

SENATE BILL NO. 181—SENATOR SETTELMAYER

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to special license plates.
(BDR 43-663)

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

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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 special license plates; requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to design, prepare and issue special license plates for certain motor vehicles that are electric powered; providing a fee for the initial issuance and renewal of such plates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 1 of this bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to design, prepare and issue special license plates for any passenger car or light commercial vehicle that is wholly powered by an electric motor. **Section 1** also provides that: (1) the fee for the initial issuance of such a special license plate is \$125, in addition to applicable governmental services taxes; and (2) the renewal fee for such a special license plate is \$80. Finally, **section 1** requires that after the Department deducts from the fee the amount of all applicable registration, license and license plate fees, the remaining amount of money must be deposited in the State Highway Fund. **Sections 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8** of this bill make conforming changes.

Section 9 of this bill provides that these provisions become effective on January 1, 2020.

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 shall:

(a) Design, prepare and issue special license plates for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles that are wholly



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1 *powered by an electric motor, using any colors and designs that*
2 *the Department deems appropriate; and*

3 *(b) Issue the plates only to residents of Nevada for a passenger*
4 *car or light commercial vehicle which is wholly powered by an*
5 *electric motor.*

6 *2. The Department may issue special license plates pursuant*
7 *to subsection 1 upon application by any person who:*

8 *(a) Is entitled to license plates pursuant to NRS 482.265;*

9 *(b) Submits proof satisfactory to the Department that the*
10 *vehicle for which the special license plates are intended meets the*
11 *requirements of subsection 1; and*

12 *(c) Otherwise complies with the requirements for registration*
13 *and licensing pursuant to this chapter.*

14 *3. The fee for the special license plates is \$125, in addition to*
15 *applicable governmental services taxes. The special license plates*
16 *are renewable upon the payment of \$80.*

17 *4. A person may request that personalized prestige license*
18 *plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.3667 be combined with special*
19 *license plates issued pursuant to this section if that person pays*
20 *the fees for the personalized prestige license plates in addition to*
21 *the fees for the special license plates pursuant to subsection 3.*

22 *5. The Department, after deducting the costs of all applicable*
23 *registration, license and license plate fees, shall deposit the fees*
24 *collected pursuant to subsection 3 with the State Treasurer for*
25 *credit to the State General Fund. The State Treasurer shall, on a*
26 *quarterly basis, distribute the fees deposited pursuant to this*
27 *subsection in the State Highway Fund.*

28 *6. If, during a registration period, the holder of special plates*
29 *issued pursuant to this section disposes of the vehicle to which the*
30 *plates are affixed, the holder shall retain the plates and:*

31 *(a) Affix them to another vehicle which meets the*
32 *requirements of this section and report the change to the*
33 *Department in accordance with the procedures set forth for other*
34 *transfers; or*

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

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

38 482.216 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.2155,
39 upon the request of a new vehicle dealer, the Department may
40 authorize the new vehicle dealer to:

41 *(a) Accept applications for the registration of the new motor*
42 *vehicles he or she sells and the related fees and taxes;*

43 *(b) Issue certificates of registration to applicants who satisfy the*
44 *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 received to the Department within the period prescribed by the Department;

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

(c) Comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 5; 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 482.3823, 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 provisions of this section do not apply to the registration of a moped pursuant to NRS 482.2155.

5. 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. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 4. NRS 482.2703 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.2703 1. The Director may order the preparation of sample license plates which must be of the same design and size as regular license plates or license plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.384. The Director shall ensure that:



(a) Each license plate issued pursuant to this subsection, regardless of its design, is inscribed with the word SAMPLE and an identical designation which consists of the same group of three numerals followed by the same group of three letters; and

(b) The designation of numerals and letters assigned pursuant to paragraph (a) is not assigned to a vehicle registered pursuant to this chapter or chapter 706 of NRS.

2. The Director may order the preparation of sample license plates which must be of the same design and size as any of the special license plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive **[]**, *and section 1 of this act*. The Director shall ensure that:

(a) Each license plate issued pursuant to this subsection, regardless of its design, is inscribed with the word SAMPLE and the number zero in the location where any other numerals would normally be displayed on a license plate of that design; and

(b) The number assigned pursuant to paragraph (a) is not assigned to a vehicle registered pursuant to this chapter or chapter 706 of NRS.

3. The Director may establish a fee for the issuance of sample license plates of not more than \$15 for each license plate.

4. A decal issued pursuant to NRS 482.271 may be displayed on a sample license plate issued pursuant to this section.

5. All money collected from the issuance of sample license plates must be deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Motor Vehicle Fund.

6. A person shall not affix a sample license plate issued pursuant to this section to a vehicle. A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 5. NRS 482.274 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.274 1. The Director shall order the preparation of vehicle license plates for trailers in the same manner provided for motor vehicles in NRS 482.270, except that a vehicle license plate prepared for a full trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483 is not required to have displayed upon it the month and year the registration expires.

2. The Director shall order preparation of two sizes of vehicle license plates for trailers. The smaller plates may be used for trailers with a gross vehicle weight of less than 1,000 pounds.

3. The Director shall determine the registration numbers assigned to trailers.

4. Any license plates issued for a trailer before July 1, 1975, bearing a different designation from that provided for in this section, are valid during the period for which such plates were issued.



5. Any license plates issued for a trailer before January 1, 1982, are not subject to reissue pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 482.265.

6. The Department shall not issue for a full trailer or semitrailer that is registered pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 482.483 a special license plate available pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive ~~H~~, *and section 1 of this act.*

Sec. 6. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 7. NRS 482.399 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.399 1. Upon the transfer of the ownership of or interest in any vehicle by any holder of a valid registration, or upon destruction of the vehicle, the registration expires.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.2155 and subsection 3 of NRS 482.483, the holder of the original registration may transfer the registration to another vehicle to be registered by the holder and use the same regular license plate or plates or special license plate or plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, or 482.384, on the vehicle from which the registration is being transferred, if the license plate or plates are appropriate for the second vehicle, upon filing an application for transfer of registration and upon paying the transfer registration fee and the excess, if any, of the registration fee and governmental services tax on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred over the total registration fee and governmental services tax paid on all vehicles from which he or she is transferring ownership or interest. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 482.294, an application for transfer of registration must be made in person, if practicable, to any office or agent of the Department or to a registered dealer, and the license plate or plates may not be used upon a second vehicle until registration of that vehicle is complete.

3. In computing the governmental services tax, the Department, its agent or the registered dealer shall credit the portion of the tax paid on the first vehicle attributable to the remainder of the current registration period or calendar year on a pro rata monthly basis against the tax due on the second vehicle or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner. If any person transfers ownership or interest in two or more vehicles, the Department or the registered dealer shall credit the portion of the tax paid on all of the vehicles attributable to the remainder of the current registration period or calendar year on a pro rata monthly basis against the tax due on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred or on any other vehicle of which the person is the registered owner. The certificates of registration and unused license plates of the vehicles from which a person transfers ownership or



1 interest must be submitted before credit is given against the tax due
2 on the vehicle to which the registration is transferred or on any other
3 vehicle of which the person is the registered owner.

4 4. In computing the registration fee, the Department or its
5 agent or the registered dealer shall credit the portion of the
6 registration fee paid on each vehicle attributable to the remainder of
7 the current calendar year or registration period on a pro rata basis
8 against the registration fee due on the vehicle to which registration
9 is transferred.

10 5. If the amount owed on the registration fee or governmental
11 services tax on the vehicle to which registration is transferred is less
12 than the credit on the total registration fee or governmental services
13 tax paid on all vehicles from which a person transfers ownership or
14 interest, the person may apply the unused portion of the credit to the
15 registration of any other vehicle owned by the person. Any unused
16 portion of such a credit expires on the date the registration of the
17 vehicle from which the person transferred the registration was due
18 to expire.

19 6. If the license plate or plates are not appropriate for the
20 second vehicle, the plate or plates must be surrendered to the
21 Department or registered dealer and an appropriate plate or plates
22 must be issued by the Department. The Department shall not reissue
23 the surrendered plate or plates until the next succeeding licensing
24 period.

25 7. If application for transfer of registration is not made within
26 60 days after the destruction or transfer of ownership of or interest
27 in any vehicle, the license plate or plates must be surrendered to the
28 Department on or before the 60th day for cancellation of the
29 registration.

30 8. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of NRS
31 371.040, NRS 482.2155, subsections 7 and 8 of NRS 482.260 and
32 subsection 3 of NRS 482.483, if a person cancels his or her
33 registration and surrenders to the Department the license plates for a
34 vehicle, the Department shall:

35 (a) In accordance with the provisions of subsection 9, issue to
36 the person a refund of the portion of the registration fee and
37 governmental services tax paid on the vehicle attributable to the
38 remainder of the current calendar year or registration period on a pro
39 rata basis; or

40 (b) If the person does not qualify for a refund in accordance with
41 the provisions of subsection 9, issue to the person a credit in the
42 amount of the portion of the registration fee and governmental
43 services tax paid on the vehicle attributable to the remainder of the
44 current calendar year or registration period on a pro rata basis. Such
45 a credit may be applied by the person to the registration of any other



vehicle owned by the person. Any unused portion of the credit expires on the date the registration of the vehicle from which the person obtained a refund was due to expire.

9. The Department shall issue a refund pursuant to subsection 8 only if the request for a refund is made at the time the registration is cancelled and the license plates are surrendered, the person requesting the refund is a resident of Nevada, the amount eligible for refund exceeds \$100, and evidence satisfactory to the Department is submitted that reasonably proves the existence of extenuating circumstances. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "extenuating circumstances" means circumstances wherein:

(a) The person has recently relinquished his or her driver's license and has sold or otherwise disposed of his or her vehicle.

(b) The vehicle has been determined to be inoperable and the person does not transfer the registration to a different vehicle.

(c) The owner of the vehicle is seriously ill or has died and the guardians or survivors have sold or otherwise disposed of the vehicle.

(d) Any other event occurs which the Department, by regulation, has defined to constitute an "extenuating circumstance" for the purposes of this subsection.

Sec. 8. NRS 482.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.500 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 or 3 or specifically provided by statute, whenever upon application any duplicate or substitute certificate of registration, indicator, 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 name50
For every other indicator, decal, license plate sticker or tab.....	5.00

2. The following fees must be paid for any replacement number 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 482.3755, inclusive, 482.376 or 482.379 to 482.3818, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, 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 replacement number plates, 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 replacing or duplicating the plates and manufacturing the decals.

Sec. 9. This act becomes effective on January 1, 2020.

