

commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

Any district providing group insurance for its employees, covering them, their immediate family, and dependents, may provide insurance for its commissioners with the same coverage. Each commissioner shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with such business and meetings, including his subsistence and lodging and travel while away from his place of residence. No resolution shall be adopted without a majority vote of the whole commission. The commission shall organize by election of its own members of a president and secretary, shall by resolution adopt rules governing the transaction of its business and shall adopt an official seal. All proceedings of the commission shall be by motion or resolution recorded in a book or books kept for such purpose, which shall be public records.

Passed the House April 22, 1985.

Passed the Senate April 12, 1985.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 1985.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 1985.

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## CHAPTER 331

[Engrossed House Bill No. 327]

### OPTICAL STROBE LIGHTS—USE RESTRICTED TO EMERGENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES

AN ACT Relating to motor vehicles; amending RCW 46.37.190 and 46.16.275; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 46.37.190, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 1, chapter 101, Laws of 1982 and RCW 46.37.190 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive marking required by this chapter, be equipped with at least one lamp capable of displaying a red light visible from at least five hundred feet in normal sunlight and a siren capable of giving an audible signal.

(2) Every school bus and private carrier bus shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this chapter, be equipped with a "stop" signal upon a background not less than fourteen by eighteen inches displaying the word "stop" in letters of distinctly contrasting colors not less than eight inches high, and shall further be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which shall be capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red

lights located at the same level and these lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

(3) Vehicles operated by public agencies whose law enforcement duties include the authority to stop and detain motor vehicles on the public highways of the state may be equipped with a siren and lights of a color and type designated by the commission on equipment for that purpose. The commission may prohibit the use of these sirens and lights on vehicles other than the vehicles described in this subsection.

(4) The lights described in this section shall not be mounted nor used on any vehicle other than a school bus, a private carrier bus, or an authorized emergency or law enforcement vehicle. Optical strobe light devices shall not be installed or used on any vehicle other than an emergency vehicle authorized by the Washington state commission on equipment or a publicly-owned law enforcement or emergency vehicle. An "optical strobe light device" means a strobe light device which emits an optical signal at a specific frequency to a traffic control light enabling the vehicle in which the strobe light device is used to obtain the right of way at intersections.

(5) The use of the signal equipment described herein shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right of way and stop as prescribed in RCW 46.61.210, 46.61.370, and 46.61.350.

**\*Sec. 2. Section 1, chapter 72, Laws of 1983 as amended by section 1, chapter 62, Laws of 1984 and RCW 46.16.275 are each amended to read as follows:**

***On January 1, 1984, the department of licensing shall implement a system for recording the date of issuance of all vehicle license number plates.***

***Any person applying for an original or renewal vehicle license after January 1, 1989, shall be required to purchase new or replacement vehicle license number plates before obtaining a new certificate of title or new registration for the vehicle if the vehicle license number plates are five years old or older.***

***Any person applying for a renewal vehicle license after January 1, 1985, shall be required to purchase replacement vehicle license number plates if the vehicle license number plates were issued on or before January 1, 1968. The owner of a vehicle considered by the owner to be a collector's item may retain and use the pre-1968 plates, notwithstanding any other provisions of chapter 46.16 RCW to the contrary, provided the plates are legible. Otherwise, the provisions of this section shall not apply to a vehicle owned and operated primarily as a collector's item pursuant to RCW 46.16.310, 46.16.311, or 46.16.315.***

**\*Sec. 2 was vetoed, see message at end of chapter.**

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state

government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House April 26, 1985.

Passed the Senate April 25, 1985.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 1985, with the exception of certain items which are vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 1985.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith without my approval as to one section Engrossed House Bill No. 327, entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to motor vehicles."

Section 1 of this bill would prohibit the use of optical strobe light devices on motor vehicles other than emergency or law enforcement vehicles.

Section 2 would provide that the owners of pre-1968 motor vehicles would retain their pre-1968 license plates if they consider their vehicles to be collector's items.

Current state law provides that a motor vehicle over thirty years old is a collector's item. The vehicle must be restored and in good working condition. The owner of a collector's item can keep the original plates if the plates are of the same year as the year the subject vehicle was manufactured.

Current law also mandates that all pre-1968 motor vehicle license plates must be replaced starting in January 1985 unless the vehicle can be classified as a collector's item. The purpose for this law is to aid law enforcement officials and to promote highway safety.

Section 2 would negate the current mandate for the replacement of all pre-1968 vehicle plates. The only basis for the determination that a vehicle owner would be exempt from current provisions is the owner's opinion that the vehicle is a collector's item. The Department of Licensing would not have the authority to evaluate the owner's claim or to establish rules for the determination of collector's items that are less than thirty years old.

The Department of Licensing estimates that there are over 500,000 motor vehicles in the pre-1968 category. Very few of these vehicles would be classified as collector's items under the current law. Indeed, the potential for abuse of the proposed law could be significant. With less persons complying with the intent of the current law, both the law enforcement and safety aspects of the law would be reduced.

Pre-1968 vehicle owners have been purchasing replacement plates since January 1985. The old plates have been destroyed, and the Department of Licensing has no authority to refund replacement plate fees. Thus, if enacted, Section 2 would create unequal protection for the motoring public.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 2.

With the exception of Section 2, Engrossed House Bill No. 327 is approved."