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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 358

Provides for design, preparation and issuance of special license plates by petition to Department of Motor Vehicles. (BDR 43-1140)

PRESENTED TO

THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

BY

ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD D. PERKINS
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

MARCH 27, 2003

1. Amend subsection 3 of Section 2, page 2, to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Department may design, prepare and ~~prepare~~ issue a up to twenty different special license plates requested pursuant to subsection 1 if the Department determines that the application for that plate complies with subsection 2, and the application for that plate is approved by the Commission on Special License Plates created by Section 3 of this act. The Department shall not design and prepare a special license plate requested pursuant to subsection 1 if:

(a) ~~The~~ Department receives fewer than 1,000 applications for the issuance of the plate within 2 years after the date on which the Department received the initial application for the design, preparation and issuance of the plate pursuant to subsection 1; ~~or~~

~~(b) The Department determines that the special license plate is inappropriate or not feasible.~~

2. Amend subsection 4 of Section 2, page 2, to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 4. Except as otherwise provided in Section 4 of this act, the Department may issue a special license plate that the Department has designed and prepared pursuant to this section, and that the Commission for Special License Plates has approved pursuant to subsection 5 of Section 3 of this act, for any passenger car, light commercial vehicle or motorcycle upon application by a person who is entitled to license plates pursuant to NRS 482.265 and who otherwise complies with the requirements for registration and licensing pursuant to this chapter. A person may request that personalized prestige license plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.3667 be combined with a special license plate issued pursuant to this section if that person pays the fee for personalized prestige license plates in addition to the fees for the special license plate.

3. Add a new Section 3, page 2, to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 1. There is hereby created the Commission on Special License Plates consisting of five members as follows:

(a) The Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Transportation, or his designee. A designee may include a member of the Legislature who served on the committee during the preceding legislative session.

(b) The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, or his designee. A designee may include a member of the Legislature who served on the committee during the preceding legislative session.

(c) The Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, or his designee;

(d) The Director of the Department of Public Safety, or his designee;

(e) The Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs, or his designee.

2. The Governor shall select the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission.

3. Each member of the Commission serves a term of 3 years, commencing on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. A vacancy on the Commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

4. Members of the Commission serve without salary or compensation for their travel or per diem expenses.

5. The Commission shall approve or disapprove applications submitted to the Department for design and production of special license plates. In arriving at its determination of each application, the Commission shall consider, among other factors, whether the license plate is appropriate and feasible for the Department to produce.

4. Amend subsection 1 of Section 4, page 3, to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, on October 1 of each year the Department shall, ~~for each separate design of a special license plate issued pursuant to Section 2 of this act,~~ determine the viability of each of the up to twenty designs of special license plates issued pursuant to Section 2 of this act by ~~determining~~ the total number of validly registered motor vehicles to which that design of the special license plate is affixed. The Department shall not determine the total number of validly registered motor vehicles to which a particular design of a special license plate is affixed if, on October 1, that particular design of the special license plates has been available to be issued for less than 12 months.

5. Amend subsection 2 of Section 4, page 3, to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if, on October 1, the total number of validly registered vehicles to which a particular design of a special license plate is affixed is less than the number of ~~initial requests required for the design and preparation of that special license plate as set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 3 of Section 2 of this act,~~ signatures contained in a petition submitted pursuant to subsection 2 of Section 2 of this act, the Director shall provide notice of that fact to:

(a) If the plate generates financial support for a cause or charitable organization, that cause or charitable organization.

(b) If the plate does not generate financial support of a cause or charitable organization, an entity which is involved in promoting the activity, place or other matter that is depicted on the plate.

6. Amend subsection 3 of Section 4, page 4, to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 3. If, on October 1 of the year immediately succeeding the year in which notice was provided pursuant to subsection 2, the total number of validly registered vehicles to which a particular design of a special license plate is affixed is less than the number of ~~initial requests required for the design and preparation of that special license plate as set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 3 of Section 2 of this act,~~ signatures contained in a petition submitted pursuant to subsection 2 of Section 2 of this act, the Director shall issue an order withdrawing that particular design of the special license plate from use.

7. Delete subsection 4 of Section 4, page 4, in its entirety.

8. Add a new Section on page 6 amending NRS 482.1805 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. NRS 482.1805 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NRS 482.1805 1. The revolving account for the issuance of special license plates is hereby created as a special account in the motor vehicle fund. An amount equal to \$35 of the fee received by the Department for the initial issuance of a special license plate, not including any additional fee which may be added to generate financial support for a particular cause or charitable organization, must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund for credit to the account.

2. The Department shall use the money in the account to pay the expenses involved in issuing special license plates.

3. Money in the account must be used only for the purpose specified in subsection 2, including, but not limited to, the purchase of improvements and upgrades in technology, including digital plate production technology, and equipment developed to ensure the most efficient production of special license plates.

9. Add a new Section on page 7 amending NRS 482.270 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. NRS 482.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NRS 482.270 1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, the Director shall order the redesign and preparation of motor vehicle license plates with colors that are predominately blue and silver. The Director may substitute white in place of silver when no suitable material is available.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Department shall, upon the payment of all applicable fees, issue redesigned motor vehicle license plates pursuant to this section to persons who apply for the registration or renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle on or after January 1, 2001.

3. The Department shall not issue redesigned motor vehicle license plates pursuant to this section to a person who was issued motor vehicle license plates before

January 1, 1982, or pursuant to NRS 482.3747, 483.3775, 482.379, or 482.379, without the approval of the person.

4. The Director may determine and vary the size, shape and form of the material of which license plates are made, but each license plate must be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of 100 feet during daylight. All license plates must be treated to reflect light and to be at least 100 times brighter than conventional painted number plates. When properly mounted on an unlighted vehicle, the license plates, when viewed from a vehicle equipped with standard headlights, must be visible for a distance of not less than 1,500 feet and readable for a distance of not less than 110 feet.

5. Every license plate must have displayed upon it:

(a) The registration number, or combination of letters and numbers, assigned to the vehicle and to the owner thereof;

(b) The name of this state, which may be abbreviated;

(c) If issued for a calendar year, the year; and

(d) If issued for a registration period other than a calendar year, the month and year the registration expires.

6. The letters I and Q must not be used in the designation.

7. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.379, all letters and numbers must be of the same size.

8. All special license plates requested pursuant to subsection 2 of Section 2 of this act, and approved pursuant to subsection 3 of Section 2 of this act, must be prepared in such a manner that the design suggested pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection 2 of Section 2 of this act is located in the leftmost one-third region of the license plate. The specifications of the remaining two-thirds center and rightmost regions of the license plate shall be consistent with motor vehicle license plates as specified in paragraph 1 of this section.

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