

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 6545

C 326 L 06

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Removing the minimum height requirement for the attachment of vehicle license plates.

Sponsors: Senators Sheldon, Esser, Benson and Haugen; by request of Washington State Patrol.

Senate Committee on Transportation

House Committee on Transportation

Background: Current law requires that vehicle license plates be attached conspicuously to the front and rear of the vehicle for which they are issued. License plates must be mounted horizontally at a distance of not less than one foot nor more than four feet from the ground. The state patrol may grant permission to deviate from the license plate mounting requirements if compliance with the requirements is impossible due to the body construction of the vehicle.

Many modern vehicles are manufactured with license plate mounting surfaces that are less than one foot from the ground. Despite receiving many requests to waive front license plate attachment requirements based upon vehicle construction, Washington State Patrol (WSP) has declined to grant the requested waivers citing front license plates as an important identification tool for law enforcement purposes.

Summary: Changes are made to the attachment requirements for vehicle license plates to permit mounting license plates closer to the ground than previously allowed.

Vehicle license plates must be placed conspicuously on the vehicle for which they are issued at a distance of not more than four feet from the ground.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	44	0
House	96	1

Effective: June 7, 2006