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SENATE BILL 771

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Phil A. Griego

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL LICENSE
PLATE FOR RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 66-3-422 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
Chapter 21, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-422. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR FIREFIGHTERS
AND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS. --

A. The department shall issue special registration
plates to ~~[any]~~ a person employed as a New Mexico firefighter,
upon the submission by the person of proof satisfactory to the
~~[division]~~ department that he is currently employed as a New
Mexico firefighter, including submission of a signed consent
form from the fire chief.

B. The department shall issue special registration

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1 plates to ~~[any]~~ a person who is an active volunteer
2 firefighter with a volunteer fire department recognized by the
3 state fire marshal's office upon the submission by the person
4 of proof satisfactory to the department that he is currently
5 an active member of a recognized volunteer fire department.
6 Such proof shall include the submission of a signed consent
7 form from the fire chief.

8 C. The department shall issue special registration
9 plates to a person who is a retired firefighter upon
10 submission by the person of proof satisfactory to the
11 department that he has retired from active employment as a
12 firefighter.

13 ~~[C.]~~ D. No person shall represent himself to be a
14 New Mexico firefighter, ~~[or]~~ a volunteer firefighter or a
15 retired firefighter if he is not, in fact, ~~[not]~~ a New Mexico
16 firefighter, ~~[or]~~ a volunteer firefighter or a retired
17 firefighter. The secretary shall determine what constitutes
18 satisfactory proof of employment as a New Mexico firefighter
19 or status as a volunteer firefighter.

20 ~~[D.]~~ E. A person who violates the provisions of
21 Subsection ~~[C]~~ D of this section is guilty of a petty
22 misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to Section 31-19-1
23 NMSA 1978.

24 ~~[E.]~~ F. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00),
25 which ~~[shall be]~~ is in addition to the regular motor vehicle

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1 registration fee, shall be collected by the department for the
2 original issuance of the special registration plate for New
3 Mexico firefighters [~~and~~], volunteer firefighters and retired
4 firefighters.

5 [~~F-~~] G. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the fee collected
6 pursuant to Subsection [~~E~~] F of this section shall be retained
7 by the department and shall be appropriated to the department
8 to defray the cost of making and issuing special registration
9 plates for New Mexico firefighters, [~~and~~] volunteer
10 firefighters and retired firefighters.

11 [~~G-~~] H. The amount of the fee collected pursuant
12 to this section less any amount distributed pursuant to
13 Subsection [~~F~~] G of this section shall be deposited in the
14 motor vehicle suspense fund for distribution in accordance
15 with Section 66-6-23 NMSA 1978.

16 [~~H-~~] I. The secretary shall approve the final
17 plate design for the special registration plates for New
18 Mexico firefighters in accordance with New Mexico law. The
19 secretary shall approve and issue a separate and distinctive
20 plate clearly marked as "volunteer" for issuance to volunteer
21 firefighters. The secretary shall approve the final plate
22 design for the special registration plate for retired
23 firefighters.

24 [~~I-~~] J. When the firefighter holding a special
25 plate ceases to be employed as a firefighter or serve as an

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1 active volunteer firefighter, he shall immediately remove
2 the plate from the vehicle and return it to the secretary,
3 at which time it shall be exchanged for a regular
4 registration plate. When a firefighter holding a special
5 plate retires from his position as firefighter, he ~~[may~~
6 ~~retain the special plate]~~ shall return the firefighter plate
7 and shall be issued a retired firefighter plate on request
8 and payment of the fee required. "

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