dollars for each renewal.

14 (2) In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
15 application for a vehicle registration under chapter 46.16A RCW and
16 RCW 46.17.220(5), a registered owner with a collector vehicle license
17 plate issued under RCW 46.18.220 may receive a personalized collector
18 vehicle license plate upon payment of a one-time initial fee of
19 fifty-two dollars.

20 (3) The personalized license plate ((fee)) fees under this
21 section must be distributed as provided in RCW 46.68.435.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.18.275 and 2010 c 161 s 626 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department for a
4 personalized license plate or to personalize a collector vehicle
5 license plate for any vehicle required to display one or two vehicle
6 license plates, excluding vehicles registered under chapter 46.87
7 RCW, upon terms and conditions established by the department. The
8 application for personalized license plates must contain the
9 combination of letters or numbers, or both, requested by the
10 registered owner.

11 (2) Personalized license plates must:

12 (a) Be the same design as standard issue license plates;

13 (b) Consist of numbers or letters or any combination of numbers
14 or letters;

15 (c) Not exceed seven positions unless proposed by the department
16 and approved by the Washington state patrol; and

17 (d) Not contain less than one character.

18 (3) A person who purchased personalized license plates containing
19 three letters and three digits on or between the dates of August 9,
20 1971, and November 6, 1973, is not required to pay the additional
21 annual renewal fee described in RCW 46.17.210.

22 (4) The department shall not issue or may refuse to issue
23 personalized license plates that:

24 (a) Duplicate or conflict with an existing or projected vehicle
25 license plate series or other numbering systems for records kept by
26 the department; or

27 (b) May carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or
28 which would be misleading.

29 (5) Personalized license plates must be issued only to the
30 registered owner of the vehicle on which they are to be displayed.
31 The registered owner must:

32 (a) Pay the personalized license plate fee required under RCW
33 46.17.210, in addition to any other fee or taxes due;

34 (b) Renew personalized license plates annually, except for
35 personalized collector vehicle license plates, regardless of whether
36 or not the vehicle on which the personalized license plates are
37 displayed will be driven on the public highways;

38 (c) Surrender personalized license plates that have not been
39 renewed to the department. The failure to surrender expired
40 personalized license plates is a traffic infraction; and

1 (d) Immediately report to the department when personalized
2 license plates have been transferred to another vehicle or another
3 owner.

4 (6) The department may establish rules as necessary to carry out
5 this section including, but not limited to, identifying the maximum
6 number of positions on personalized license plates for motorcycles.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.220 and 2019 c 384 s 2 and 2019 c 177 s 2 are
8 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

9 In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon
10 application for a vehicle registration in chapter 46.16A RCW, the
11 holder of a special license plate shall pay the appropriate special
12 license plate fee as listed in this section.

PLATE TYPE	INITIAL FEE	RENEWAL FEE	DISTRIBUTED UNDER
(1) 4-H	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(2) Amateur radio license	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
(3) Armed forces	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(4) Breast cancer awareness	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(5) Collector vehicle	(\$ 35.00) \$ 70.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
(6) Collegiate	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.430
(7) Endangered wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(8) Fred Hutch	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(9) Gonzaga University alumni association	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(10) Helping kids speak	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(11) Horseless carriage	\$ 35.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
(12) Keep kids safe	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
(13) Law enforcement memorial	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
(14) Military affiliate radio system	\$ 5.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
(15) Music matters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420

1	(16) Professional	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
2	firefighters and			
3	paramedics			
4	(17) Purple Heart	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
5	(18) Ride share	\$ 25.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.030
6	(19) San Juan Islands	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
7	(20) Seattle Mariners	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
8	(21) Seattle Seahawks	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
9	(22) Seattle Sounders FC	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
10	(23) Seattle Storm	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
11	(24) Seattle University	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
12	(25) Share the road	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
13	(26) Ski & ride Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
14	(27) Square dancer	\$ 40.00	N/A	RCW 46.68.070
15	(28) State flower	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
16	(29) Volunteer firefighters	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
17	(30) Washington farmers	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
18	and ranchers			
19	(31) Washington lighthouses	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
20	(32) Washington state	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
21	aviation			
22	(33) Washington state parks	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
23	(34) Washington state	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
24	wrestling			
25	(35) Washington tennis	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
26	(36) Washington's fish	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
27	collection			
28	(37) Washington's national	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
29	parks			
30	(38) Washington's wildlife	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425
31	collection			
32	(39) We love our pets	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.420
33	(40) Wild on Washington	\$ 40.00	\$ 30.00	RCW 46.68.425

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.04.126 and 2015 c 200 s 4 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (~~"Collector"~~) (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, "collector vehicle"
4 means any motor vehicle or travel trailer that is at least thirty
5 years old and meets the qualifications listed in RCW 46.18.220. A
6 collector vehicle shall not be used for business or commercial
7 purposes or for routine transportation of persons or property.

8 (2) For initial collector vehicle registrations on or after July
9 1, 2026, "collector vehicle" means any motor vehicle or travel
10 trailer that is at least forty years old and meets the qualifications
11 listed in RCW 46.18.220. A collector vehicle shall not be used for
12 business or commercial purposes or for routine transportation of
13 persons or property.

14 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.04.1261 and 2010 c 161 s 109 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (~~"Collector"~~) (1) Prior to July 1, 2026, "collector vehicle
17 license plate" means a special license plate that may be assigned to
18 a vehicle that is (~~more than~~) at least thirty years old and meets
19 the qualifications listed in RCW 46.18.220.

20 (2) For initial collector vehicle registrations on or after July
21 1, 2026, "collector vehicle license plate" means a special license
22 plate that may be assigned to a vehicle that is at least forty years
23 old and meets the qualifications listed in RCW 46.18.220.

24 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.04.199 and 2017 c 147 s 1 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 "Horseless carriage license plate" is a special license plate
27 that may be assigned to a motor vehicle (~~that is at least forty~~
28 years old) manufactured or built before January 1, 1916, and meets
29 the qualifications listed in RCW 46.18.255.

30 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.18.220 and 2015 c 200 s 3 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department, county
33 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a
34 collector vehicle license plate for a motor vehicle or travel trailer
35 that is at least thirty years old. The motor vehicle must be operated
36 primarily as a collector vehicle and be in good running order. The
37 applicant for the collector vehicle license plate shall:

1 (a) Purchase a registration for the motor vehicle or travel
2 trailer as required under chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW; (~~and~~)

3 (b) Pay the special license plate fee established under RCW
4 46.17.220(~~((1)-(f))~~) (5), in addition to any other fees or taxes
5 required by law; and

6 (c) Submit a certification as prescribed in subsection (5) of
7 this section.

8 (2) A person applying for a collector vehicle license plate may:

9 (a) Receive a collector vehicle license plate assigned by the
10 department; (~~or~~)

11 (~~Provide~~) For vehicles manufactured and with a model year
12 before January 1, 1989, provide an actual Washington state issued
13 license plate designated for general use in the year of the vehicle's
14 manufacture; or

15 (c) Personalize the person's collector vehicle license plate by
16 paying the additional fee specified in RCW 46.17.210, in addition to
17 any other fees or taxes required by law.

18 (3) Collector vehicle license plates:

19 (~~Are valid for the life of the motor vehicle or travel~~
20 ~~trailer;~~

21 ~~(b))~~ Are (~~not~~) required to be renewed every five years in
22 accordance with section 10 of this act; and

23 (~~e))~~ (b) Must be displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle or
24 travel trailer.

25 (4) A collector vehicle registered under this section may only be
26 used for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours,
27 parades, (~~and~~) occasional pleasure driving, and use as necessary
28 for operation and maintenance of the vehicle. A collector vehicle
29 shall not be used for business or commercial purposes or for routine
30 transportation of persons or property.

31 (5) When applying for an initial or renewal registration of a
32 collector vehicle, the registered owner(s) must submit a completed
33 certification form created by the department for initial applications
34 pay the applicable fees in RCW 46.17.005 and 46.17.040 and for
35 renewals pay the applicable fees as specified in this subsection (5).

36 (a)(i) If the renewal transaction is conducted by the county
37 auditor, the county auditor shall collect a service fee of five
38 dollars for the registration renewal that will be retained by the
39 county auditor;

1 (ii) If the renewal transaction is conducted by a subagent
2 appointed by the director, the subagent shall collect a service fee
3 of five dollars for the registration renewal that will be retained by
4 the subagent; and

5 (iii) The service fee for a registration renewal does not apply
6 to a transaction that is conducted online.

7 (6) Collector vehicle license plates under subsection (2)(b) of
8 this section may be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle
9 described in subsection (1) of this section upon application to the
10 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by
11 the director.

12 ~~((+6))~~ (7) Any person who knowingly provides a false or
13 facsimile license plate under subsection (2)(b) of this section is
14 subject to a traffic infraction and fine in an amount equal to the
15 monetary penalty for a violation of RCW 46.16A.200(7)(b).
16 Additionally, the person must pay for the cost of a collector vehicle
17 license plate as listed in RCW 46.17.220(~~((+1)(f))~~) (5), unless
18 already paid.

19 **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.18.255 and 2011 c 171 s 71 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) A registered owner may apply to the department, county
22 auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director for a
23 horseless carriage license plate for a motor vehicle that ~~((is at~~
24 ~~least forty years old))~~ was manufactured or built before January 1,
25 1916. The motor vehicle must be operated primarily as a collector
26 vehicle and be in good running order. The applicant for the horseless
27 carriage license plate shall:

28 (a) Purchase a registration for the motor vehicle as required
29 under chapters 46.16A and 46.17 RCW; and

30 (b) Pay the special license plate fee established under RCW
31 46.17.220(~~((+1)(i))~~) (11), in addition to any other fees or taxes
32 required by law.

33 (2) Horseless carriage license plates:

34 (a) Are valid for the life of the motor vehicle;

35 (b) Are not required to be renewed;

36 (c) Are not transferable to any other motor vehicle; and

37 (d) Must be displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle.

1 **Sec. 9.** RCW 46.16A.070 and 2011 c 171 s 44 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The department may ~~((refuse))~~:

4 (a) Refuse to issue or may cancel a registration certificate at
5 any time when the department determines that an applicant for
6 registration is not entitled to a registration certificate. Notice of
7 cancellation may be accomplished by sending a notice by first-class
8 mail using the last known address in department records for the
9 registered or legal owner or owners, and completing an affidavit of
10 first-class mail. It is unlawful for any person to remove, drive, or
11 operate the vehicle until a proper registration certificate has been
12 issued. A person removing, driving, or operating a vehicle after the
13 refusal to issue or cancellation of the registration is guilty of a
14 gross misdemeanor;

15 (b) Refuse to issue or renew a collector vehicle license plate
16 and may cancel a registration certificate of a collector vehicle if
17 the registered owner or applicant does not meet the qualifications
18 listed in RCW 46.18.220.

19 (2)(a) The suspension, revocation, cancellation, or refusal by
20 the director of a registration certificate provided under this
21 chapter is conclusive unless the person whose registration or
22 certificate is suspended, revoked, canceled, or refused appeals to
23 the superior court of Thurston county or the person's county of
24 residence.

25 (b) Notice of appeal must be filed within ten days after receipt
26 of the notice of suspension, revocation, cancellation, or refusal.
27 Upon the filing of the notice of appeal, the court shall issue an
28 order to the director to show cause why the registration should not
29 be granted or reinstated and return the order not less than ten days
30 after the date of service to the director. Service must be in the
31 same manner as prescribed for the service of a summons and complaint
32 in other civil actions.

33 (c) Upon the hearing on the order to show cause, the court shall
34 hear evidence concerning matters with reference to the suspension,
35 revocation, cancellation, or refusal of the registration and shall
36 enter judgment either affirming or setting aside the suspension,
37 revocation, cancellation, or refusal.

38 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) This act applies to all collector
39 vehicle registrations issued before the effective date of this

1 section, in addition to applying to all new collector vehicle
2 registrations. The department of licensing shall notify all current
3 collector vehicle plate holders of the new registration requirements
4 in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.

5 (2) The department of licensing shall establish a phase-in of the
6 five-year renewal requirement for collector vehicle owners over a
7 period not to exceed six years. This phase-in will be based on the
8 age of the vehicles with the vehicles that are closest to the thirty-
9 year old threshold first.

10 (3) The department of licensing may establish rules as necessary
11 to carry out this section including, but not limited to, establishing
12 the phase-in five-year renewal requirement for collector vehicle
13 owners.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** This act takes effect January 1, 2021.

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