

Initiative Measure No. 1242

filed January 7, 2013

**Bring Back Our \$30 Car Tabs**

AN ACT Relating to limiting government-imposed charges relating to motor vehicles; amending RCW 46.17.355 and 46.16.233; adding new sections to chapter 46.17 RCW; repealing RCW 46.17.365 and 46.68.415; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

**POLICIES AND PURPOSES**

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Vehicle owners have a right to \$30 tabs. Voters have repeatedly approved \$30 tabs, yet state and local politicians continually ignore the voters' repeated, unambiguous mandate by unilaterally imposing higher and higher vehicle taxes and fees to get around the voters' clear intent. \$30 means \$30. This measure limits various government-imposed charges relating to motor vehicles and requires voter approval for anything higher.

**CAPPING MANDATORY VEHICLE LICENSE TAB FEES AT \$30 PER YEAR  
(DOESN'T INCLUDE VOTER-APPROVED TAXES AND VOLUNTARY FEES)**

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.17  
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 Mandatory vehicle license tab fees may not exceed \$30 per year  
4 for motor vehicles, regardless of year, value, make, or model,  
5 subject to the requirements of RCW 46.17.350. No vehicle owner is  
6 legally obligated to pay more than \$30 per year for the sum of state  
7 and local taxes and fees that make up the combined mandatory vehicle  
8 license tab fee paid at the time of licensing or renewal.

9 (1) For purposes of this chapter, "mandatory vehicle license  
10 tab fees" do not include:

11 (a) Voter-approved taxes and fees; and

12 (b) Voluntary state and local fees such as the extra fees for  
13 specialized license plates.

14 In any jurisdiction which imposes a nonvoter-approved vehicle  
15 fee, such as a transportation benefit district under RCW 36.73.065  
16 or 82.80.140, the \$30 mandatory vehicle license tab fee required by  
17 this section shall be reduced by the amount of any nonvoter-approved  
18 vehicle fee.

19  
20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.17.355 and 2011 c 171 s 61 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) In lieu of the vehicle license fee required under RCW  
23 46.17.350 and before accepting an application for a vehicle  
24 registration for motor vehicles described in RCW 46.16A.455, the  
25 department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by  
26 the director shall require the applicant, unless specifically  
27 exempt, to pay the following license fee by gross weight:

WEIGHT	SCHEDULE A	SCHEDULE B
((4,000 lbs.))	\$ ((38.00))	\$ ((38.00))
<u>4,000 lbs.</u>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
((6,000 lbs.))	\$ ((48.00))	\$ ((48.00))
<u>6,000 lbs.</u>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
((8,000 lbs.))	\$ ((58.00))	\$ ((58.00))
<u>8,000 lbs.</u>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
((10,000 lbs.))	\$ ((60.00))	\$ ((60.00))
<u>10,000 lbs.</u>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
12,000 lbs.	77.00	77.00
14,000 lbs.	88.00	88.00
16,000 lbs.	100.00	100.00
18,000 lbs.	152.00	152.00
20,000 lbs.	169.00	169.00
22,000 lbs.	183.00	183.00
24,000 lbs.	198.00	198.00
26,000 lbs.	209.00	209.00
28,000 lbs.	247.00	247.00
30,000 lbs.	285.00	285.00
32,000 lbs.	344.00	344.00
34,000 lbs.	366.00	366.00
36,000 lbs.	397.00	397.00
38,000 lbs.	436.00	436.00
40,000 lbs.	499.00	499.00
42,000 lbs.	519.00	609.00
44,000 lbs.	530.00	620.00
46,000 lbs.	570.00	660.00
48,000 lbs.	594.00	684.00
50,000 lbs.	645.00	735.00
52,000 lbs.	678.00	768.00
54,000 lbs.	732.00	822.00
56,000 lbs.	773.00	863.00
58,000 lbs.	804.00	894.00
60,000 lbs.	857.00	947.00
62,000 lbs.	919.00	1,009.00
64,000 lbs.	939.00	1,029.00
66,000 lbs.	1046.00	1,136.00
68,000 lbs.	1091.00	1,181.00
70,000 lbs.	1175.00	1,265.00
72,000 lbs.	1257.00	1,347.00
74,000 lbs.	1366.00	1,456.00
76,000 lbs.	1476.00	1,566.00
78,000 lbs.	1612.00	1,702.00
80,000 lbs.	1740.00	1,830.00
82,000 lbs.	1861.00	1,951.00
84,000 lbs.	1981.00	2,071.00
86,000 lbs.	2102.00	2,192.00
88,000 lbs.	2223.00	2,313.00
90,000 lbs.	2344.00	2,434.00
92,000 lbs.	2464.00	2,554.00
94,000 lbs.	2585.00	2,675.00
96,000 lbs.	2706.00	2,796.00
98,000 lbs.	2827.00	2,917.00

100,000 lbs.	2947.00	3,037.00
102,000 lbs.	3068.00	3,158.00
104,000 lbs.	3189.00	3,279.00
105,500 lbs.	3310.00	3,400.00

(2) Schedule A applies to vehicles either used exclusively for hauling logs or that do not tow trailers. Schedule B applies to vehicles that tow trailers and are not covered under Schedule A.

(3) If the resultant gross weight is not listed in the table provided in subsection (1) of this section, it must be increased to the next higher weight.

(4) The license fees provided in subsection (1) of this section are ~~((in addition to the filing fee required under RCW 46.17.005 and any other fee or tax required by law))~~ subject to the requirements of section 2 of this act.

(5) The license fee based on declared gross weight as provided in subsection (1) of this section must be distributed under RCW 46.68.035.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

(1) RCW 46.17.365 (Motor vehicle weight fee – Motor home vehicle weight fee) and 2010 c 161 s 533; and

(2) RCW 46.68.415 (Motor vehicle weight fee, motor home vehicle weight fee – Disposition) and 2010 c 161 s 813.

**Sec. 5.** RCW 46.16.233 and 2003 c 361 s 501 and 2003 c 196 s 401 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) Except for those license plates issued under RCW 46.16.305(1) before January 1, 1987, under RCW 46.16.305(3), and to commercial vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds, effective with vehicle registrations due or to become due on January 1, 2001, the appearance of the background of all vehicle license plates may vary in color and design but must be legible and clearly identifiable as a Washington state license plate, as designated by the department. Additionally, to ensure maximum legibility and reflectivity, the department shall

periodically provide for the replacement of license plates, except for commercial vehicles with a gross weight in excess of twenty-six thousand pounds. Frequency of replacement shall be established in accordance with empirical studies documenting the longevity of the reflective materials used to make license plates.

(2) Special license plate series approved by the special license plate review board created under RCW 46.16.705 and enacted by the legislature may display a symbol or artwork approved by the special license plate review board.

(3) By November 1, 2003, in providing for the periodic replacement of license plates, the department shall offer to vehicle owners the option of retaining their current license plate numbers. The department shall not charge a retention fee (~~(of twenty dollars)~~) if this option is exercised. (~~(Revenue generated from the retention fee must be deposited into the multimodal transportation account.)~~)

#### **THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

**Sec. 6.** A new section to chapter 46.17 RCW is added and reads as follows:

Any increase in government-imposed charges relating to motor vehicles may not take effect unless voters approve the increase at the next general election.

**Sec. 7.** A new section to chapter 46.17 RCW is added and reads as follows:

Any increase in government-imposed charges relating to motor vehicles must be put to an advisory vote of the people at the next general election. An advisory vote under this section is not required if the increase is subjected to a public vote under section 6 of this act.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act is called the "Bring Back Our \$30 Car Tabs Act."

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