

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-Seventh Session
May 24, 2013**

The Senate Committee on Transportation was called to order by Chair Mark A. Manendo at 10:44 a.m. on Friday, May 24, 2013, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Mark A. Manendo, Chair
Senator Kelvin Atkinson, Vice Chair
Senator Pat Spearman
Senator Joseph P. Hardy
Senator Donald G. Gustavson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jered McDonald, Policy Analyst
Darcy Johnson, Counsel
Jennie F. Bear, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Troy L. Dillard, Director, Department of Motor Vehicles
Neena Laxalt, Nevada Sesquicentennial Commission

Chair Manendo:

We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 24.

ASSEMBLY BILL 24 (1st Reprint): Makes various changes to provisions relating to license plates. (BDR 43-367)

Troy L. Dillard (Director, Department of Motor Vehicles):

Assembly Bill 24 has two purposes. The first creates a new license plate for Nevada to commemorate its 150th anniversary, or the sesquicentennial. I have distributed a sample license plate to Committee members and provided a paper mock-up ([Exhibit C](#)) of its design. This license plate is special because no other

plate in the Country is made with the technology used to manufacture it. It is unique, like Nevada.

The fee for this license plate will be \$25, similar to that for collegiate and charitable license plates. From this amount, \$20 will go into a fund held by the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. This fund is dedicated to preserving Nevada's history and celebrating the State's sesquicentennial. Other items and activities paid with fund dollars include historical markers, historic-site tours, restoration of historic structures, history education and preservation and acquisition of historical artifacts relevant to Nevada. The cost to produce the plate is \$7.50. With the \$25 fee, the total cost for the plate is \$32.50. Personalized versions of the license plate will be available for the same fees currently charged for other personalized license plates.

The bill contains a provision for the accounting of this fund. The Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs will present an annual report of revenue and expenditures involved with the sesquicentennial plate. Under the bill, we will only issue this license plate until October 31, 2016, which is 2 years after the actual 150th anniversary of the State.

The second purpose of A.B. 24 provides the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) flexibility in its current numbering systems for all of Nevada's specialty license plates. We will be able to use combinations of letters and numbers, as necessary, to continue to issue specialty plates. Some of them are approaching the end of their available series within the law, so we need to move to a seven-digit system or another combination of letters and numbers. This will allow us to issue plates that have not been issued previously. The bill is long because there are so many specialty license plates with specific numbering systems in statute. Many of the specialty license plates are limited to three numbers, which means only 1,000 plates can be issued. We need to revise the statute to be able to issue more of these plates.

Chair Manendo:

Who will have the sesquicentennial license plate with the number 1864, as shown in the example, or will it go to a museum?

Mr. Dillard:

There is no designation for that specific number. It is a license plate with significant meaning. Members of the Nevada Sesquicentennial Commission are

considering a souvenir plate in this style with the 1864 date or "NV150." Souvenir plates will be sold to raise funds for sesquicentennial celebration events statewide.

Chair Manendo:

That is a great idea. I know I would want a souvenir plate, not to put on my car, just to have it. Can you create a sesquicentennial license plate for the Legislature with "State Assembly" or "State Senate" on it?

Mr. Dillard:

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) did ask about this option because we thought Legislators might wish to have them. However, the technology for the embossing and reflective process uniquely required for this license plate does not exist anywhere else in the Country. It is a highly expensive process needing additional resources. In fact, it is a high-ways process. Ultimately, for every part of the design to fit perfectly on the plate, a mathematical formula is involved. If the calculation is off by 1 millimeter, the plate will look wrong and will not have the characteristics for visibility and reflectivity. To stamp "State Senator," "State Assemblyman" or "State Assemblywoman" on the plate is almost impossible with this particular process. We can do this on a license plate with a flat surface, but not on an embossed plate. The embossing of the plate was specifically designed to show Nevada's history in license plate production.

Senator Atkinson:

This special request cannot be created with an embossed plate, but you think it can be done with a flat plate because all current plates are created digitally. I am sure others, along with me, will want these commemorative license plates with our seniorities on them.

Mr. Dillard:

Yes, we can produce it on a flat plate. We have not considered two different styles of this plate, however. If this is the Committee's desire, I will consult with the legal department to ensure we have the authority to make a flat plate for this purpose with all the other sesquicentennial license plates to be embossed. The latter will include personalized plates as well as plates in a numeric series.

Senator Atkinson:

This will move me closer to voting for the bill. If we can do this, it will be special for our members to have such plates as we celebrate Nevada's historical milestone.

Chair Manendo:

It could bring in more revenue as well.

Senator Atkinson:

I know it will mean extra cost for us, but I am willing to make the expenditure to have this special plate. I am sure most of the Legislators will be willing to do the same.

Chair Manendo:

I would be willing to pay extra for one of these. The license plate is awesome. The DMV has done a great job designing and manufacturing this license plate.

Senator Atkinson:

If the cost for the Legislator plates is extra, I personally am willing to pay for it.

Chair Manendo:

I absolutely am willing to pay for a State Senate plate for myself.

Neena Laxalt (Nevada Sesquicentennial Commission):

I was the co-chair for the Governor's Planning Committee for the 150th Anniversary of Nevada's Admission to the Union. That Committee now has transitioned into the Nevada Sesquicentennial Commission. Our term lasted from about March 2012 to January 2013. The Planning Committee worked on the license plate as one of its tasks. We wanted to pass the license plate through the 2013 Legislative Session in time for the sesquicentennial celebration. It will begin on October 31, 2013, and end on October 31, 2014. Much thought went into the design of the license plate. We worked with representatives from the Governor's Office and the DMV on a design that included the State flag, the blue color and the embossing. We urge you to support A.B. 24.

Senator Gustavson:

Two years ago, we heard discussion of the return of embossed license plates. Will plates other than this style be embossed?

Mr. Dillard:

The DMV intends to return to an embossed standard license plate, the "Sunset plate," as long as components in our agency budget are approved. It looks as if this is going to happen. We still will have specialty plates requiring technology that can be used only on flat surfaces. The sesquicentennial license plate is unique among all plates in Nevada and in the Country.

Senator Spearman:

We could use just the first three letters of "Senate" on the license plate, but this approach will not work for the Assembly.

Senator Atkinson:

Am I correct in thinking the plate's four-digit format will only allow 9,999 plates? Any combination of numbers and letters ... These plates will sell quickly.

Chair Manendo:

I hope so, because the plate really is neat. Some marketing will be needed.

Mr. Dillard:

The other part of A.B. 24 provides flexibility to the DMV to use letters and numbers on the plates.

Ms. Laxalt:

Governor Sandoval has appointed a 13-member Commission that began in February. Its chair is Lieutenant Governor Brian Krolicki. We have a good team. Some of the plans we have been discussing involve marketing, fundraising, vendors, events and much more. One of our ideas is to have a mobile museum traveling the State to educate children and adults about Nevada. It will be a fun endeavor. We aim to include the entire State, not just Las Vegas or the rural counties. It is going to be an all-inclusive celebration.

Chair Manendo:

I know everyone on the Commission is working hard. We appreciate that. The plans sound wonderful. I am excited about the sesquicentennial celebration.

Ms. Laxalt:

The biggest task is to say "sesquicentennial."

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Chair Manendo:

I will close the hearing on A.B. 24.

SENATOR ATKINSON MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS A.B. 24.

SENATOR SPEARMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Manendo:

With no more business to conduct, I adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jennie F. Bear,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Mark A. Manendo, Chair

DATE: _____

<u>EXHIBITS</u>				
Bill	Exhibit		Witness / Agency	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster
A.B. 24	C	1	Troy L. Dillard	Mock-up of Proposed Sesquicentennial License Plate