

1 SENATE BILL 596

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gregg Fulfer

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; CREATING A STANDARDIZED
12 REGISTRATION PLATE FOR WORTHY PUBLIC PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR
13 SPECIALIZED REGISTRATION DECALS FOR SUPPORTERS OF WORTHY PUBLIC
14 PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECAL TO
15 RECOGNIZE LEA COUNTY AS A GEOGRAPHIC REGION KNOWN AS THE
16 ENERGYPLEX THAT IS AMONG THE NATIONAL LEADERS IN ENERGY,
17 MINERAL, NUCLEAR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION; MAKING
18 APPROPRIATIONS.

19
20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

21 SECTION 1. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is
22 enacted to read:

23 "[NEW MATERIAL] STANDARDIZED REGISTRATION PLATES FOR
24 WORTHY PUBLIC PURPOSES--SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECALS.--

25 A. For a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00), which shall

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1 be in addition to the regular motor registration fee, the
2 department shall issue standardized registration plates with
3 space for a special registration decal as may be authorized by
4 statute for worthy public purposes. The fee collected for each
5 registration plate shall be retained by the department and is
6 appropriated to the department for the manufacture and issuance
7 of the registration plate. No two owners shall be issued
8 identically lettered or numbered registration plates.

9 B. The authorizing statute for a special
10 registration decal shall provide for the collection of fees
11 that, at a minimum, shall cover the costs to the division of
12 development, manufacture and issuance of the decal.

13 C. Worthy public purpose registration plates, on
14 the standardized areas, shall:

15 (1) display:

16 (a) the colors of the state flag, with
17 red lettering on a yellow background; or

18 (b) the state flag, with green lettering
19 on a blue background;

20 (2) display the phrases "New Mexico USA" and
21 "Land of Enchantment";

22 (3) provide a space for applying a special
23 registration decal, centered at the left edge of the plate
24 between the attachment holes, beginning one-fourth inch in from
25 the edge of the plate and having the following dimensions:

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1 (a) four and one-eighth inches in
2 height; and

3 (b) three and one-eighth inches in
4 width; and

5 (4) provide a vehicle registration number, to
6 be assigned by the division, that consists of five alphanumeric
7 characters displayed to the right of the special decal area.

8 D. Special registration decals, except for the
9 standard dimensions specified in Paragraph (3) of Subsection C
10 of this section, shall be left to the design discretion of the
11 division, in consultation with the worthy public purpose
12 interest group that requests the special registration decal.

13 E. Special registration decals, when authorized by
14 statute for a particular worthy public purpose interest group,
15 shall meet the requirements specified in this subsection prior
16 to issuance by the division. The worthy public purpose
17 interest group, no later than the effective date of the
18 authorizing statute, shall:

19 (1) provide evidence acceptable to the
20 division that it will generate a minimum number of prepaid
21 applications as determined by the division for the special
22 registration decal;

23 (2) provide a prepayment to the division in an
24 amount sufficient to cover the initial order for the special
25 registration decal;

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1 (3) provide a sample of the requested artwork
2 design in a format specified by the manufacturer for the
3 specialized registration decal; and

4 (4) in cases where the authorizing statute
5 includes revenue-sharing with distribution directed to a
6 particular group or fund, show that the recipient is a
7 governmental entity or a fund authorized for the use of a
8 governmental entity.

9 F. The division may promulgate rules for
10 implementation of the provisions of this section."

11 SECTION 2. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is
12 enacted to read:

13 "[NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECALS--ONE-TIME
14 FEE.--

15 A. The department shall issue special registration
16 decals for use on standardized registration plates pursuant to
17 Section 1 of this 2019 act for statutorily authorized purposes
18 and fees, which fees shall be in addition to the regular motor
19 vehicle registration fees; provided that the fees established
20 in this section shall be waived for each registration period in
21 which a validating sticker is issued under the provisions of
22 Section 66-3-17 NMSA 1978 in lieu of the issuance of a
23 registration plate with a special registration decal.

24 B. For a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), the
25 department shall issue a special registration decal to a motor

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1 vehicle owner who wishes to recognize Lea county as the
2 energyplex. The fee collected pursuant to this subsection
3 shall be distributed to and is appropriated to the economic
4 development department for projects developed under the Local
5 Economic Development Act."

6 SECTION 3. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is
7 enacted to read:

8 "[NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECALS--RECURRING
9 FEES.--A special registration decal may be authorized by
10 statute for use on the standardized registration plate pursuant
11 to Section 1 of this 2019 act with an annual renewal
12 requirement. The department shall issue special registration
13 decals for statutorily authorized purposes and fees pursuant to
14 this section, which fees shall be in addition to the regular
15 motor vehicle registration fees. The owner shall apply and pay
16 the specified fee each year to retain the special registration
17 decal."

18 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
19 provisions of this act is July 1, 2019.