

# Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

<b>Bill Number:</b> 5444 S SB	<b>Title:</b> New special license plates
-------------------------------	--

## Estimated Cash Receipts

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Department of Licensing	0	0	1,443,800	0	0	1,747,100	0	0	1,762,600
Department of Licensing	In addition to the estimate above,there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see individual fiscal note.								
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,443,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,747,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,762,600</b>

Agency Name	2025-27		2027-29		2029-31	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact					
Local Gov. Total						

## Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Joint Transportation Committee	Fiscal note not available											
Department of Licensing	16.6	0	0	6,996,000	5.7	0	0	2,663,000	5.7	0	0	2,642,000
Department of Corrections	Fiscal note not available											
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,996,000</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,663,000</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,642,000</b>

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

## Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Joint Transportation Committee	Fiscal note not available								
Department of Licensing	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Corrections	Fiscal note not available								
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

--

Prepared by: Kyle Siefering, OFM	Phone: (360) 995-3825	Date Published: Preliminary 4/17/2025
----------------------------------	--------------------------	--

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 5444 S SB	<b>Title:</b> New special license plates	<b>Agency:</b> 240-Department of Licensing
-------------------------------	--	--

## Part I: Estimates

☐

No Fiscal Impact

### Estimated Cash Receipts to:

ACCOUNT	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Limited Fish and Wildlife Account-State 104-1	575,700	868,100	1,443,800	1,747,100	1,762,600
<b>Total \$</b>	575,700	868,100	1,443,800	1,747,100	1,762,600

In addition to the estimates above, there are additional indeterminate costs and/or savings. Please see discussion.

### Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	27.5	5.7	16.6	5.7	5.7
<b>Account</b>					
Limited Fish and Wildlife Account-State 104-1	44,000	0	44,000	0	0
Motor Vehicle Account-State 108 -1	5,603,000	1,349,000	6,952,000	2,663,000	2,642,000
<b>Total \$</b>	5,647,000	1,349,000	6,996,000	2,663,000	2,642,000

### Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

*The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒

If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

☐

If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐

Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

☐

Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Bryon Moore	Phone: (360)786-7726	Date: 04/09/2025
Agency Preparation: Oliver Einarsson	Phone: 3606345462	Date: 04/16/2025
Agency Approval: Gerrit Eades	Phone: (360) 902-3931	Date: 04/16/2025
OFM Review: Kyle Siefering	Phone: (360) 995-3825	Date: 04/17/2025

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

This bill creates thirteen new special license plates;

- Donate Life.
- Firefighter Memorial.
- Historical Throwback.
- Keep Washington evergreen.
- LeMay-America’s Car Museum.
- Mount St. Helens.
- Nautical Northwest.
- Seattle Reign FC.
- Smokey Bear.
- State sport.
- United States Naval Academy.
- Washington state honey bees and pollinators.
- Working forests.

Proceeds from the plates will go toward their respective programs and services. Effective date starts November 1, 2025 for Historical Throwback, Keep Washington Evergreen, State Sport, LeMay Car Museum, Smokey Bear, Honey Bees and Pollinators. The remaining will be implemented as DOL has capacity throughout the biennium.

Changes from SB 5444 to SSB 5444:

- This substitute creates several more special license plates than the original and now requires DOL to form a work group to review the special plates process for the purpose of making recommendations and presentations to the Joint Transportation Committee. This version also increases the cost of registration renewals for personalized plates.

These changes have resulted in a fiscal impact from the previous version.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Partially Indeterminate, please see attached fiscal note.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Please see attached fiscal note.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
104-1	Limited Fish and Wildlife Account	State	44,000	0	44,000	0	0
108-1	Motor Vehicle Account	State	5,603,000	1,349,000	6,952,000	2,663,000	2,642,000
Total \$			5,647,000	1,349,000	6,996,000	2,663,000	2,642,000

### III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	27.5	5.7	16.6	5.7	5.7
A-Salaries and Wages	1,625,000	339,000	1,964,000	678,000	678,000
B-Employee Benefits	685,000	143,000	828,000	286,000	286,000
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	3,337,000	867,000	4,204,000	1,699,000	1,678,000
G-Travel					
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
<b>Total \$</b>	5,647,000	1,349,000	6,996,000	2,663,000	2,642,000

### III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Licensing Services Representative 1	58,376	25.0	5.2	15.1	5.2	5.2
Licensing Services Representative 3	67,720	2.4	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5
<b>Total FTEs</b>		27.5	5.7	16.6	5.7	5.7

### III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

## Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

### IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

### IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

### IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

### IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

## Part V: New Rule Making Required

*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Agency 240 – Department of Licensing

Bill Number: SSB 5444

Bill Title: Creating Several New Special License Plates

## Part 1: Estimates

☐ No Fiscal Impact

### Estimated Cash Receipts:

PARTIALLY INDETERMINATE; PLEASE SEE NARRATIVE

Account Name	Account	FY 26	FY 27	25-27 Total	27-29 Total	29-31 Total
State Wildlife	104	575,700	868,100	1,443,800	1,747,100	1,762,600
Account Totals		575,700	868,100	1,443,800	1,747,100	1,762,600

### Estimated Expenditures:

Object Name		FY 26	FY 27	25-27 Total	27-29 Total	29-31 Total
FTE Staff Years		27.45	5.72	16.59	5.72	5.72
Account Name	Account	FY 26	FY 27	25-27 Total	27-29 Total	29-31 Total
State Wildlife	104	44,000	-	44,000	-	-
Motor Vehicle	108	5,603,000	1,349,000	6,952,000	2,663,000	2,642,000
Account Totals		5,647,000	1,349,000	6,996,000	2,663,000	2,642,000

*The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.*

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions.

- ☐ If the fiscal impact is **less than \$50,000** per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- ☒ If fiscal impact is **greater than \$50,000** per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- ☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- ☐ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date:
Agency Preparation: Oliver Einarsson	Phone: (360) 635-5462	Date: 4/16/2025
Agency Approval: Gerrit Eades	Phone: (360) 867-8233	Date: 4/16/2025

Request #	1
Bill #	5444 SSB

## Part 2 – Explanation

This bill creates thirteen new special license plates;

- Donate Life.
- Firefighter Memorial.

- Historical Throwback.
- Keep Washington evergreen.
- LeMay-America's Car Museum.
- Mount St. Helens.
- Nautical Northwest.
- Seattle Reign FC.
- Smokey Bear.
- State sport.
- United States Naval Academy.
- Washington state honey bees and pollinators.
- Working forests.

Proceeds from the plates will go toward their respective programs and services. Effective date starts November 1, 2025 for Historical Throwback, Keep Washington Evergreen, State Sport, LeMay Car Museum, Smokey Bear, Honey Bees and Pollinators. The remaining will be implemented as DOL has capacity throughout the biennium.

**Changes from SB 5444 to SSB 5444:**

- This substitute creates several more special license plates than the original and now requires DOL to form a work group to review the special plates process for the purpose of making recommendations and presentations to the Joint Transportation Committee. This version also increases the cost of registration renewals for personalized plates.

These changes have resulted in a fiscal impact from the previous version.

**2.A – Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact**

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 2**

- Effective 90-Days Sine Die, DOL will create a workgroup to review provisions associated with special plates.
- DOL will determine the work group members, but it must include internal and external entities involved in the approval, reporting, and issuance of special plates.
  - This could potentially include DOC, County Auditors, and a sponsor organization.
- The JTC must be invited to attend at least one of the work group meetings each calendar meeting.
- By Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> in 2025 and 2026, the work group must provide a status update and presentation to the JTC.
- DOL must provide a preliminary report and presentation to the JTC on our recommendations by November 15, 2027.
- A final report ***with draft legislation***, is due to the House and Senate Transportation Committees on January 1, 2028.

**Sec. 4 – Amends RCW 46.17.220**

- Creates the following 13 new special license plates:
  - Donate Life.
  - Firefighter Memorial.
  - Historical Throwback.

- Keep Washington evergreen.
- LeMay-America's Car Museum.
- Mount St. Helens.
- Nautical Northwest.
- Seattle Reign FC.
- Smokey Bear.
- State sport.
- United States Naval Academy.
- Washington state honey bees and pollinators.
- Working forests.

#### **Sec. 5 – Amends RCW 46.18.200**

- Designs for the new special plates are as follows:
  - Donate Life:
    - Displays the donate life logo.
  - Firefighter Memorial:
    - Displays a Maltese cross with the words “never forget”.
  - Historical Throwback:
    - Displays white lettering on a black background in a style similar to historical license plates issued in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Keep Washington evergreen:
    - Displays a green lettering on a white background in a style similar to the license plates issued by the department in the 1970s, but includes the words evergreen state along the bottom of the plate.
  - LeMay-America's Car Museum:
    - Displays a style homage to classic Washington automobile plates.
  - Mount St. Helens:
    - Displays an image of Mount St. Helens.
  - Nautical Northwest:
    - Displays a Northwest maritime scene.
  - Seattle Reign FC:
    - Displays the “Seattle Reign FC” logo.
  - Smokey Bear:
    - Displays the name, image, and likeness of Smokey Bear and messages for wildfire prevention.
  - State sport:
    - Displays a design recognizing the Washington state sport of pickleball.
  - United States Naval Academy:
    - Displays a design related to the United States Naval Academy.
  - Washington state honey bees and pollinators:
    - Displays honey bees and pollinators.
  - Working forests:
    - Displays an image embodying working forests.
- Puts a moratorium on Department-issued special plates until January 1, 2029.
- Creates a phased in approach for the issuance of some the new special plates, beginning 11/1/2025.



- Plates whose organizations submitted their signatures before March 1, 2025, as well as the Keep Washington Evergreen and historical throwback plates, will be phased in beginning 11/1/2025.
  - This would include: historical throwback, keep Washington evergreen, state sport, LeMay Car Museum, Smokey Bear, Honey bees and pollinators.
- Any of the remaining plates with signatures submitted after March 1, 2025, must be phased in on the order of signature submission and according to “the Department’s ability to implement”.

### **Sec. 3 – Amends RCW 46.68.420**

- Creates the fee dispositions for the new special plates and changes the fee disposition for two current plates:
  - Donate life:
    - Funds are directed to the Life Center Northwest.
  - Firefighter memorial:
    - Funds are directed to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Account.
  - Historical Throwback:
    - Funds are retained by DOL for expanding and improving driver’s education programs and activities.
  - LeMay-America’s Car Museum:
    - Providing funds to promote, encourage, and inspire students and the community to understand the role of automobiles in our culture and economy through education, interpretive programs, and job training; to open doors to learning through science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM); and to inspire a new generation of skilled trade workers, engineers, designers, artists, and enthusiasts.
  - Mount St. Helens:
    - Funds are directed to the Mt. St. Helens Institute.
  - Nautical Northwest:
    - Funds are used for supporting supporting historic resources of Whidbey Island's maritime communities.
  - Seattle Reign FC:
    - Funds are directed to the RAVE foundation.
  - Seattle Seahawks:
    - Plate revenue disposition is changed to now provide 75% of revenue to the Seattle Seahawks charitable foundation and 25% to the WA Leadership Board.
  - Seattle Sounders:
    - Revenue disposition is changed to now provide 75% of revenue to the RAVE foundation and 25% to the WA Leadership Board.
  - State sport:
    - Funds to be placed in a trust account managed by the Seattle metro pickleball association.
  - WA State honey bees and pollinators:
    - Funds are directed to the WA state beekeepers association.
  - Working forests:
    - Funds are directed to the Washington tree farm program to support small forest landowners to sustainably manage over 400,000 acres of private forestland.

#### **Sec. 4 – Amends RCW 46.68.425**

- Creates the fee dispositions for the other new special plates:
  - Historical throwback:
    - Provides funds for expanding and improving driver’s education programs and activities.
  - Keep Washington Evergreen:
    - Supports electric charging stations throughout WA.
  - Smokey Bear wildfire prevention:
    - Only for DNR’s resources for wildfire prevention programs.
  - US Naval Academy:
    - As specified under RCW 43.60A.140(4)

#### **Sec. 23 – Amends RCW 46.17.210**

- Increases the cost of registration renewals for personalized plates from \$42 to \$52.

#### **NEW SECTION. Sec. 24**

- Makes sections 3 through 23, effective November 1, 2025.

#### **2.B - Cash receipts Impact**

The Department of Licensing makes the following assumptions regarding this bill.

Standard special plate definition/criteria:

- Anyone can buy the specialty plate for use on a vehicle registered to that person.
- Specialty plates can be used on motor vehicles, trailers and motorcycles.
- All customers pay the same specialty plate fee.
- The special plate and vehicle expirations match.
- Specialty plates are renewed annually with the vehicle.
- Specialty plates are transferable.

This bill creates a special license plate and establishes fees of \$40 for an original, \$30 for a renewed plate, and establishes the distribution of those fees.

If this bill becomes law, it will allow vehicle owners the option to choose a new type of specialty license plate for their vehicle in lieu of the standard issue plate. There is no information available, and it is not known how many of these new specialty plates might be purchased. The total revenue impact is indeterminate.

However, based on historical purchase data of all special plates, the following sales estimates below could occur for the eleven standard plates mentioned in this bill:

5 Standard effective 11/25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Original Plates	5,988	3,350	3,257	2,405	1,631	1,725
Renewal Plates	-	5,159	7,303	8,987	9,867	9,906
<b>Total</b>	5,988	8,509	10,560	11,392	11,498	11,631

6 Standard effective 11/26	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Original Plates	-	7,186	4,020	3,908	2,886	1,957
Renewal Plates	-	-	6,191	8,764	10,784	11,840
<b>Total</b>	-	7,186	10,211	12,672	13,670	13,797

Applications for Smokey Bear plates in National and State Parks, along with issuance trends for black plates in other states, support an expected positive revenue impact from the Smokey Bear and Historical Throwback specialty plates. Based on applications processed in 2023, DOL anticipates about 1,680 Smokey Bear plate applications, potentially generating \$67,080 in FY 2026. Similar trends suggest strong demand for the Historical Throwback plate as well.

Smokey Bear effective 11/25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Original Plates	1,677	938	912	673	457	483
Renewal Plates	-	1,445	2,045	2,517	2,763	2,774
<b>Total</b>	1,677	2,383	2,957	3,190	3,220	3,257

Smokey Bear effective 11/25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Original Plates (\$40 per set)	\$ 67,080	\$ 37,520	\$ 36,480	\$ 26,920	\$ 18,280	\$ 19,320
Renewal Plates (\$30)	\$ -	\$ 43,350	\$ 61,350	\$ 75,510	\$ 82,890	\$ 83,220
<b>Total</b>	\$ 67,080	\$ 80,870	\$ 97,830	\$ 102,430	\$ 101,170	\$ 102,540

According to the *Improving Young Driver Safety Implementation Plan* (Department of Licensing, 2024, p. 122), black plates introduced in Colorado, Iowa, Mississippi, and Minnesota have seen an average issuance rate of 3.5%. Applying this rate, DOL projects 232,155 applications for the Historical Throwback specialty plate in its first year, with an estimated 43,015 applications annually thereafter. This could generate approximately \$9,286,200 in revenue for FY 2026.”

Historical Throwback effective 11/25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Original Plates	232,155	43,015	43,015	43,015	43,015	43,015
Renewal Plates	-	199,998	208,578	214,122	222,725	230,176
<b>Total</b>	232,155	243,013	251,593	257,137	265,740	273,191

Historical Throwback effective 11/25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Original Plates (\$40 per set)	\$ 9,286,200	\$ 1,720,600	\$ 1,720,600	\$ 1,720,600	\$ 1,720,600	\$ 1,720,600
Renewal Plates (\$30)	\$ -	\$ 5,999,940	\$ 6,257,340	\$ 6,423,660	\$ 6,681,750	\$ 6,905,280
<b>Total</b>	\$ 9,286,200	\$ 7,720,540	\$ 7,977,940	\$ 8,144,260	\$ 8,402,350	\$ 8,625,880

### Personal Plates Rate increase

Sec. 23 of this bill would amend RCW 46.17.210 to increase the renewal fee for personalized plates from \$42 to \$52 to be the same as the current fee for an original personalized plate maintaining the

distribution of these fees. The \$10 increase to the personalized plate renewal fee is distributed to the Limited Fish and Wildlife Account (104). Section 24 sets the effective date of sections 3 through 23 as November 1, 2025 with FY 2026 at a partial year or 8 months of revenue impact based on the March 2025 forecast. DOL does not anticipate any reduction in personalized plate renewals related to this fee increase since it essentially equalizes the fee for an original and renewal personalized plate. The revenue increase is estimated to be \$575,700 in FY 2026

## **2.C – Expenditures**

RCW 46.18.140 requires special license plate sponsoring organizations to either pay all start-up costs to DOL for deposit to the motor vehicle fund before creating a special license plate series or that DOL may keep all special license plate revenue until such time that DOL's startup costs are fully reimbursed.

### **Program Costs:**

To meet the staggered implementation dates of the thirteen plates, FTE requests will need to be distributed across the first two fiscal years. These estimates assume all plates will achieve their target signatures and DOL will have the capacity to implement in the biennium.

### **11 Standard Plates**

- The computation below is only for the eleven specialty plates with standard estimates. The Smokey Bear Plate and Historical Throwback plate have been separated from these estimates.

#### **First Year**

- 1,100 (standard number for plates issued per year) \* 9 (minutes per processing) = 9,900 minutes
- 9,900 (minutes) / 88,320 (minutes per year for 1 FTE) = .11 FTE for one plate
- .11 (FTE for one plate) \* 11 (plates proposed in bill) = **1.21 LSR1 FTE**
- .03 (standard LSR3 assumptions) \* 11 (plates proposed) = **.33 LSR3 FTE**

#### **On-going**

- .06 (standard ongoing assumptions) \* 11 (plates proposed) = **.66 LSR1 FTE**
- .01 (standard LSR3 assumptions) \* 11 (plates proposed) = **.11 LSR3 FTE**

### **Smokey Bear Plate**

- For Smokey Bear license plate, based on National and State Park applications processed in 2023, PSD expects 1,680 applications at a 9-minute touch time.

#### **First Year**

- 1,680 (applications) \* 9 (minutes per processing) = 15,120 minutes
- 15,120 (minutes) / 88,320 (minutes per year for 1 FTE) = **.17 LSR1 FTE**
- .03 (standard LSR3 assumptions) \* 1.5273 (increase for Smokey Bear) = .0458
- .0458 (increase for Smokey Bear) + .03 (standard LSR3 assumption) = **.0758 LSR3 FTE**

#### **On-going**

- 1,680 (applications for Smokey Bear) / 1100 (standard plate assumptions) = 1.5273
- .06 (standard ongoing assumptions) \* 1.5273 (increase of applications) = .0916
- .09 (FTE needed for Smokey Bear) + .06 (standard ongoing assumptions) = **.15 LSR1 FTE**
- .01 (standard LSR3 assumptions) \* 1.5273 (increase for Smokey Bear) = .0153
- .0153 (increase for Smokey Bear) + .01 (standard LSR3 assumption) = **.0253 LSR3 FTE**

### **Historical Throwback**

- For Historical Throwback license plate, based on the data below, we assume that 3.5% of Washington vehicles will purchase this plate. PSD expects 232,155 applications in the first year and 43,015 on-going at a 9-minute touch time.

Estimates for the Historical Throwback plate is based on other states implementation of a similar design. Other states have seen an average of a 3.5% conversation rate. This high conversation rate is thought to be due to the plates styling and not the organization it is connected to. This is a vanity item that will be sought after by a wide audience and has an estimate reflecting this popularity.

	Yearly Registrations	Est Yearly Issuance	
Colorado	5,000,000	170,582	3.4%
Iowa	3,700,000	154,301	4.2%
Mississippi	2,980,000	96,209	3.2%
Minnesota	5,500,000	173,494	3.2%
	Average issuance Percentage		3.5%

#### Supporting information for registration estimates:

- [Alternative Fuels Data Center: Vehicle Registration Counts by State](#)
- Young Driver Implementation Plan (ESSB 5583 page 122)

#### Colorado

- [12 December 2023 Registered Vehicle Monthly Web Post.pdf](#)

#### Iowa

- [regis2023.pdf](#)
- [3.7 million vehicles registered in Iowa in 2023 - Radio Iowa](#)

#### Mississippi

- [Annual Reports | DOR](#)

#### Minnesota

- Estimate from Alternative Fuel Date Center, official numbers will need to be a public records request.

#### First Year

- $232,155 \text{ (applications)} \times 9 \text{ (minutes per processing)} = 2,089,395 \text{ minutes}$
- $2,089,395 \text{ minutes} / 88,320 \text{ (minutes per year for 1 FTE)} = \mathbf{23.66 \text{ LSR1 FTE}}$
- Within increase of staff, we require **2.0 LSR3 FTE** temporarily to supervise these temporary team members

#### On-going

- $43,015 \text{ (applications)} \times 9 \text{ (minutes per processing)} = 387,135 \text{ minutes}$
- $387,135 \text{ minutes} / 88,320 \text{ (minutes per year for 1 FTE)} = \mathbf{4.38 \text{ LSR1 FTE}}$
- $43,015 \text{ (applications)} / 1,100 \text{ (standard assumptions for plates)} = 39.1045$
- $39.10 \times .01 \text{ (standard assumptions for LSR2 FTE)} = \mathbf{0.39 \text{ LSR3 FTE}}$

#### Total FTE Request:

- $1.21 \text{ FTE} + .17 \text{ FTE} + 23.66 \text{ FTE} = \mathbf{25.04 \text{ LSR1 FTE in the first year}}$
- $.66 \text{ FTE} + .15 \text{ FTE} + 4.38 \text{ FTE} = \mathbf{5.19 \text{ LSR1 FTE ongoing}}$
- $.33 \text{ FTE} + .0758 \text{ FTE} + 2.0 \text{ FTE} = \mathbf{2.41 \text{ LSR3 FTE in the first year}}$

- .11 FTE + .0253 FTE + .39 FTE = .53 LSR3 FTE ongoing

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Plate Counts	239,820	54,489	51,204	50,001	47,989	47,180
Plate Sets Digital @ 4.845 each	\$ 1,161,928	\$ 263,999	\$ 248,083	\$ 242,255	\$ 232,507	\$ 228,587

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Monthly Tab Including Renewals	239,820	54,489	51,204	50,001	47,989	47,180
Yearly Tab Including Renewals	-	206,602	224,117	234,390	246,139	254,696
Total	\$ 13,790	\$ 15,116	\$ 15,943	\$ 16,470	\$ 17,035	\$ 17,485

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Original Mail	239,820	54,489	51,204	50,001	47,989	47,180
Postage @ 4.500	\$ 1,079,190	\$ 245,201	\$ 230,418	\$ 225,005	\$ 215,951	\$ 212,310
Renewal by Mail (33%)	-	68,179	73,959	77,349	81,226	84,050
Postage @ \$.73	\$ -	\$ 49,770	\$ 53,990	\$ 56,465	\$ 59,295	\$ 61,356
Total	\$ 1,079,190	\$ 294,971	\$ 284,408	\$ 281,470	\$ 275,246	\$ 273,666

Total for Plates, Tabs, & Postage	\$ 2,254,908	\$ 574,086	\$ 548,434	\$ 540,195	\$ 524,788	\$ 519,738
-----------------------------------	--------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

#### Information Services:

The vehicle licensing component of DRIVES modernization was successfully implemented in December 2016. Completed IT system improvements will reduce DOL's workload related to implementing standard special (non-complex) license plates. DOL has determined that up to five standard special plates can be implemented per legislative session without additional IT costs. However, if DOL is required to implement six or more standard special plates, staff capacity is not sufficient, and it would be necessary to contract required IT system changes out to a vendor at the cost of \$21,800 per special plate.

#### Support Services:

Agency Administrative Overhead is included at a rate of 24.8 percent of the direct program costs. This funding received covers agency-wide functions such as vendor payments, contract administration, financial management, mail processing, equipment management, help desk support, and technical assistance to DOL employees. These indirect costs are shown under object E.

### Part 3 – Expenditure Detail

#### 3.A – Operating Budget Expenditures

Account Name	Account	FY 26	FY 27	25-27 Total	27-29 Total	29-31 Total
State Wildlife	104	44,000	-	44,000	-	-
Motor Vehicle	108	5,603,000	1,349,000	6,952,000	2,663,000	2,642,000
Account Totals		5,647,000	1,349,000	6,996,000	2,663,000	2,642,000

#### 3.B – Expenditures by Object or Purpose

Object Name	FY 26	FY 27	25-27 Total	27-29 Total	29-31 Total
FTE Staff Years	27.45	5.72	16.59	5.72	5.72
Salaries and Wages	1,625,000	339,000	1,964,000	678,000	678,000
Employee Benefits	685,000	143,000	828,000	286,000	286,000
Goods and Services	3,337,000	867,000	4,204,000	1,699,000	1,678,000
<b>Total By Object Type</b>	<b>5,647,000</b>	<b>1,349,000</b>	<b>6,996,000</b>	<b>2,663,000</b>	<b>2,642,000</b>

### **3.C – FTE Detail**

Position	Salary	FY 26	FY 27	25-27 Total	27-29 Total	29-31 Total
Licensing Services Representative 1	58,376	25.04	5.19	15.12	5.19	5.19
Licensing Services Representative 3	67,720	2.41	0.53	1.47	0.53	0.53
-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total FTE</b>		<b>27.45</b>	<b>5.72</b>	<b>16.59</b>	<b>5.72</b>	<b>5.72</b>

### **Part 4 – Capital Budget Impact**

None.

### **Part 5 – New Rule Making Required**

None.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

<b>Bill Number:</b> 5444 S SB	<b>Title:</b> New special license plates
-------------------------------	--

**Part I: Jurisdiction**—Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

## Legislation Impacts:

- ☐ Cities:
- ☐ Counties:
- ☐ Special Districts:
- ☐ Specific jurisdictions only:
- ☐ Variance occurs due to:

## Part II: Estimates

- ☒ No fiscal impacts.
- ☐ Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- ☐ Legislation provides local option:
- ☐ Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

### Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

### Estimated expenditure impacts to:

None

## Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 04/10/2025
Leg. Committee Contact: Bryon Moore	Phone: (360)786-7726	Date: 04/09/2025
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 04/10/2025
OFM Review: Kyle Siefering	Phone: (360) 995-3825	Date: 04/10/2025



## Part IV: Analysis

### A. SUMMARY OF BILL

*Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.*

#### CHANGES BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PRIOR VERSION OF THE BILL:

The substitute establishes a moratorium on issuance of any new special license plates beyond the ones authorized in this act until January 1, 2029. It provides a phased implementation of up to five additional special license plates bringing the total to 13 new special license plates authorized under the legislation. It directs the Department of Licensing to establish a special license plate workgroup. It increases the renewal fee on personalized plates, and modifies the distributions of the Seahawks and Sounders special license plates.

#### SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL VERSION:

Sec. 1 amends RCW 46.18.060. Except for special license plates created under this act, the department may not issue any new special license plates until January 1, 2029.

Sec. 2 creates a new section. The Department of Licensing must convene a special license work group to conduct a comprehensive review of current provisions associated with special license plates.

Sec. 5 amends RCW 46.18.200. Except for special license plates created under this act and as specified in this subsection, the department may not issue any new special license plates until January 1, 2029.

Sec. 23 amends RCW 46.17.210. In addition to all fees and taxes required to be paid upon application for a vehicle registration under chapter 46.16A RCW, the holder of a personalized license plate shall pay an initial fee of \$52 and \$52 for each renewal. The personalized license plate fee must be distributed as provided in RCW 46.68.435.

Sec. 24 establishes that sections 3 through 23 of this act take effect November 1, 2025.

### B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

*Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.*

This legislation would have no impact on local government expenditures.

### C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

*Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.*

This legislation will have no impact on local government revenue. The substitute bill increases the cost of renewal of special license plates to \$52 from \$42. However, under RCW 46.68.435 all revenue collected from special license plates is forwarded to the State Treasurer, and thus none is retained by county auditors.

#### SOURCES

Washington State Department of Licensing



# Multiple Agency Ten-Year Analysis Summary

<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
5444 S SB	New special license plates

This ten-year analysis is limited to the estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases.

## Estimated Cash Receipts

	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028	Fiscal Year 2029	Fiscal Year 2030	Fiscal Year 2031	Fiscal Year 2032	Fiscal Year 2033	Fiscal Year 2034	Fiscal Year 2035	2026-35 TOTAL
Department of Licensing Partially Indeterminate Impact	575,700	868,100	871,700	875,400	879,300	883,300	885,300	887,300	889,200	891,000	8,506,300



# Ten-Year Analysis

<b>Bill Number</b> 5444 S SB	<b>Title</b> New special license plates	<b>Agency</b> 240 Department of Licensing
---------------------------------	--	--

This ten-year analysis is limited to agency estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases. The Office of Financial Management ten-year projection can be found at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/tax/default.asp>.

## Estimates

☐ No Cash Receipts
 ☒ Partially Indeterminate Cash Receipts
 ☐ Indeterminate Cash Receipts

## Estimated Cash Receipts

Name of Tax or Fee	Acct Code	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028	Fiscal Year 2029	Fiscal Year 2030	Fiscal Year 2031	Fiscal Year 2032	Fiscal Year 2033	Fiscal Year 2034	Fiscal Year 2035	2026-35 TOTAL
Personalized Plate fee	104	575,700	868,100	871,700	875,400	879,300	883,300	885,300	887,300	889,200	891,000	8,506,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>575,700</b>	<b>868,100</b>	<b>871,700</b>	<b>875,400</b>	<b>879,300</b>	<b>883,300</b>	<b>885,300</b>	<b>887,300</b>	<b>889,200</b>	<b>891,000</b>	<b>8,506,300</b>
<b>Biennial Totals</b>		<b>1,443,800</b>		<b>1,747,100</b>		<b>1,762,600</b>		<b>1,772,600</b>		<b>1,780,200</b>		<b>8,506,300</b>

## Narrative Explanation (Required for Indeterminate Cash Receipts)

The Department of Licensing makes the following assumptions regarding this bill.

Standard special plate definition/criteria:

- Anyone can buy the specialty plate for use on a vehicle registered to that person.
- Specialty plates can be used on motor vehicles, trailers and motorcycles.
- All customers pay the same specialty plate fee.
- The special plate and vehicle expirations match.
- Specialty plates are renewed annually with the vehicle.
- Specialty plates are transferable.

This bill creates a special license plate and establishes fees of \$40 for an original, \$30 for a renewed plate and establishes the distribution of those fees.

If this bill becomes law, it will allow vehicle owners the option to choose a new type of specialty license plate for their vehicle in lieu of the standard issue plate. There is no information available, and it is not known how many of these new specialty plates might be purchased. The total revenue impact is partially indeterminate.

Sec. 23 of this bill would amend RCW 46.17.210 to increase the renewal fee for personalized plates from \$42 to \$52 to be the same as the current fee for an original personalized plate maintaining the distribution of these fees. The \$10 increase to the personalized plate renewal fee is distributed to the Limited Fish and Wildlife Account (104). Section 24 sets the effective date of sections 3 through 23 as November 1, 2025 with FY 2026 at a partial year or 8 months of revenue impact based on the March 2025 forecast. DOL does not anticipate any reduction in personalized plate renewals related to this fee increase since it essentially equalizes the fee for an original and



# Ten-Year Analysis

Bill Number	Title	Agency
5444 S SB	New special license plates	240 Department of Licensing

This ten-year analysis is limited to agency estimated cash receipts associated with the proposed tax or fee increases. The Office of Financial Management ten-year projection can be found at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/tax/default.asp>.

## Narrative Explanation (Required for Indeterminate Cash Receipts)

renewal personalized plate. The revenue increase is estimated to be \$575,700 in FY 2026

Agency Preparation: Oliver Einarsson	Phone: 3606345462	Date: 4/16/2025 5:00:55 pm
Agency Approval: Gerrit Eades	Phone: (360) 902-3931	Date: 4/16/2025 5:00:55 pm
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date: