

SENATE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 142

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES; CREATING A STANDARDIZED  
REGISTRATION PLATE FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES; CREATING SPECIAL  
REGISTRATION DECALS FOR NEW MEXICO MINERS, MAKE-A-WISH NEW  
MEXICO, NEW MEXICO SPECIAL OLYMPICS AND ROUTE 66; MAKING AN  
APPROPRIATION.

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

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

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

A. The division shall issue standardized  
registration plates with a special registration decal as may be  
authorized by statute for public purposes. Twelve dollars  
(\$12.00) of the initial fee collected for each registration

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1 plate with a special registration decal shall be retained by  
2 the department and is appropriated to the department for the  
3 development, manufacture and issuance of the registration plate  
4 and decal. No two owners shall be issued identically lettered  
5 or numbered registration plates.

6 B. Public purpose registration plates, on the  
7 standardized areas, shall:

8 (1) display the colors of the state flag, with  
9 red lettering on a yellow background;

10 (2) display the phrases "New Mexico USA" and  
11 "Land of Enchantment";

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

16 (a) four and one-eighth inches in  
17 height; and

18 (b) three and one-eighth inches in  
19 width; and

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

23 C. Special registration decals, except for the  
24 standard dimensions specified in Paragraph (3) of Subsection B  
25 of this section, shall be left to the design discretion of the

1 division, in consultation with the public purpose interest  
2 group that requests the special registration decal.

3 D. Special registration decals, when authorized by  
4 statute for a particular public purpose interest group, shall  
5 meet the requirements specified in this subsection prior to  
6 development and issuance by the division. The public purpose  
7 interest group, no later than the effective date of the  
8 authorizing statute, shall:

9 (1) provide evidence acceptable to the  
10 division that it will generate a minimum number of prepaid  
11 applications as determined by the division for the special  
12 registration decal;

13 (2) provide a prepayment to the division in an  
14 amount sufficient to cover the initial order for the special  
15 registration decal;

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

19 (4) in cases where the authorizing statute  
20 includes revenue-sharing with distribution directed to a  
21 particular group or fund, show that the recipient is a  
22 governmental entity or a fund authorized for the use of a  
23 governmental entity.

24 E. The division may promulgate rules for  
25 implementation of the provisions of this section."

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

3           "[NEW MATERIAL] LICENSE PLATES WITH SPECIAL REGISTRATION  
4 DECALS--FEES.--

5           A. The division shall issue registration plates  
6 with special decals pursuant to Section 1 of this 2023 act for  
7 statutorily authorized purposes and fees pursuant to this  
8 section, which fees shall be in addition to the regular motor  
9 vehicle registration fees.

10           B. The division shall issue a registration plate  
11 and special registration decal as specified by this 2023 act  
12 commemorating:

13                   (1) New Mexico miners for an initial fee of  
14 twenty dollars (\$20.00). The owner shall pay a renewal fee of  
15 twenty dollars (\$20.00) each year to retain and renew the New  
16 Mexico miners registration plate and special registration  
17 decal. All fees collected except twelve dollars (\$12.00) of  
18 the initial fee shall be distributed to the miners' hospital of  
19 New Mexico for chronic illness research;

20                   (2) Make-A-Wish New Mexico for an initial fee  
21 of twelve dollars (\$12.00);

22                   (3) the New Mexico special olympics for an  
23 initial fee of twelve dollars (\$12.00); and

24                   (4) route 66 for an initial fee of thirty-five  
25 dollars (\$35.00). The owner shall pay a renewal fee of thirty-

1 five dollars (\$35.00) each year to retain and renew the route  
2 66 registration plate and special registration decal. All fees  
3 collected except twelve dollars (\$12.00) of the initial fee  
4 shall be distributed to the tourism department for the  
5 revitalization, preservation and promotion of tourism along  
6 historic route 66 in New Mexico pursuant to the national scenic  
7 byways program."

8 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
9 provisions of this act is January 1, 2024.

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