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Abel Carlos
Testimony for Assembly Bill 358
Senate Transportation Committee
May 1, 2003

Good afternoon, Chairman Shaffer, members of the committee, my name is Abel Carlos. I am Intern for Speaker Richard Perkins, Assemblyman for District 23 in Clark County. I am here today in Speaker's behalf to present to you Assembly Bill 358.

Assembly Bill 358 will provide for the design, preparation, and issuance of special license plates by petition to the Department of Motor Vehicles. This bill shifts the application process for a new special license plate from the State Legislature to the Department of Motor Vehicles. In addition, this bill will allow for citizens and organizations to go to the Department of Motor Vehicles and submit an application during business hours, instead of waiting for the next legislative session.

In order to achieve an efficient way of processing these applications, AB 358 was amended in the Assembly to establish a Commission that would approve Special License Plates. The Commission would consist of five voting members, which will be five legislators, two of which are the Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee and the Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee. Three non-voting members will also be part of the Commission, which will consist of the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Director for the Department of Public Safety, and the Director for the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Assembly Bill 358 also places a limit on the number of special license plates a person can apply for at the DMV to 25. Let me clarify one point by stating that special plates that require you to be a member, for example veteran plates, will not be considered one of the plates being limited.

AB 358 also allows for the Department to use funds from the revenue account of special license plate fees to purchase Technology to manufacture plates digitally. This budget account states that at the end of the fiscal year, any amount of money over \$50,000, must be deposited back into the general fund. Right now the Department has enough funds to purchase this technology. By passing this bill, they will be able to do so.

The last measure of AB 358 is to provide for all special plates be made in one standardized format. It is referred to as the 1/3-2/3rds special license plate. It has become very difficult for law enforcement to distinguish Nevada plates from other state plates. This measure will make the right 2/3rds of the plate the same format for all special plates with color and lettering. The left 1/3rd part of the plate will be the designated area for the special logo or design of the organization requesting the plate.

To conclude, AB 358 will establish requirements for a person or an organization to submit an application requesting the Department of Motor Vehicles to design, prepare, and issue a special license plate. AB 358 places a limit of 25 special plates issued at one time; creates a commission that will approve the special plates; allows for a standardized design for special plates and it will allow for the DMV to manufacture special license plates digitally.

Chairman Shaffer, I would like to ask for your guidance as how you would like me to proceed. I have an amendment to propose to the committee or I can take questions if you have any.

Chairman Shaffer, I would like to thank you and your committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.