

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-Seventh Session
March 5, 2013**

The Committee on Transportation was called to order by Chairman Richard Carrillo at 3:20 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, in Room 3143 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at nelis.leg.state.nv.us/77th2013. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Richard Carrillo, Chairman
Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan, Vice Chairman
Assemblyman Paul Anderson
Assemblyman David P. Bobzien
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Lucy Flores
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblyman James W. Healey
Assemblyman Michael Sprinkle
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler
Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Steven Brooks (excused)
Assemblyman Crescent Hardy (excused)
Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel (excused)



GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Randy Kirner, Washoe County Assembly District No. 26

Assemblyman Pete Livermore, Assembly District No. 40

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vance Hughey, Committee Policy Analyst

Scott McKenna, Committee Counsel

James Fonda, Committee Secretary

Olivia Lloyd, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Caleb E. Harris, representing the Disabled American Veterans

Christopher M. Wahle, representing the Disabled American Veterans

Jack Mallory, representing the Southern Nevada Building and
Construction Trades Council; the Nevada State AFL-CIO

William J. Maltman, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada

Walter W. Willis, Private Citizen, Sparks, Nevada

William T. Anton, Private Citizen, North Las Vegas, Nevada

Rhonda Bavaro, Deputy Director, Department of Motor Vehicles

Josh Stagliano, Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff's Office, Carson City

Ronald P. Dreher, representing the Peace Officers Research
Association of Nevada

Brian O'Callaghan, representing the Metropolitan Police Department,
Las Vegas

Robert Roshak, Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs'
Association

Eric Spratley, representing the Sheriff's Office, Washoe County

Mike Draper, representing the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain
Health, Las Vegas

Kate Zhong, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.(C), Senior Director, Clinical Research
Development, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health,
Las Vegas

Chairman Carrillo:

I will now open the hearing on Assembly Bill 111, which revises provisions related to special license plates for disabled veterans. I would like to welcome Assemblyman Kirner to Transportation.

Assembly Bill 111: Revises provisions related to special license plates for disabled veterans. (BDR 43-530)

Assemblyman Randy Kirner, Washoe County Assembly District No. 26:

It is a pleasure to be here. I served on this Committee the last session, and it is always fun to be in Transportation. I am delighted to be able to be before you today to present Assembly Bill 111, which has bipartisan support both here and in the Senate. I represent Assembly District No. 26, but as an Army veteran, a Vietnam veteran, and an Army Ranger, I am very pleased to be able to represent my community of disabled American veterans.

I would like to say the bill is simple, but there is no such thing as a simple bill. I have learned that, if nothing else. This bill will address a circumstance that our veterans are experiencing now. As you know, there is a license plate, it is not a new license plate, that says "disabled veteran." We are finding that if our disabled veterans are driving and traveling across state borders into California and elsewhere, they are receiving tickets that range up to \$1,000, because the plate does not have the universal wheelchair symbol on it. To be a disabled veteran, you have to be 100 percent disabled, so we are simply asking to have the wheelchair symbol put on the license plate. This would apply to servicemen and servicewomen both, as there is a separate license plate for each.

Caleb E. Harris, representing the Disabled American Veterans:

I would first and foremost like to thank you all for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would also like to thank all the veterans that are present here today. I think that their presence is testimony as to how important this bill is to the community. I myself am a Marine veteran, however, today I am not here alone. I am honored and privileged to represent more than 7,000 permanently and totally disabled veterans residing here in Nevada. If passed, A.B. 111 will have a direct and positive impact on them all. The reason why this bill is needed is because the original legislation for the disabled veterans license plate did not take into account the variation in laws regarding handicapped parking in other states, as associated with disabled veteran plates. Currently, severely disabled veterans are being issued parking violations in neighboring states for parking in areas they are eligible to use. This is due to the absence of the universally recognized handicapped symbol on the Nevada disabled veteran license plate. Assembly Bill 111 will correct this. By adding the universal handicapped symbol, the Nevada disabled veteran license plate will be nationally recognized and allow qualifying Nevada veterans to park in handicapped spaces throughout the country, without fear or worry that they may be ticketed. This will also eliminate time-consuming attempts to rectify such tickets. This is especially important as many of our most severely disabled often travel to neighboring states for medical treatment not always available here at home.

In addition, the current disabled veteran license plate is not properly honoring some of our most decorated veterans in Nevada. Purple Heart recipients do not

currently have the ability to display both their Purple Heart and the fact that they are a disabled veteran, designations that often go hand-in-hand. We believe that Assemblyman Kirner's bill has the opportunity to rectify this as well. By adopting a more malleable platform that is agreeable to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) we believe we can not only resolve current disabled veteran license plate issues, but avoid future legislation regarding veteran plates. It is our hope that we can simply emulate one of the many designs already being used throughout America to better suit the needs of some of our most distinguished heroes here in Nevada. Thank you for your time and consideration in letting me speak on this matter.

Chairman Carrillo:

Thank you for your presentation, and thank you Assemblyman Kirner for bringing this bill in front of the Committee on Transportation. I would like to open up to any questions that any of the members have.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

You said you had a problem as far as getting tickets, so if you have the hanging placard and the plate, does that not solve the problem if you are in another state? I thought that the hanging rearview mirror placard was universal across the country.

Caleb Harris:

Currently, the standard for the general population is that if they are permanently handicapped they are able to get a permanent plate. We think that same application should apply to veterans. They should be able to also get a permanent plate. In addition, there are some veterans who have actually still received tickets, even here in Nevada, with the hanging placard and their disabled veteran license plate, because it does not have the universal symbol on the plate. Does that answer your question?

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I am confused because I was always under the impression that it was the placard more than anything else. I could have a regular plate on my car and have the placard on my rearview mirror, and that was the actual verification that I could use that spot. I guess I am just confused as to where law enforcement might be confused, and giving tickets that they should not be giving.

Assemblyman Healey:

I wanted to take an opportunity to thank Assemblyman Kirner for bringing this bill forward. Also, more importantly, thank you to all the servicemen and

women. Thank you for your service to our country and everything you do for us, and hopefully we will be able to do something in return.

Assemblyman Kirner:

Certainly I think all of us feel honored to have served.

Chairman Carrillo:

Any other Committee members have any questions? I see none. Does anyone want to speak on behalf of the bill?

Christopher M. Wahle, representing the Disabled American Veterans:

I support this bill. It is a simple fix to make it right. In my prior life as a law enforcement officer, outside Nevada, I probably would have written tickets too because it said only disabled veteran, but if it has the handicapped sticker on the plate then it is universally recognized. I think that would be a very good thing and it is a very simple fix, whether you design a new license plate or just put a little sticker on there with the handicapped symbol. I am in support of A.B. 111, and think it is a good thing to honor veterans, the folks who need it the most.

Assemblywoman Flores:

I apologize for my lack of understanding in this area and my question might sound a little uneducated. Is there ever a situation where someone could be a disabled veteran but not qualify as disabled in the State of Nevada?

Caleb Harris:

No there is not. The requirement for you to be able to get a disabled veteran plate is that you are 100 percent totally and permanently disabled. That also qualifies as being handicapped.

Assemblywoman Flores:

I am familiar with certain situations where someone could be disabled but they are only 20 percent or 10 percent or something like that, and I am familiar with those categories. Is there a situation where someone is considered disabled, but less than that 100 percent? And so therefore there would be some sort of situation where they are not qualified under what disabled means for purposes of that placard in Nevada?

Assemblyman Kirner:

To get a disabled veteran plate you have to be 100 percent disabled. For example, I have a partial disability because the loss of hearing, but I would not qualify. You have to be 100 percent disabled as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Assemblywoman Flores:

For purposes of verification, if someone is 100 percent disabled and they qualify for a placard, then they should have that. But, I am trying to determine this situation and how we would verify that with the DMV. I certainly would not want to create a situation where there is a limited amount of parking and access for those who are truly disabled.

We do not want to get into a situation where there are those with certain disabilities that are precluding others who truly are disabled and need to have that type of access to physical locations. I do not want to create that type of situation where people who really need it do not have it because it is not available.

Assemblyman Kirner:

We are not trying to change the rules here. The rules are already in place as to what qualifies one as a disabled veteran. All we are saying is that we need to put the wheelchair symbol on the license plate. So, the license plate already exists, and the conditions by which one is determined to be a disabled American veteran already exist. There is nothing new in this proposal or any law that we are looking at. I hope that assures you a little bit more.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson:

My question was just answered. Essentially all we are doing is taking existing plates, existing laws, and just adding the little wheelchair symbol for those that already qualify for it.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

So, what would be the process? Is it literally just a sticker that you would get in the mail? Do these plates need to be returned for new plates? How would that work?

Assemblyman Kirner:

My hearing aid battery just went dead, but I heard you. This would be handled by the DMV and they would send out a letter letting folks know that it is available, and they can come in and get a new plate. I am not sure whether it is a sticker. I think it would be printed on the plate, as opposed to a sticker.

Chairman Carrillo:

Okay, are there any other questions? Assemblyman Kirner, I would like to see if we can open it up to support for A.B. 111.

Jack Mallory, representing the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council; the Nevada State AFL-CIO:

Many of our members are veterans, and if they are not veterans, they have somebody in their family who is a veteran—a parent, a child, a brother, or a sister. Each and every one of them, I believe, strived or strives to serve their country honorably, like many of those sitting here in the room today have. I count myself amongst that number. I proudly drive around town with my Navy veteran plates on my pickup truck, and I think that what these folks are asking for is simple. It fixes a problem that you have heard about today, and we fully support it.

William J. Maltman, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

I have Purple Heart plates. I went to DMV, and I am entitled to disabled [veteran] plates and I am also entitled to the Purple Heart plates. I chose the Purple Heart plates and the reason is that DMV told me I could have the Purple Heart plates with the placard, and that is what I have. I have the placard that hangs in the window. But I am still being discriminated against. When I go to the airport, if I have disabled veteran plates, I can park free, but they do not recognize the Purple Heart plates with the placard as a disabled plate. I have talked to people that have gone to California and because it does not have the wheelchair on the disabled veteran plate they do ticket them.

Walter W. Willis, Private Citizen, Sparks, Nevada:

I am retired from the U.S. Air Force and a Vietnam veteran. I have occasion to go to San Francisco for dental care I am receiving. I was one of the recipients of one of those tickets that the State of California saw fit to issue. It took several communications with me back and forth to the [California] DMV, but it still ended up costing me money for administrative fees once they realized that perhaps I should have been allowed to park in a disabled veteran's slot. In addition to that, I talked to the issuing officer and the issuing officer of the ticket said "I do not care what it says on your plates, you do not have the wheelchair."

Chairman Carrillo:

We will move down to Las Vegas on support on A.B. 111.

William T. Anton, Private Citizen, North Las Vegas:

I am in favor of A.B. 111. I also was in California, and I have disabled veteran tags on my vehicle. Normally if you have a permanent plate you do not carry around your hanging placard with you. That is almost redundant. But I was fortunate, and I had a copy of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* with me. I was able to convince the law enforcement official that I was entitled to park in the handicapped slot, so I was able to escape without cost from California.

But having the universal symbol on the disabled veteran plate would greatly enhance our ability to travel across the United States.

Chairman Carrillo:

We will move back to Carson City. Anybody in opposition? Down south? [There was no one.] Now we will move to neutral.

Rhonda Bavaro, Deputy Director, Department of Motor Vehicles:

The department is neutral on this bill. The plate design will have minimal impact on the Department. We did submit a fiscal note for \$1,220, and that is for notification letter to go out to the existing plate holders on the new plate design. I did want to clarify one thing on the current existing requirements for a handicapped plate. They are different from the requirements for the disabled veteran plate. Currently for the disabled veteran plate we accept a form from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notifying us that they are 100 percent disabled. For a handicapped plate there are some specific requirements in statute for that, which include limitations on walking without assistance or without oxygen or without the use of a brace. There are some specific things in statute that are required for a disabled placard or license plate.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

Are there going to be any technical glitches as far as making sure that when we send these letters out to the veterans now who might want to switch over, that they can comply? The last thing I want to do is have folks coming down, thinking they can, when there is going to be another set of restrictions. We want to be very clear about who will actually be able to get the disabled veteran plate. Do our regulations fit within the of VA designation as disabled?

Rhonda Bavaro:

It would depend on how we want to interpret the statute. If we interpret it as, if you are able to get a disabled veterans plate then you would be able to have the handicapped privileges, then we would change our procedures that way. If it had to be the separate requirement, then it would have to be two separate plates. Because the way the bill is reading is the statute would say, it would be a new plate design for the disabled veteran plate with the handicap and all its privileges. I would be happy to work on language.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

My concern is, and I want to make sure I understand this correctly, a disabled veteran plate cannot be applied for unless you are 100 percent disabled. And I am getting the head nods from the audience. That is very good. That is what we need from the audience, confirmation that we are on the right track. If we

changed our regulations to suit, then it would just be a simple switchover, and there would not be any extra compliance?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Yes, that would be correct.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I am really confused about the Purple Heart part, because you can get a Purple Heart but not be 100 percent disabled. I want to try to figure this out. I am looking at a plate and at a wheelchair, at hearts and numbers. Is the Nevada Highway Patrol going to approve this, because they have got to be able to read it and pick it out. Where do you think our glitches are going to be if we try to do something along that line?

Rhonda Bavaro:

I am not quite sure what you are asking. Is your question on the design of the plate itself, or how law enforcement is going to interpret it?

Assemblywoman Carlton:

Let us start with the design to begin with, because there was a proposal to take the Purple Heart and do the same thing with it, I believe. I am not really clear what the actual amendment is. I have not seen any language. If it is on the Nevada Electronic Legislative System (NELIS), I apologize for not seeing it. I want to understand what the technicalities may be.

Rhonda Bavaro:

We would have to look at the design of the plate because right now it actually spells out disabled veteran or disabled female veteran. So that does take up that left-hand third of the plate, so we would have to look at that design to alter it to put that handicapped symbol there as well.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to speak for all my colleagues, but I think we are all pretty much on board with wanting to do the right thing. We just want to make sure we set up the right processes and do not cause another problem down the road in trying to address this particular problem. Thank you very much for your help.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

I apologize if I am asking this in a different way. I just want to be sure that I am absolutely clear about what I heard you say. And this was that currently, the way it is right now, if the person has a disabled veteran plate, they are not meeting the same requirements for getting a handicapped exemption. Correct?

Rhonda Bavaro:

That is correct. There are different requirements for a disabled veteran plate than for a disabled or handicapped plate or placard, currently.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

So this current bill that is in front of us would need to specify that they would then be the same. Correct?

Rhonda Bavaro:

The way the bill is written, it is specifically saying that they could get the handicapped with the requirements that the disabled veteran plate currently has.

Chairman Carrillo:

For more clarification in regard to the bill on line 6, page 2, it says "is entitled to specially designed license plates that must be inscribed." I know we mentioned stickers. Is that embossed into the plate itself, or will veterans have to turn their plates back in to get the special plate?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Yes, that is correct, it would be a new plate. We are looking at the digital current license plate, so we would affix that logo on the actual plate, rather than a sticker.

Chairman Carrillo:

Also, on any of the plates that are out there, I know that they have the disabled insignia. Is that pretty much the same suit that will follow, or is it going to be white and blue? I have seen California plates that have that specific design to set them apart. I know the design has not been brought forth. I just wanted to get a little more information.

Rhonda Bavaro:

We have not worked on the plate yet. I believe it says in the bill that it has to be with the blue and white insignia.

Chairman Carrillo:

We will move to neutral, unless there is anybody else in Carson. We will move down south, and anybody neutral? Now I would like to go to Assemblyman Kirner for closing remarks.

Assemblyman Kirner:

I think your questions have been answered. As I mentioned before, this is a bipartisan supported bill, both here and in the Senate. I think your next step is to go to a work session, so I am looking forward to that.

Chairman Carrillo:

Thank you very much for bringing this bill forward, and to all the men and women in uniform, thank you for your service to our country.

Now I will close the hearing on A.B. 111.

I would like to open the hearing on Assembly Bill 129, which provides for the issuance of a special license plate honoring peace officers who have received certain medals. I will turn it over to Assemblyman Livermore.

Assembly Bill 129: Provides for the issuance of special license plates honoring peace officers who have received certain medals. (BDR 43-154)

Assemblyman Pete Livermore, Assembly District No. 40:

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to be here before your Committee on Transportation. I am Assemblyman Pete Livermore from Assembly District No. 40, which represents all of Carson City and a small portion of Washoe County. Assembly Bill 129 provides for the issuance of special license plates honoring peace officers who have received certain medals. It is an act relating to motor vehicles requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to design, prepare, and issue special license plates honoring peace officers who have received certain medals, setting forth requirements for a person to qualify for the issuance of a special license; exempting the special license plates from certain provisions otherwise applicable to special license plates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Per section 1 of the bill, Chapter 482 of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) would be amended to require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue specially designed license plates for current or former police officers who have received the following medals: the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the Medal of Valor, the Lifesaving Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, or the Distinguished Service Medal. And it would allow a family member of a person who was killed in the line of duty and was awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor for his or her actions as a peace officer to obtain this license plate. We believe there should not be an additional fee for this license plate. Thank you for allowing me to present this bill.

With me today is the gentleman who has convinced me to create this bill. I would like to introduce Officer Josh Stagliano.

Josh Stagliano, Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff's Office, Carson City:

I am here seeking your support for A.B. 129, which requests the establishment of a new license plate recognizing distinguished service by law enforcement

personnel. As you may know, members of the military who are injured in the line of duty or are recognized for meritorious service can acquire special license plates recognizing their military service and sacrifice for the good of this nation. Although I am not suggesting law enforcement service is the same as military service, I was surprised to learn the same consideration was not extended to law enforcement personnel. I learned this when I visited the Department of Motor Vehicles after being shot during the execution of a warrant and was denied issuance of a Purple Heart license plate. [Continued to read from testimony ([Exhibit C](#)).]

This caused me to begin conversations with my fellow officers and other agencies about the possibility of a license plate recognizing law enforcement personnel in a manner similar to military personnel. While we are not seeking the vast array of license plates offered to the military, we believe it is appropriate to have a single plate recognizing law enforcement personnel who are formally decorated by their agencies ([Exhibit D](#)). In addition we believe it to be appropriate for issuance of the same plate to a family member of a peace officer killed in the line of duty. We have suggested the plate be limited to those personnel who are awarded medals as outlined on page 2, lines 19 through 27 of the bill draft.

Although this initiative was originally sponsored by the Carson City Sheriff's Office. I have reviewed this bill draft with numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the state with all announcing both their formal and informal endorsements. I am pleased to announce the formal support of the Nevada State Law Enforcement Officers' Association, the Carson City Deputy Sheriff's Association, the Douglas County Deputy Sheriff's Association, Sparks Police Department Officers Association, Nye County Sheriff's Protective Association, Nevada Department of Public Safety Association, and the Peace Officers Research Association of Nevada (PORAN). Although other agencies have not formally announced their support, I am happy to report all have offered nothing but favorable comments about this action.

I have been asked by the Nevada State Law Enforcement Officers' Association for one minor amendment to the bill within section 1, subsection 3, paragraph (a), subparagraph (6) which I request be amended to read "the Distinguished Service Medal; or their equivalents." However, I think Mr. Livermore just addressed that in his presentation. Included in the handout or on Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) is a copy of the plate concept to encompass the Nevada Law Enforcement Memorial recognizing the life sacrifice of many Nevada law enforcement personnel. I am hopeful the Committee will give favorable consideration to this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Chairman Carrillo:

I want to thank you for your testimony and presentation, Assemblyman Livermore, and for bringing this bill forward. Are there any questions from the Committee members?

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I have to ask you. This will be a plate that will be outside the cap, correct? We have a cap of 30 plates, I believe, now, so we would be issuing this outside the cap? Or would it be within the cap of plates that are allowed?

Josh Stagliano:

It was my request to have it the same as the military where it is just issued. I was not sure if that was in the cap or out of the cap. I am not sure how that actually works.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

That is a pretty big distinction between the two, whether we are going to start a whole new plate and whether it is going to be outside the cap, because we have a lot outside the cap right now. Can you shed some light on why you decided not to go to the license plate commission, as the statute reads, for your license plates?

Josh Stagliano:

I talked to Assemblyman Livermore, and we decided we were going to try to bypass the signatures and that route.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I respect what you are trying to do and what you do for a living, and one of the hardest things we have to do sometimes is tell people that we respectfully disagree with them, and I have to do that right now. We ask everyone else to play by the same set of guidelines and get up to 5,000 signatures and guarantee so many plates.

I looked at the DMV fiscal note; it is a zero, and it cannot possibly be a zero. We are going to have to create, design, and manufacture multiples, because they do not just run a few. And, if you look at all these different types of plates you have, which are all very worthy but there are six of them. If we have got to run 3,000 or 4,000 in each one of those, there is definitely a cost impact that needs to be addressed.

Josh Stagliano:

It is just going to be one plate for all of the medals.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

But each plate will have to be done differently because each one will have a different medal on it. Correct?

Josh Stagliano:

No.

Assemblyman Livermore:

No ma'am.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

Or will all these medals be on one plate?

Josh Stagliano:

Well, it is going to be in the language of the bill, but the plate itself is going to be the Memorial in the background, and just one plate that would encompass. So if a law enforcement officer had any one of these medals, they would be eligible for that single plate. Yes ma'am, it is going to be one single plate ([Exhibit D](#)).

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I am glad you clarified that for me, because I was looking at multiple different plates.

Josh Stagliano:

I am glad you asked that then.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I have concerns about the fiscal note. I do not think it is realistic. There is going to be a cost of doing this and the last thing I want to do is set you guys up for failure, because if you do not sell enough of them, we will bump you off the list. Whereas, if you actually go through the real process and get the names, and make your case to the special license plate commission, we have found that people have been more successful, because they have had the 5,000 supporters to actually purchase the plates. So it is one of toughest things we have to do, and I apologize Mr. Chairman for going on, but I have some issues with you going outside the process that we set up. Which, by the way, I voted against because I knew it was not going to work, and today proves it.

Josh Stagliano:

I respectfully disagree. The plate, like I said, is going to be one license plate. I believe Mrs. Bavaro, from the DMV, is going to testify as a neutral party to

this. I had a conversation with her and she had indicated that it was going to be zero fiscal impact on the state. It is my understanding that we will be paying normal registration fees, which should cover the cost of the plates, and it is going to be a limited amount of officers. I cannot believe that there would be more than 500 officers in the entire state that would be eligible for this plate. And that would probably be about the total amount.

Assemblyman Livermore:

As I walked in this room I was proud to be amongst the citizens that filled the seats behind me as American veterans, and I am proud to be here today with our first responders and their importance to our society. I believe we owe them the honor of providing this. As in the military, some give their all to this, and I think it is appropriate for me to represent that fact. This is just a simple plate, and it is going to be very limited, and I did not think we could gather the signatures through the normal process. So that is why we put in a bill and brought it here.

Chairman Carrillo:

Do any Committee members have any questions? [There were none.] I would like to thank you very much for your presentation, and I would like to move on to support of A.B. 129.

Ronald P. Dreher, representing the Peace Officers Research Association of Nevada:

On behalf of the men and the women of law enforcement in this state, I will tell you that, and Deputy Stagliano mentioned some agencies, most of the agencies that I have talked to are in support of this, and we are asking this Committee to support A.B. 129. I would like to state for Assemblywoman Carlton's information, it has been my understanding this is a different plate because it is an exempt plate. Not everyone can get this plate. You have to be injured, shot in the line of duty, or reach one of the requirements that are listed in the bill. It is only one plate, and I have to give Deputy Stagliano credit for bringing this bill forward a long time ago. And I also thank Assemblyman Livermore for sponsoring this, and all the rest of you that sponsored this. As Deputy Stagliano stated, this is much like the Purple Heart plate for the military, but it is for police officers. Police officers for the most part, you will not get them to put a license plate on their car like this, or one that identifies them as a police officer, for officer safety reasons. If you will note, on the design that Deputy Stagliano came up with ([Exhibit D](#)) it is very difficult for anyone to understand that it is a law enforcement plate because the bottom says "decorated" on it, and he did a lot of work on that. The bottom line is that I would ask this Committee to support that. I also want to say that this bill started two years ago when Deputy Stagliano brought it to the attention of

Assemblyman Livermore. I think that Deputy Stagliano has done more than anybody I have ever seen in this building to take a bill from the outset and go to each one of you and ask your support, to go to every state law enforcement agency that he could reach out to, including the Sheriffs' and Chiefs', us, and the Las Vegas Police Protective Association and everybody that he could reach out and touch, saying "Would you please support this?" He is coming here with a mission; he has done a hellacious job of lobbying this bill on his own behalf, and for that, and what he has gone through, I am asking that you support A.B. 129.

Assemblywoman Flores:

I think my colleague is, and I do not want to say brave because I think being shot in the line of duty is one of the ultimate ways in which someone can demonstrate bravery, but I think it is also very brave for my colleague to say out loud that this is difficult. You and I had this conversation one on one. It is difficult to say no to these types of bills, because it is compelling and it is moving. However, I take a little offense to the fact that we are being made to feel guilty about this. If I am misconstruing it, then that is okay, but that is personally how I feel about it, and there is a line. There are just as many compelling reasons out there, and those folks are waiting in line under that 30 cap for their license plate to also be made available. It puts us in a very difficult position to have so many brave folks sitting in front of us, and to talk about what happened to them, and put us in a position to have to say no. But I think that is the reason why we are up here, and I do want to commend my colleague for saying it out loud, and it is not because I do not think that this is not compelling, and that we are not absolutely grateful for the work that you and your colleagues and law enforcement do every single day to protect us. But the fact of the matter is that these license plate bills are always difficult for us, and that is why there is cap, and that is why there is a line. And once those spots are made available then this reason is just as compelling as those other ones. I do not feel bad about having to make a difficult decision. But I did want to be absolutely clear that this does not take away from what happened to you and what law enforcement goes through on a daily basis, and what they continue to do for us as citizens of this state.

Ronald Dreher:

This was not meant to be personal, and if I understand this correctly, it is not the fact that you are objecting to the license plate, it is the cap. If that is the case, I missed that all along when we were doing this. So, that is our fault for not following that. It is my understanding, though, that he does not need to sell 5,000 plates, or any plates, because it is an exempt plate. So I do not know that procedure, and if there is a way around that, that is fine. But please do not take what we said personally because that was never the intent, otherwise we

would have focused right in on that a long time ago to try and do that through the license plate commission, or whatever what we are calling them, to ask this body to go to 31 and show compelling reasons as to why.

So if it is to the point that the committee is objecting to it because we have gone over the cap, then I ask you, and I am sure Deputy Stagliano and the rest of us would also, to go over the 31, or maybe 35. I do not know how many other plates are out there. I just heard about the disabled veteran plate. That is the sole reason he brought it forward. I do not think he knew, and I did not know, that there was a cap on license plates. If we had known we would have tried to work on that aspect because it is a whole different ball game. So, I hope that helps. It is not personal though.

Assemblyman Healey:

I certainly respect my colleague from the south's opinion; however, I would just like to state that, yes, we have a lot of different amazing reasons to do exemptions to go over that cap, and I will address my question about the cap to DMV when they are up. However, I think that when you look at what our military and our law enforcement officers are faced with, they put their lives on the line in order to protect the rest of us, I do not feel the request today for a special plate that honors those that have either been wounded or killed in the line of duty is too much to ask of from someone who is willing to give their life for me. As a lawmaker, it is my way of being able to give back to those that give me the freedom to sit up here and be able to have this conversation among my colleagues and the public. Yes, we have caps and there is reason for caps, but there are also reasons for exemptions, and, in my opinion, this is a reason for an exemption.

Chairman Carrillo:

I would like to continue with support of A.B. 129.

Brian O'Callaghan, representing the Metropolitan Police Department, Las Vegas:

We are in full support of this, and I, too, did not understand this cap. My understanding was that if you had a University of Nevada, Las Vegas, or wild horse plate and you have this certain cap then you have to maintain the amount. After three years, if you do not maintain that amount, you lose your spot in line and the next person comes in. I do understand that portion of it, but this is separate. You are not receiving any fees or anything; it is just a license plate for the decoration of that officer.

Robert Roshak, representing the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association:

We would like to give our support to this bill.

Eric Spratley, Lieutenant, representing the Sheriff's Office, Washoe County:

I am representing the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, representing Sheriff Mike Healey and expressing our support for A.B. 129.

Chairman Carrillo:

We will move down south for support on A.B. 129. I see none. Bring it back up to Carson City, moving to any opposition on A.B. 129? Anybody in Carson neutral on A.B. 129?

Rhonda Bavaro, Deputy Director, Department of Motor Vehicles:

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is neutral on this bill. We did confirm that it is one plate style, and that would be the reason for the zero fiscal note, because we could process this in our normal daily activities within the Department. The only concern we do have with this is the implementation date of July 1, 2013. With our current IT projects as well as the plate design process, we would not be able to meet that implementation date. If I could just clarify on the plates, as far as the specialty plates and the 30 cap and the qualifying, we see this as a separate type of plate similar to a veterans plate or a Gold Star plate or a press plate, where you would have to meet certain specific requirements to get this plate. So it would not necessarily be anybody could come in and pay a fee and get this plate. You would have to meet those requirements.

Chairman Carrillo:

I just wanted to address the implementation date that you mentioned. Would you suggest a date that would be more friendly to DMV?

Rhonda Bavaro:

The last bill that we heard, Assembly Bill 111, had on there an implementation date of "as soon as practical." I did talk with Mr. Stagliano, and he said that they would be willing to work with us on that date.

Chairman Carrillo:

Actually glancing at A.B. 111, it says "effective upon passage and approval."

Rhonda Bavaro:

In the actual bill itself it said that we would develop this plate and get it to the veterans as soon as practical. It was in the bulk of the bill itself.

Assemblyman Healey:

Just to clarify on the cap, because the type of plate being requested has certain requirements to be met in order to be granted the plate, those plates do not fall under the 30 cap. Is that correct?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Yes, that is correct. They do not fall into the 30 cap.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

Can you tell me, currently, how many plates for automobiles and motorcycles we have that are issued outside the cap? I know the number was getting up there the last time I looked.

Rhonda Bavaro:

I do not have that information with me, but I would be happy to get that to you. There is a growing list. There are quite a few.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I was looking at all the different veterans plates that are listed online, and those can be done in automobile and motorcycle. And there are all the decorated, disabled, and family plates, which I believe can also be done in automobile and motorcycle. And then there are a couple of other lists so it looks as though we are up close to 40 exempt plates, from what I can find on the web right now.

Rhonda Bavaro:

I would be in agreement with that somewhere along those lines.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

If you could provide that number that would be very helpful, because it seems as though there has been a new path walked for license plates and it is the exempt status.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

I want to make sure that we are totally clear with this. When we are talking about the cap, we are talking about a process for organizations and institutions to create a new license plate, to raise money to help support their cause in a general sense.

The difference is that this is simply a way to acknowledge individuals, this one is specifically for police officers who have received certain medals. It is just a simple acknowledgement, so there are no increased fees and no extra money being diverted to some fund. This is just simply to acknowledge those individuals. Is that correct?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Yes, that is correct. There would be no fees involved. There are specific requirements for this plate, as opposed to a specialty charitable plate where anybody could purchase and help support the cause.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

Then that is why they would need to meet the requirements of the thousands of signatures or that they must keep a minimum of plates in circulation. This is just simply to recognize those officers, and this would be indefinitely, because it would only be those ones that qualified for this plate. Correct?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Yes, that is correct.

Assemblyman Healey:

This is my first go-around at the license plate this session here. To get a license plate that falls under that cap, as my colleague from the north talked about, for organizations and causes that the general public can come in and get their plate, that process requires the signatures in order to then petition for that plate. Does that same process apply to those wishing to get an exempt plate?

Rhonda Bavaro:

It is different. For the specialty plates, you would have to qualify with 1,000 signatures. There is a waiting list because we have the 30 cap on that. Anybody can come in and purchase those. As far as these different types of plates, the veterans plate or the Gold Star, only those who meet those requirements could get those, and it is outside that of that cap.

Assemblyman Healey:

I do not think that answered my question in terms of the process then to qualify to even come forward to request an exempt plate, like in this situation. Does that require that signature process and everything those other plates require, or does it not?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Are you asking if I want to come through to obtain this license plate or develop a new type of license?

Assemblyman Healey:

No. For them to actually start the process to request this plate, like the other organizations, would it be with a thousand signatures?

Rhonda Bavaro:

This would be separate. This would not have to do that.

Chairman Carrillo:

No one signed on in the south, so I would now like to bring Assemblyman Livermore up for closing comments.

Assemblyman Livermore:

I want to thank the Committee for hearing this important bill. I think the recognition has been put on testimony here. I am very pleased and honored to have brought this bill to this Committee. Thank you very much for patience in hearing this. Hopefully when you bring this out in a work session, your vote will be favorable.

Chairman Carrillo:

Thank you so much and to all of our officers in uniform, and those that are not, thank you for your service to Nevada. It is much appreciated.

I would like to close the hearing on A.B. 129, and open it up to Assembly Bill 189.

Hello, Mr. Draper. Thank you for coming to the Committee on Transportation today and presenting A.B. 189, which provides for issuance of special license plates to advance the research, early detection, and treatment of neurological diseases.

Assembly Bill 189: Provides for the issuance of special license plates to advance the research, early detection and treatment of neurological diseases. (BDR 43-1086)

Mike Draper, representing the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Las Vegas:

I am joined by Dr. Kate Zhong, the Senior Director of Clinical Research and Development for the Ruvo Center. Before I turn it over to Dr. Zhong, I want to provide you with a brief overview of exactly why we are here.

Currently, more than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. That number is expected to reach 100 million worldwide by the year 2050. In fact, one in eight older Americans has Alzheimer's disease. Nevada has one of the fastest growing populations of those affected with Alzheimer's due to our state's aging population. Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, and more than 15 million Americans provide unpaid care valued at \$210 billion for persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Brain disease is simply a drain on public resources. Payments for care are estimated to be \$200 billion in the United States in 2012, \$140 billion of which comes from Medicare and Medicaid. The care costs of Alzheimer's and other dementias will soar from \$200 billion this year to a projected \$1.1 trillion by 2050, and a 500 percent increase in combined Medicare and Medicaid spending. The Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health is the foremost facility in the world dedicated to the study, research, and treatment of

diseases of memory, mood, and movement, which include Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and multiple sclerosis, among others, and, it is right here in Nevada.

The Cleveland Clinic is one of the country's top four hospitals, and the Ruvo Center is conducting more clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease than anywhere else in the country. Recently the Ruvo Center opened the only Huntington's disease comprehensive clinic in Nevada. Furthermore, the center has been recognized nationally as a top reason Las Vegas will bounce back from a struggling economy, thanks to significant medical tourism and its role in diversifying the economy. To date, the center and its 501(c)(3) organization, Keep Memory Alive, have raised more than \$125 million to help find a cure. Furthermore, the Cleveland Clinic has helped more than 21,000 patients, treating 11,000 in 2012 alone.

Caregivers and families of those affected with Parkinson's, Huntington's, Alzheimer's, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and multiple sclerosis brings us to why we are here today. With such a rapidly growing and urgent epidemic, as well as such an invaluable and significant resource, the time is now to create a visible, statewide means by which all caregivers and families and those Nevadans afflicted with these diseases can actively participate in creating awareness and raising funds for the study and treatment of memory, mood, and movement diseases. We did not take this decision or bring this bill here before the Legislature lightly. We spoke with the Department of Motor Vehicles, former regulators, and others and came to the conclusion that the urgency of this need requires action now, rather the specialty plates commission, which can sometimes be a lengthy process.

This bill, which falls outside the specialty plates cap provides an affordable, high-profile way for patients' families and caregivers to actively participate in the effort to combat Alzheimer's disease and other memory, mood, and movement diseases. Currently, we estimate that we already have over 500 plates committed, and we expect that we will be able to achieve 10,000 to 20,000 plates in a very short time frame, potentially one to two years. This bill imposes the same 1,000 plate requirements as current requirement for specialty plates, but we would be willing to strengthen that requirement at the request of this Committee. Furthermore, all funds generated from the specialty license plates will go directly to patients, caregivers, and research. Or, as outlined in the bill, to "advance the research, early detection and treatment of neurological diseases." Additionally at 10,000 to 20,000 plates, this would generate substantial revenue for the state, but none of these funds would go toward capital costs.

The plate would also greatly help to create awareness throughout Nevada, setting the foundation for the Cleveland Clinic to continue to expand in the state and serve more Nevadans. For instance, the Ruvo Center is currently looking for locations in northern Nevada and that is being supported by the Governor and several northern Nevada business and community leaders. For more on the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, I would like to turn it over to Dr. Kate Zhong. Dr. Zhong is a geriatric psychiatrist, a pharmacologist, and a senior director of clinical research and development for the Ruvo Center. She brings more than 16 years of diversified clinical and pharmaceutical research experience to the center and is leading the clinical research team, conducting multiple trials to advance treatment in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other neurodegenerative disorders. Dr. Zhong was leading multiple Alzheimer's clinical trials for pharmaceutical companies before joining the Cleveland Clinic in 2010.

Kate Zhong, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.(C), Senior Director, Clinical Research Development, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Las Vegas:

I am a geriatric psychiatrist and a pharmacologist, so, frankly, I know nothing about bills. I do not really know much about the plate. I am here today to really talk to you about Alzheimer's, brain health, and the great tsunami that is coming. It is already here. We know that every day, starting from last January, there are 10,000 people in this country turning 65. We also know that the prevalence of Alzheimer's for those who are age 65 is about 2 to 3 percent. But the prevalence doubles every five years, so by the time people reach age 85, almost half of them will suffer from Alzheimer's, unless a cure is found. That is why we cannot afford to wait. Every day there are 10,000 people, and at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health that is what we do. We provide excellent care to the patient. We lead the clinical research and we provide the most cutting-edge, or as they call, leading-edge technology. To help people, we use early detection and the most comprehensive treatment, as well as educating people—not just patients, not just caregivers, but the general public—to help raise awareness. So this bill is going to help us advance research and provide early detection, as well as treatment.

The Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health has three locations. In Nevada we are the mother ship for Alzheimer's. And in Cleveland, Ohio, as well as in western Florida, there are also locations of the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. As you may know, the Cleveland Clinic has 45,000 employees, and we have 3,000 physicians in Cleveland. Although here in Nevada we are relatively small, we are part of a big organization. We use the same electronic medical records, and we have the same very advanced technology. For example, we have just gotten positron-emission tomography (PET) imaging in our centers. This is really

very advanced technology, which will allow us to do brain scans of patients. Prior to last April, there was no definitive diagnostic way of determining, with 100 percent certainty, if a patient truly suffers from Alzheimer's. It was primarily based on clinical evaluation. But last April, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved PET imaging. Through that we can actually see the toxic protein in the patient who suffers from Alzheimer's. This has really revolutionized the overall process of early detection. Now at our center we have the machine, so we can indeed provide early detection. We need to really spread the word; we need to let people know that we have this kind of technology. We can actually see the toxic protein in people ten years before they start to develop symptoms. So, talk about early detection, that is very important. Our center is at the forefront in early detection.

As another example, we have just completed a very large clinical trial looking at a simple blood test to detect Alzheimer's patients. Currently, there is no blood test as part of the diagnostic procedure for Alzheimer's, so this is a first. This was a French company's product. They chose our center, so we were the only center in the United States. The clinical trial took place in Las Vegas, Cleveland, and Florida, all under the Cleveland Clinic. When we talk to a patient or to a caregiver and they ask us, "How do I know if I truly have Alzheimer's?," we say, "Would you like to participate in a clinical trial?," because that is one of our main philosophies. Every single medication on the market has to go through FDA approval before it can be brought to the general public, so clinical trials truly are the only way to advance treatment to find a cure. That is what we are here for. Our center, right now, is the leading center for clinical trials in the country. The center has grown tremendously in the last three years. Currently, we have 32 clinical trials being conducted in our center. And again we love to raise awareness to the public, to educate people, and to advocate the importance of clinical trials. I think that this license plate will help to achieve that goal. Not only do we provide treatment to patients, we also provide multiple services to our caregiver program as well.

The Keep Memory Alive (KMA) foundation is the nonprofit organization that helps raise awareness and helps raise funding to support our research. We love the name, Keep Memory Alive, so we tell patients, caregivers, and the general public that we are all here to create memory. We are here to help them to cherish the memory, and we are here to get your support so that we can keep the memory alive for now and for many generations to come.

Assemblyman Bobzien:

Thank you, Doctor, for the presentation. Certainly from the northern Nevada perspective, I am very excited to learn that there is an exploration right now of trying to establish operations up north. It is a wonderful thing, and certainly

with our senior population in Nevada, this is a topic that is on everyone's mind and I appreciate all the work that you do.

I think the problem is, and where the Committee finds itself, and I appreciate that you acknowledge that bills and these processes is all very new, so I feel a little bit apologetic that I am going to have to convey this information. But I do want to hear a little bit of testimony about the discussions as to whether or not it would be feasible to go to the Legislative Commission on Special License Plates, and whether or not this would go in there. And, frankly, I do not want to ask the question of what would differentiate this from other very worthy causes that are under the cap. We are about to get a Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure license plate for breast cancer. There is an autism license plate that is waiting to be brought forward. It would turn my stomach to think that we have to pit worthy causes against worthy causes. Nonetheless we have a cap in the process, so if you could just provide us some information about why the decision was made to go the legislative route, rather than going the route that other worthy causes go.

Mike Draper:

I think that is a very well put question, and I would never suggest that this cause is more worthy than any other cause. That is certainly not a position I think this legislative body should find itself in, nor is it a position, as someone who works with a lot of causes, that I want to put myself in. I think the question for us became urgency, and as we read the statute, the specialty plates commission was set up as an option, the main option, for the Legislature to work through to create these license plates. But it was just an option, there is always the option that if you can come up with a compelling enough or urgent enough reason, the legislative body could still hear these plates, which is why you are hearing these plates today.

We sat down last September or October and began to talk to the Cleveland Clinic folks as we are working with them as they expand around the state. We are working to expand awareness; as most of you know, R&R Partners is also a public relations and advertising agency and we work with them to help with awareness. We began to look at what all our options were, and certainly a license plate is an effective means of creating awareness, and it is an effective fundraising tool. We began to look at the process for license plates. We talked to the DMV and a few other folks who told us it was a great idea that can be very effective, both for awareness and fundraising, but that the process can be lengthy and take quite some time. Working with all of those folks, we feel a license plate makes a lot of sense. This state is the home to the foremost leading research and treatment entity in the world for Alzheimer's disease. Not only are we treating patients, we are actually generating

significant tourism from this facility. One of the problems we are finding is that, while a lot of people around the world know of this facility, a lot of folks in the state do not. Furthermore, the folks in the state do not realize that this facility is not just a treatment facility for wealthier individuals. This is a facility that turns no one away, treating the uninsured and others all the way up the scale. So we decided that the urgency, 10,000 Alzheimer's diagnoses a day, required quick action for a state that is home to the leading facility for Alzheimer's treatment and research in the world.

The short answer is I would not suggest that it is more worthy than any other cause on the list. I would suggest that the urgency is compelling enough to work outside of the commission in this case.

Kate Zhong:

I like your question. As a physician I am looking at a disease versus health. Mike showed me the sample license plates for the first time five minutes ago, ([Exhibit E](#)), ([Exhibit F](#)), ([Exhibit G](#)). On the sample license plates it shows KMA; not Alzheimer's, not Parkinson's, and not Huntington's, but KMA. I would like to add that there is also a major initiative we are embracing that is looking at brain health, looking at overall prevention. One of our ultimate goals is to create a brain span that matches our life span. Keep Memory Alive not only advocates for treatment for Alzheimer's and raising the public awareness of Alzheimer's and other neurological disorders; but more importantly, how we, and every citizen, can really contribute to various efforts to keep memory alive, to stay healthy.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson:

The disease itself hits home. My grandmother suffered from Alzheimer's and lived with us for several years. It got to a point where she wandered and became violent and had to spend her last couple of years in a home. My wife's grandmother currently is in home health care suffering with Parkinson's. Both of those hit very close to home for me. I do not understand the entire license plate process either. I am a freshman here and I understand that there are processes and procedures that need to take place, but it is easy for me to get behind and support the plate in and of itself. I understand the urgency because it is in my home.

Kate Zhong:

Speaking of your grandmother, the behavior problem is so common among Alzheimer's patients, and there is currently no FDA-approved medication to treat specifically the behavior disturbance. At our center, we have just started a clinical trial, a nationwide clinical trial, looking at a brand new drug that is specifically for this kind of behavior. We want to spread the word, we want to

let people know that we are actually conducting cutting-edge clinical research for behavior disturbance. I think the license plate can help us to raise this kind of awareness. When people look at the license plate they will not only say, "What is KMA, and what is that building?," but also "What do you do, and how can I get involved?"

Assemblywoman Carlton:

I did speak with Mr. Draper earlier today and my concerns are that you are going outside the process, and that the other folks that have had very serious issues have played by the rules we have set up. The March of Dimes and the Susan G. Komen Foundation each sat on the waiting list for two to three years. A lot of prenatal babies and women with breast issues could have been served in that time, but they did play by the process. I do understand that this is an important issue and it is a time-sensitive issue, but for anyone who is ill or has a possibility of a diagnosis, it is a time-sensitive issue. The bigger concern that I have is that if you get this bill out of this Committee you would be one of the 30 and, in essence, you would be bumping somebody off the bottom of the list who had actually played by the rules we asked them to play by. Because this is not exempt, it is not outside the cap, we would end up with a 31-plate cap, which means two plates would have to fall off before we could authorize another one. I am looking at the groups that are on the list and I do not want to see autism, which has played by the rules, bumped off the list. Because every child with autism that we treat early, we save a child. So you understand the conundrum we are in when we talk about you working outside the process.

Mike Draper:

Thank you, and I did appreciate the phone call very much this morning. Our interpretation of this is that the way we have written and proposed it, it does fall outside the cap. So, it would not bump somebody off of the 30 under the cap. It was written that way specifically, and that is why we are also open to discussing with this committee even increasing the plate requirements. Right now the plate requirements under the license plate commission is 1,000. We would be willing to discuss going to 2,000 or 2,500, to show that when you come through this and talk about compelling and urgent reasons, there is also a higher standard that needs to be met.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

Well, Mr. Chairman, it seems as though we are going to create a whole new section of license plates. It is going to be, I am going to go to the Legislature and I am going to get what I want. I did not support the license plate commission. I thought it was wrong; I thought we should handle these things in the building the way we were supposed to. Because there are no rules that say you cannot have a legislator bring a bill, I cannot stop someone, one of my

colleagues, from bringing a bill. But there is a bit of honor amongst us colleagues and we all tended to respect the fact that even though I did not support the commission and then they put me on it, we all still had to play by the rules. This is just disconcerting to me that we would start a process where folks think they can just abandon the process and leave other folks behind. I find that very disconcerting.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

Mr. Draper, I do appreciate you coming to my office. We talked about many of these issues already. One of the chief concerns that I expressed to you off-line was this idea of urgency. I must admit I have not heard anything more compelling since. Can you tell me something that I can get my hands on that tells me that this is more urgent than child fatalities in traffic accidents, or autism, or cardiac-related deaths, or anything else that potentially could come to us and ask for the exact same thing. I am just not hearing the urgency that would allow me to allow you to go around the system that is already in place.

Mike Draper:

I guess the way that we look at it is that this is the sixth-leading cause of death in this country. Unlike the other nine of the top ten causes of death, there is no cure and there is very little treatment to even slow or prevent this disease. We are the home to the treatment center for this. Unlike some of the other causes, we are the home to the worldwide leader for Alzheimer's, Huntington's, and Parkinson's treatment. If we do not do it in this state, it is not going to get done. It needs to happen here. We need to create the awareness here so that we can continue to expand the facility, and we need to do it immediately as this disease continues to affect thousands more every day, drain state resources, and drain federal resources. That is where we see the urgency in this, that it needs to happen now. Waiting three or five years to support a facility in this state that is leading the world in its field is simply too long to wait.

Kate Zhong:

I certainly cannot comment on other diseases' urgency per se, since I am not an expert in those areas. But I think that for the KMA and the aging-related diseases, we are the world's leading center right here in the state. We have many centers from all over the world, from Amsterdam, Germany, Argentina, and China, that were here at the Center for Brain Health in Nevada. They want to model our center. They believe that our center is really the future, the very integrated-care model, because of how we not only provide care to the patient, but provide care to the caregivers, and also branch out to overall brain health, overall prevention. So this is really, I think, the pride of the state. I am from California. I have been here for two years, and I am very proud to be here and to do the work that we are doing. So, I think that KMA is really the symbol for

a center for excellence. I believe that we need to bring the symbol not only outside the state, but also to the nation, as well as to the world.

Chairman Carrillo:

I would like to move on to support on A.B. 189. [There was no response.] And now, opposition on A.B. 189? I see none. Anybody neutral on A.B. 189?

Rhonda Bavaro, Deputy Director, Department of Motor Vehicles:

The Department of Motor Vehicles is neutral on this bill. The one concern we do have with it is the effective date of July 1, 2013. And we would again like to propose the amendment of "as soon as practical" by the Department on this.

Assemblyman Healey:

Again, this is part of my education process if you will. So now we are saying we are not under the cap. For those license plates that are under the cap, which is at 30 currently, that number, from what I understand, is an arbitrary number. There is no science that went into determining that 30 number. Is that correct?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Originally, the existing statute was 25. I do not have the history behind that but I can look it up and give it to you. Last session we did raise the cap from 25 to 30. We thought that the Department would be able to manage five additional plates and that is where that came from.

Assemblyman Healey:

For a number to be what it is, are there costs associated for DMV to manage different numbers of plates? So to take it up another five, just as it was last session, are there costs associated for the DMV to manage additional?

Rhonda Bavaro:

There are costs involved. If it is one plate here and there, we can absorb that during our normal course of doing business. When we are talking about several different plates at several times, there is IT programming involved, account setup so we make sure the money goes to the right places, training, and manufacturing plates and giving them to all of our offices. So there is a cost involved when we go into more volume of plates, as well as the issue of a manageable amount of designs.

Assemblyman Healey:

Hearing from those who have been here for other sessions, it sounds like there is quite a list of individual organizations that are waiting under that 30 cap. Do you know how many are waiting under that cap currently?

Rhonda Bavaro:

Currently, there are 13 on the waiting list. That waiting list can average up to six or seven years for an organization to be on that.

Assemblyman Healey:

Would it be feasible to say that we might look at working with you through DMV at understanding if there is a way to help some more of those organizations that have been on that list for a long time by bumping the cap up. Again, I am sure that all of those organization, that are on that list are worthy and have amazing causes and would do great things for the community, if they had that revenue stream, as well as the awareness.

Rhonda Bavaro:

We would be happy work with you to look into that.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

A point was just brought up that I have been thinking about as we have worked through the day. This is the third plate and your fiscal note has been zero on all three plates. We heard Mr. Draper talk about 5,000 to 10,000 plates; there is programing time, staff time, and I am somewhat familiar with your budgets.

To keep having zeros on fiscal notes and keep absorbing the cost of these things, sooner or later you are going to stretch it a little too far and then other things are not going to get done, and then you could possibly end up at the Interim Finance Committee asking for more positions. I know just recently we talked about more positions, so I am little apprehensive about these three zero fiscal notes in a row, especially when we are talking about 5,000 to 10,000 plates. There is a cost.

Rhonda Bavaro:

You are correct; there is a cost. If we can develop them one at a time and we are flexible on the implementation dates, we have more flexibility with a zero fiscal note. When we are talking about several designs for one plate and an effective date, that is where we would get into staffing problems with IT programming as well as our staff in developing the plates.

Assemblywoman Carlton:

It is still the same amount of work, whether you are doing all three at one time, or whether you are doing one, one, and one. We are taking staff that are not designated for these things, and we are having them apply their time and energy to something. Even if we absorb it in small bites we are still absorbing it all. There is still a cost of doing this.

The idea behind the special plates for the last 16 years is that they would not be a burden to the state. We set up bonding, we set up signatures, and we did everything we could because we heard from the DMV years ago that they had stacks of plates just sitting and money was being wasted. So we tried to address the problem.

I just think we need to be very realistic about what these are actually going to cost us, so that we are not making decisions based on false information on a fiscal note.

Chairman Carrillo:

Seeing no other testimony, I will close the hearing on A.B. 189. Any public comment? [There was none.] Meeting adjourned [at 4:57 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

James Fonda
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Richard Carrillo, Chairman

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Transportation

Date: March 5, 2013

Time of Meeting: 3:20 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
A.B. 129	C	Josh Stagliano,	Prepared Testimony
A.B. 129	D	Josh Stagliano	License Plate Sample
A.B. 189	E	Mike Draper	License Plate Sample A
A.B. 189	F	Mike Draper	License Plate Sample B
A.B. 189	G	Mike Draper	License Plate Sample C