

SENATE BILL NO. 143—SENATOR WIENER

FEBRUARY 28, 2005

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security

SUMMARY—Provides for issuance of special license plates recognizing current or former employment as professional law enforcement officer. (BDR 43-300)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets **[omitted-material]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; providing for the issuance of special license plates recognizing current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer; imposing a fee for the issuance and renewal of such license plates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 Existing law provides for the design, preparation and issuance of a special
- 2 license plate authorized by the Legislature if the Department of Motor Vehicles
- 3 receives at least 1,000 applications for the issuance of the plate within 2 years after
- 4 the plate was authorized by the Legislature. (NRS 482.36705)
- 5 This bill directs the Department of Motor Vehicles to design, prepare and issue
- 6 special license plates recognizing current or former employment as a professional
- 7 law enforcement officer. No minimum number of applications is required. This bill
- 8 provides that the plates may be issued only to a person who presents proper indicia
- 9 of current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer, and
- 10 imposes additional fees for the initial issuance and renewal of the plates to be used
- 11 to provide assistance and relief to the families of professional law enforcement
- 12 officers of this State who are killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 482 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Department, in cooperation with the Nevada Coalition of Police Organizations and the Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit or their successors, shall design, prepare and issue license plates that recognize current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer using any colors and designs which the Department deems appropriate.

2. The Department shall issue license plates that recognize current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer for a passenger car or light commercial vehicle upon application by a qualified 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 license plates that recognize current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer if that person pays the fees for the personalized prestige license plates in addition to the fees for the license plates that recognize current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer pursuant to subsections 5 and 6.

3. An application for the issuance or renewal of license plates that recognize current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer is void unless it is accompanied by documentation which, in the determination of the Department, provides reasonable proof of:

(a) The identity of the applicant;

(b) The status of the applicant as a resident of the State of Nevada; and

(c) Proof of the applicant's:

(1) Current employment as a professional law enforcement officer;

(2) Status as a former professional law enforcement officer who retired from employment after completing at least 10 years of creditable service as a professional law enforcement officer; or

(3) Status as a former professional law enforcement officer who, as a result of disability, retired from employment as a professional law enforcement officer or otherwise ceased to be employed as a professional law enforcement officer.

4. Proof of an applicant's current or former employment as a professional law enforcement officer must consist of:



1 (a) An identification card issued by a law enforcement agency;
2 or

3 (b) A letter certifying the applicant's current or former
4 employment as a professional law enforcement officer, which
5 letter must be from:

6 (1) The law enforcement agency which currently employs
7 or formerly employed the professional law enforcement officer;

8 (2) The Nevada Coalition of Police Organizations, its
9 successor or any of its member organizations;

10 (3) The Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit or its successor;
11 or

12 (4) The chief officer of a law enforcement agency.

13 5. The fee payable to the Department for license plates that
14 recognize current or former employment as a professional law
15 enforcement officer is \$35, in addition to all other applicable
16 registration and license fees and governmental services taxes. The
17 license plates are renewable upon the payment to the Department
18 of \$10 in addition to all other applicable registration and license
19 fees and governmental services taxes.

20 6. In addition to all other applicable registration and license
21 fees and governmental services taxes and the fees prescribed in
22 subsection 5, a person who requests a set of license plates that
23 recognize current or former employment as a professional law
24 enforcement officer must pay for the initial issuance of the plates
25 an additional fee of \$25 and for each renewal of the plates an
26 additional fee of \$20, to be distributed in accordance with
27 subsection 7.

28 7. The Department shall deposit the fees collected pursuant to
29 subsection 6 with the State Treasurer for credit to the State
30 General Fund. The State Treasurer shall, on a quarterly basis,
31 distribute the fees deposited pursuant to this subsection to the
32 Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit or its successor to be used to
33 provide assistance and relief to the families of law enforcement
34 officers of this State who are killed or permanently disabled in the
35 line of duty.

36 8. The Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit or its successor
37 shall establish the Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit Benefit
38 Trust to secure, hold and administer the money deposited with the
39 Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit or its successor pursuant to
40 subsection 7. The Trust must be managed by three trustees
41 appointed as follows:

42 (a) One trustee appointed by the Volunteer Homeland Reserve
43 Unit or its successor.

44 (b) Two trustees appointed by the Nevada Coalition of Police
45 Organizations or its successor.



↪ Each trustee serves at the pleasure of the entity that appointed him.

9. If, during a registration year, the holder of license plates issued pursuant to the provisions of this section disposes of the vehicle to which the plates are affixed, the holder shall:

(a) Retain the plates and affix them to another vehicle that meets the requirements of this section if the holder pays the fee for the transfer of the registration and any registration fee or governmental services tax due pursuant to NRS 482.399; or

(b) Within 30 days after removing the plates from the vehicle, return them to the Department.

10. As used in this section:

(a) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency, office or bureau of the Federal Government, a state or a political subdivision of a state, the primary duty of which is to enforce the law.

(b) "Nevada Coalition of Police Organizations" means the Nevada Coalition of Police Organizations, Active and Retired Law Enforcement Officers, the member organizations of which include:

(1) The Chicago Police Association of Nevada;

(2) The Department of Public Safety of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas;

(3) The Detroit Police Association of Nevada;

(4) The Fraternal Order of Police, Nevada State Lodge;

(5) The Injured Police Officer's Fund;

(6) The International Police Association;

(7) The Las Vegas Ten-13 Club;

(8) The Law Enforcement Association of Nevada;

(9) The Nevada Constables' Association;

(10) The Police and Fire Emerald Society of Nevada, Inc.;

and

(11) Any other association, club or organization that the Coalition recognizes as a member organization.

(c) "Professional law enforcement officer" means a person employed by a federal, state or local law enforcement agency in a full-time salaried occupation of law enforcement or as a full-time salaried peace officer for the benefit or safety of the public.

Sec. 2. NRS 482.216 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.216 1. Upon the request of a new vehicle dealer, the Department may authorize the new vehicle dealer to:

(a) Accept applications for the registration of the new motor vehicles he sells and the related fees and taxes;

(b) Issue certificates of registration to applicants who satisfy the requirements of this chapter; and



(c) Accept applications for the transfer of registration pursuant to NRS 482.399 if the applicant purchased from the new vehicle dealer a new vehicle to which the registration is to be transferred.

2. A new vehicle dealer who is authorized to issue certificates of registration pursuant to subsection 1 shall:

(a) Transmit the applications he receives to the Department within the period prescribed by the Department;

(b) Transmit the fees he collects from the applicants and properly account for them within the period prescribed by the Department;

(c) Comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 4; and

(d) Bear any cost of equipment which is necessary to issue certificates of registration, including any computer hardware or software.

3. A new vehicle dealer who is authorized to issue certificates of registration pursuant to subsection 1 shall not:

(a) Charge any additional fee for the performance of those services;

(b) Receive compensation from the Department for the performance of those services;

(c) Accept applications for the renewal of registration of a motor vehicle; or

(d) Accept an application for the registration of a motor vehicle if the applicant wishes to:

(1) Obtain special license plates pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3825, inclusive ~~§~~, *and section 1 of this act*; or

(2) Claim the exemption from the governmental services tax provided pursuant to NRS 361.1565 to veterans and their relations.

4. The Director shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection must provide for:

(a) The expedient and secure issuance of license plates and decals by the Department; and

(b) The withdrawal of the authority granted to a new vehicle dealer pursuant to subsection 1 if that dealer fails to comply with the regulations adopted by the Department.

Sec. 3. NRS 482.36705 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.36705 ~~§~~ *1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if* a new special license plate is authorized by an act of the Legislature after January 1, 2003, the Legislature will direct that the license plate not be designed, prepared or issued by the Department unless the Department receives at least 1,000 applications for the issuance of that plate within 2 years after the effective date of the act of the Legislature that authorized the plate.



2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply with regard to special license plates designed, prepared and issued pursuant to section 1 of this act.

Sec. 4. NRS 482.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.500 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 3, whenever upon application any duplicate or substitute certificate of registration, decal or number plate is issued, the following fees must be paid:

For a certificate of registration.....	\$5.00
For every substitute number plate or set of plates.....	5.00
For every duplicate number plate or set of plates	10.00
For every decal displaying a county name.....	.50
For every other decal, license plate sticker or tab.....	5.00

2. The following fees must be paid for any replacement plate or set of plates issued for the following special license plates:

(a) For any special plate issued pursuant to NRS 482.3667, 482.367002, 482.3672, 482.3675, 482.370 to 482.376, inclusive, **and section 1 of this act** or 482.379 to 482.3818, inclusive, a fee of \$10.

(b) For any special plate issued pursuant to NRS 482.368, 482.3765, 482.377 or 482.378, a fee of \$5.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 482.3824, for any souvenir license plate issued pursuant to NRS 482.3825 or sample license plate issued pursuant to NRS 482.2703, a fee equal to that established by the Director for the issuance of those plates.

3. A fee must not be charged for a duplicate or substitute of a decal issued pursuant to NRS 482.37635.

4. The fees which are paid for duplicate number plates and decals displaying county names must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Motor Vehicle Fund and allocated to the Department to defray the costs of duplicating the plates and manufacturing the decals.

Sec. 5. On or before November 1, 2005, the Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit or its successor must establish the Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit Benefit Trust described in subsection 8 of section 1 of this act.



