

Referendum Bill 33

CHAPTER 200, LAWS OF 1973
(43rd Leg., 1st Ex. Session)

Ballot Title:

Shall personalized motor vehicle license plates be issued with resulting extra fees to be used exclusively for wildlife preservation?

Vote cast by members of the 1973 Legislature on final passage:
HOUSE: (96 members) Yeas, 68; Nays 29; Absent or not voting, 1.
SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 35; Nays, 9; Absent or not voting, 5.

Statement for



Wildlife, our future generations:

Voluntary purchase of a personalized license plate gives them both a chance.

Referendum 33: For Now and Forever

Referendum 33, through the sale of personalized license plates, provides a voluntary funded program for the preservation, protection and propagation of Washington's over 400 non-game and endangered wildlife species without requiring tax monies from the general fund.

This is not a new concept to fund needed wildlife management programs. Many states have similar programs that are extremely successful.

Washington Wildlife Needs This Program Now!

Rebuttal of Statement against

Referendum 33 is unique. It does not ask for new taxes. It simply asks Washingtonians approve their own voluntary funding program for the protection of endangered wildlife. Department of Game's present program is commendable, but severely handicapped by lack of funds. The agency receives no operational tax monies from the General Fund. Its finances come through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, an extremely limited source. Therefore, Referendum 33, for the good of everyone.

Committee **FOR** Referendum 33:

JOHN MARTINIS, State Representative; LOWELL PETERSON, State Senator; TED G. PETERSON, State Senator.

Advisory Committee: JOAN THOMAS, President, Washington State Environmental Council; THOMAS O. WIMMER, Seattle; MRS. EMILY HAIG, Seattle; W. R. ROLLINS, JR., President, Washington State Sportman's Council; MRS. GEORGE A. MC KINNEY, President, Federated Women's Clubs.

The Law as it now exists:

In order lawfully to operate a passenger motor vehicle on a public highway of this state, a Washington resident must have obtained and have in full force and effect a current state vehicle license. Washington license plates bearing an assigned registration designation consisting of three letters and three numbers are required to be displayed on all vehicles to which this licensing requirement applies. All fees derived from issuing such vehicle licenses are to be placed in the state motor vehicle fund to be expended exclusively for highway purposes.

Currently, any person who desires to obtain license plates containing his initials or other combination of letters and numbers consistent with the existing format of three letters and three numbers may apply to the director of motor vehicles for such license plates. If the director is satisfied that the plates so requested would be reasonable and proper and would not be a duplication of any other valid license plates, the applicant may receive, in lieu of regular motor vehicle license plates, similar plates bearing the letters and numbers requested. However, no combination may be issued with fewer than six symbols—three letters and three numbers.

In order to obtain or retain such license plates, the applicant is required to pay, in addition to the regular registration fees and any other fees and taxes required to be paid upon registration of his vehicle, an additional one time fee of thirty dollars. The revenues derived from this fee is also paid into the motor vehicle fund to be expended exclusively for highway purposes.

Effect of Ref. Bill 33 if approved into Law:

If approved, this bill would repeal the existing authorization for personalized vehicle license plates as above described and would, instead, authorize personalized license plates consisting entirely of letters or of numbers, or of any combination thereof, so long as the total number of symbols (letters and/or numbers) is not less than two nor more than six. No

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NOTE: Ballot title and the above explanatory comment were written by the Attorney General as required by state law. Complete text of Referendum Bill 33 starts on Page 23.

Statement against

Users of Service Should Help Pay For It

The fairest form of taxation we know is one in which the person using the service pays for it. A good example of this is the tax on gasoline. When purchased for use in a highway vehicle, the tax goes for highway use purposes. When purchased for boat use, the tax paid is transferred to the Outdoor Recreation Account. In other words, if you use the service, you help pay for it.

Special Auto License Plate Funds Should Not Be Used For Animal Protection

Propagation and protection of wildlife has long been funded by hunting and fishing license fees, as it should be. The Game Department has proposed that the tax dollars generated from the sale of certain license plates be spent to protect chipmunks, squirrels, groundhogs, hawks, eagles and other non-game wildlife. They have failed to explain how they would spend these tax dollars in order to protect these animals. Even if a program could be detailed in such a way as to generate merit for the proposal, such expenditures would more properly be funded from the General Fund in which is deposited the general taxes paid by the citizens for the support of government.

Additional monies are badly needed now for the highway safety fund which is used for the expenses incurred in operating our driver licensing and examining offices. These dollars could come from the sale of the license plates. For this reason, this proposal makes sense only if the additional tax dollars were retained for these purposes. It is urged that the people of this state reject the measure.

Rebuttal of Statement for

The proponents still have not explained just how the expenditure of thousands of tax dollars can benefit the chipmunks, squirrels, groundhogs, etc. If such a program exists, the proponents should make it public so that the voters will know what they are being asked to approve.

Frankly, the need of starting a new spending program is not justified at this time when many existing programs cannot be properly funded.

Vote "No." on Referendum Bill 33.

Committee **AGAINST** Referendum Bill 33:

SAM C. GUESS, State Senator; PAUL BARDEN, State Representative; JAMES E. GILLELAND, State Representative.

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 29.07 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The purpose of this 1973 amendatory act is to make registration to vote readily available to Washington's citizens and to recognize that voting under the democratic system is a right, not a privilege; that the present voting registration laws serve to effectively defeat this right by making it extremely difficult, and even impossible, for many citizens to vote, particularly the aged, the sick, and the poor who do not normally have easy access to places of registration.

Sec. 2. Section 29.07.010, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 4, chapter 202, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 29.07.010 are each amended to read as follows:

In all counties the county auditor shall be the chief registrar of voters for every precinct within the county. He shall appoint a deputy registrar for each precinct or for any number of precincts and shall appoint city or town clerks as deputy registrars to assist in registering voters residing in cities, towns, and rural precincts within the county. In addition, he shall appoint the precinct committeemen elected or appointed pursuant to the provisions of RCW 29.42.050 as deputy registrars to assist in registering voters if the precinct committeemen so request.

A deputy registrar shall be a registered voter and, except for city and town clerks and precinct committeemen, shall hold office at the pleasure of the county auditor.

The county auditor shall be the custodian of the official registration records of each precinct within that county. The expenses of registration shall be apportioned between the county and cities or towns therein in the same manner as provided in RCW 29.07.030.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Section 29.07.040, chapter 9, Laws of 1965, section 6, chapter 202, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 29.07.040 are each repealed.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This 1973 amendatory act shall be submitted to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1973, in accordance with the provisions of section 1, Article II of the state Constitution, as amended, and laws adopted to facilitate the operation thereof.

Passed the House April 7, 1973.

Passed the Senate April 15, 1973.

Received directly from the office of the Chief Clerk, House of Representatives, and filed at 3:15 P.M., April 26, 1973, in the office of the Secretary of State.

PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES—REVENUE—STATE GAME FUND

AN ACT Relating to state government; amending section 77.12.170, chapter 36, Laws of 1955 as amended by section 33, chapter 199, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 77.12.170; adding new sections to chapter 46.16 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 36, Laws of 1955 and to chapter 77.12 RCW; repealing section 4, chapter 114, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 46.16.355; and providing for submission of this act to a vote of the people.

BE IT ENACTED, *By the Legislature
of the State of Washington:*

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 36, Laws of 1955, and to chapter 77.12 RCW a new section to read as follows:

It is declared to be the public policy of the state of Washington to direct financial resources of this state toward the support and aid of the wildlife resources existing within the state of Washington in order that the general welfare of these inhabitants of the state be served. For the purposes of this chapter, wildlife resources are understood to be those species of wildlife other than that managed by the department of fisheries under their existing jurisdiction as well as all unclassified marine fish, shellfish, and marine invertebrates which shall remain under the jurisdiction of the director of fisheries. The legislature further finds that the preservation, protection, perpetuation, and enhancement of such wildlife resources of the state is of major concern to it, and that aid for a satisfactory environment and ecological balance in this state for such wildlife resources serves a public interest, purpose, and desire.

It is further declared that such preservation, protection, perpetuation, and enhancement can be fostered through financial support derived on a voluntary basis from those citizens of the state of Washington who wish to assist in such objectives; that a desirable manner of accomplishing this is through offering personalized license plates for motor vehicles, the fees for which are to be directed to the state treasury to the credit of the state game fund for the furtherance of the programs, policies, and activities of the state game department in preservation, protection, perpetuation, and enhancement of the wildlife resources that abound within the geographical limits of the state of Washington.

In particular, the legislature recognizes the benefit of this program to be specifically directed toward those species of wildlife including but not limited to songbirds, protected wildlife, rare and endangered wildlife, aquatic life, and specialized-habitat types, both terrestrial and aquatic, as well as all unclassified marine fish, shellfish, and marine invertebrates which shall remain under the jurisdiction of the director of fisheries that exist within the limits of the state of Washington.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Personalized license plates, as used in this chapter, means license plates that have displayed upon them the registration number assigned to the passenger motor vehicle for which such registration number was issued in a combination of letters or numbers, or both, requested by the owner of the vehicle.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any person who is the registered owner of a passenger motor vehicle registered with the department or who makes

COMPLETE TEXT OF

Referendum Bill

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CHAPTER 200, LAWS OF 1973
(43rd Leg., 1st Ex. Sess.)

Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General:

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application for an original registration of a passenger motor vehicle or renewal registration of a passenger motor vehicle may, upon payment of the fee prescribed in section 7 of this 1973 amendatory act, apply to the department for personalized license plates, in the manner described in section 6 of this 1973 amendatory act, which plates shall be affixed to the passenger motor vehicle for which registration is sought in lieu of the regular license plates.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read follows:

The personalized license plates shall be the same design as regular passenger motor vehicle license plates, and shall consist of numbers or letters, or any combination thereof not exceeding six positions and not less than two positions: **PROVIDED**, That there are no conflicts with existing passenger, commercial, trailer, motorcycle, or special license plates series or with the provisions of RCW 46.16.230 or 46.16.235.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Personalized license plates shall be issued only to the registered owner of a vehicle on which they are to be displayed.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

An applicant for issuance of personalized license plates or renewal of such plates in the subsequent year pursuant to this chapter shall file an application therefor in such form and by such date as the department may require, indicating thereon the combination of letters or numbers, or both, requested as a vehicle license plate number. There shall be no duplication or conflict with existing or projected vehicle license plate series or other numbering systems for records kept by the department, and the department may refuse to issue any combination of letters or numbers, or both, that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or which would be misleading or a duplication of license plates provided for in chapter 46.16 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

In addition to the regular registration fee, and any other fees and taxes required to be paid upon registration, the applicant shall be charged a fee of thirty dollars. In addition to the regular renewal fee, and in addition to any other fees and taxes required to be paid, the applicant for a renewal of such plates shall be charged an additional fee of twenty dollars.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Whenever any person who has been issued personalized license plates applies to the department for transfer of such plates to a subsequently acquired passenger motor vehicle, a transfer fee of five dollars shall be charged in addition to all other appropriate fees. Such transfer fees shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

When any person who has been issued personalized license plates sells, trades, or otherwise releases ownership of the vehicle upon which the personalized license plates have been displayed, he shall immediately report the transfer of such plates to an acquired passenger motor vehicle pursuant to section 8 of this 1973 amendatory act, or he shall surrender such plates to the department forthwith and release his priority to the letters or numbers, or combination thereof, displayed on the personalized license plates.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The director of motor vehicles may establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 2 through 9 of this 1973 amendatory act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. There is added to chapter 46.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

All revenue derived from the fees provided for in section 7 of this 1973 amendatory act shall be forwarded to the state treasurer accompanied by a proper identifying detailed report and by him deposited to the credit of the state game fund.

Administrative costs incurred by the department of motor vehicles as a direct result of this 1973 amendatory act shall be appropriated by the legislature from the state game fund from those funds deposited therein resulting from the sale of personalized license plates. If the actual costs incurred by the department of motor vehicles are less than that which has been appropriated by the legislature the remainder shall revert to the state game fund.

Sec. 12. Section 77.12.170, chapter 36, Laws of 1955 as amended by section 33, chapter 199, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 77.12.170 are each amended to read as follows:

There is established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the state game fund which shall consist of all moneys received from fees for the sale of licenses and permits provided in this title, from the personalized vehicle license plate fees provided in chapter 46.16 RCW, and from fines, forfeitures, and costs collected for violations of this title, or any other statute for the protection of wild animals and birds and game fish, or any rule or regulation of the commission relating thereto: **PROVIDED**, That fifty percent of all fines and bail forfeitures shall not become part of the state game fund and shall be retained by the county in which collected: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a justice court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended.

All state and county officers receiving any moneys in payment of fees for licenses under this title or from fees for the personalized vehicle license plates provided in chapter 46.16 RCW, or in payment of fines, penalties, or costs imposed for violations of this title, or any other statute for the protection of wild animals and birds and game fish, or any rule or regulation of the commission; from rentals or concessions, and from the sale of real or personal property held for game department purposes, shall pay them into the state treasury to be placed to the credit of the state game fund: **PROVIDED**, That county officers shall remit only fifty percent of all fines and bail forfeitures: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a justice court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. Section 4, chapter 114, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 46.16.355 are each hereby repealed.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. This 1973 amendatory act shall be submitted to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state in accordance with the provisions of section 1, Article II of the Constitution of the state of Washington, as amended, and the laws adopted to facilitate the operation thereof.

Passed the House April 13, 1973.

Passed the Senate April 14, 1973.

Received directly from the office of the Chief Clerk, House of Representatives, and filed at 3:20 P.M., April 26, 1973, in the office of the Secretary of State.

paying the principal or interest on general obligation bonds outstanding on December 6, 1934; or for the purpose of preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered so to do by a court of last resort.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

Passed the House April 4, 1973.
LEONARD A. SAWYER,
Speaker of the House.

Passed the Senate April 11, 1973.
JOHN A. CHERBERG,
President of the Senate.

EXPLANATORY COMMENT

All words in double parentheses and lined through are in our State Constitution at the present and are being taken out by this amendment. All words underscored do not appear in the State Constitution as it is now written but will be put in if this amendment is adopted.

Initiative Measure 282

(continued from Page 7)

Office	Salary Since 1965	A Vote "For" Salary Effective December 1973	A Vote "Against" Salary Effective January 1, 1974
Commissioner of Public Lands	20,000	21,100	33,000
Insurance Commissioner	16,500	17,400	29,700
Legislators	3,600	3,800*	10,560*
*The increases for legislators cannot take effect until the beginning of their next terms of office.			
	Salary Since 1972		
Supreme Court Judges	\$33,000	\$34,825	\$38,000
Judges—Court of Appeals	30,000	31,650	35,000
Superior Court Judges	27,000	28,500	32,000
Full-time District Court Judges	22,000	23,250	26,000

Referendum Bill 33

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such plates could be issued, however, which would duplicate or conflict with existing or projected license plate series; and, in addition, the department of motor vehicles would be authorized to refuse to issue any combination of letters or numbers carrying connotations offensive to good taste and decency or which would be misleading.

In order to obtain or retain such license plates, a person would be required to pay, in addition to the regular registration fee and any other fees and taxes required to be paid upon registration of his vehicle, an additional fee of thirty dollars upon its initial registration and a fee of twenty dollars upon each annual renewal of such registration. All revenues derived from the additional fees would be paid into the state game fund rather than the motor vehicle fund, where they would be available for use exclusively for the preservation, protection, perpetuation and enhancement of nongame wildlife primarily related to endangered species such as Bald Eagles, Columbia River White Tail Deer or song birds.

House Joint Resolution 37

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On the other hand twelve months after a net income tax has gone into effect and so long as it remains in effect, it would prohibit the following:

1. Sales or use taxes on food and prescription drugs;
2. Any combined state and local sales tax rates in excess of 5.3%;
3. Any further school district special property tax levies for operation and maintenance;
4. A business and occupation tax rate in excess of one-quarter of one percent for those businesses subject to the net income tax;
5. Application of the property tax to business inventories after December 31, 1979;
6. The taxing, under the income tax, of gain from disposition of capital property (as defined by the legislature) attributable to periods arising prior to the effective date of the income tax.

The proposed constitutional amendment would also:

1. **Require** the state to guarantee full funding of a basic program of education; and
2. **Validate** certain implementing legislation passed by the 1973 legislature. Under this legislation the income tax rate on corporations would be 7½% in 1974, 8% in 1975, 8½% in 1976, 9% in 1977, 9½% in 1978, and 10% in 1979 and subsequent years, while the rate schedule for individuals, estates and trusts would range from 2% to 6.5%.

Taxable income for individuals under this legislation generally would be the same as adjusted gross income for federal income tax purposes, less \$1,250 for each personal exemption, and less certain other deductions allowable as itemized deductions for federal income tax purposes. These provisions of the implementing legislation would be tied into the constitutional amendment by the fact that any change in the rate schedule or the definition of taxable income would be subject to referendum as explained above.

House Joint Resolution 40

(Continued from Page 19)

poses be approved by at least sixty percent of the electors voting thereon. However, in the case of long-term excess levies to fund general obligation bonds, this amendment would change the formula for validation of the election so as to provide the same two alternative methods of validation as now exist with respect to excess levies voted on an annual basis for current expenses of a taxing district.