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AN ACT  
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL  
REGISTRATION PLATE TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ACEQUIA AND  
COMMUNITY DITCH ASSOCIATIONS; ALLOWING FOR CESSATION OF  
SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE ISSUANCE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS;  
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:

"SPECIAL ACEQUIA AND COMMUNITY DITCH ASSOCIATIONS  
REGISTRATION PLATE.--

A. The department shall issue a standardized  
special registration plate with a logo as specified in  
Section 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 to express support for acequia and  
community ditch associations.

B. For an initial fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00),  
which shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle  
registration fees, an owner of a motor vehicle may apply for  
issuance of a special acequia and community ditch  
associations registration plate. The owner shall pay a  
renewal fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) each year to retain  
and renew the special acequia and community ditch  
associations registration plate.

C. Revenue from the fees imposed by Subsection B

1 of this section for a special acequia and community ditch  
2 associations registration plate shall be distributed as  
3 follows:

4 (1) twelve dollars (\$12.00) of the initial  
5 fee collected for each registration plate shall be retained  
6 by the department and is appropriated to the department for  
7 the manufacture and issuance of the special registration  
8 plates; and

9 (2) eighteen dollars (\$18.00) of the initial  
10 fee and the entire renewal fee collected for each  
11 registration plate shall be appropriated to the acequia and  
12 community ditch fund.

13 D. Beginning on July 1, 2027, and on July 1  
14 of each subsequent year, the department shall compare  
15 the number of special acequia and community ditch  
16 associations registration plates issued and renewed in  
17 the previous fiscal year with the average number of such  
18 plates issued and renewed in fiscal years 2025 and 2026.  
19 If the department determines that the number of special  
20 acequia and community ditch associations registration  
21 plates issued and renewed in the previous fiscal year is  
22 less than fifty percent of the average number of the  
23 plates issued and renewed in fiscal year 2025 or 2026,  
24 the department may stop issuing special acequia and  
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1 community ditch associations registration plates."

2 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the

3 provisions of this act is January 1, 2024. \_\_\_\_\_ HB 240/a  
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