

HOUSE BILL 580

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

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and Jonathan A. Henry and Joseph L. Sanchez

AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES; CREATING A SEPARATE SPECIAL SHARE
WITH WILDLIFE REGISTRATION PLATE THAT DEPICTS ELK; ALLOWING FOR
THE 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. Section 66-3-424.6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
Chapter 178, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-424.6. SPECIAL WILDLIFE ARTWORK REGISTRATION
PLATES--PROCEDURES--FEE.--

A. The department shall establish and issue a
standardized special registration plate with a logo specified
in Section 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 featuring artwork of New Mexico
wildlife for any private motor vehicle except a motorcycle.

The department shall adopt procedures for application for and

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1 issuance of the special wildlife artwork registration plates.

2 B. Beginning January 1, 2026, the division shall
3 issue a separate standardized special registration plate with a
4 logo designed as specified in Section 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 and
5 that depicts elk to express support for the share with wildlife
6 program of the department of game and fish.

7 ~~[B.]~~ C. The director of the department of game and
8 fish ~~[shall]~~ may designate a "share with wildlife" logo design
9 committee that ~~[shall]~~ may recommend to the director the color
10 and design of ~~[the]~~ a special wildlife artwork logo. The
11 director in cooperation with the secretary shall determine the
12 design of ~~[the]~~ a special wildlife artwork logo. No
13 personalized or vanity design variation of the special wildlife
14 artwork registration plates shall be issued.

15 ~~[C.]~~ D. For a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00),
16 which ~~[shall be]~~ is in addition to the regular motor vehicle
17 registration fees, an owner of a motor vehicle may apply for
18 the issuance of a special wildlife artwork registration plate.
19 The owner of a motor vehicle shall apply for the plate and pay
20 the twenty-five-dollar (\$25.00) fee for the first year and ten
21 dollars (\$10.00) for each subsequent year if ~~[he]~~ the owner
22 wishes to retain and renew the special wildlife artwork
23 registration plate.

24 ~~[D.]~~ E. The revenue from the additional fee for a
25 special wildlife artwork registration plate shall be

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1 distributed as follows:

2 (1) ten dollars (\$10.00) of the initial fee
3 collected shall be retained by the division and is appropriated
4 to the division to defray the cost of making and issuing
5 special registration plates for wildlife artwork; and

6 (2) fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of the initial
7 fee and the entire renewal fee collected shall be distributed
8 to the share with wildlife program of the game protection fund.

9 F. Beginning on July 1, 2031, and on July 1 of each
10 subsequent year, the department may compare the number of each
11 special registration plates issued and renewed pursuant to this
12 section in the previous fiscal year with the average number of
13 such plates issued and renewed annually between fiscal years
14 2026 through 2031. If the department determines that the
15 number of special registration plates issued and renewed
16 pursuant to this section in the previous fiscal year is less
17 than fifty percent of the average number of the plates issued
18 and renewed annually between fiscal years 2026 through 2031,
19 the department may stop issuing the special registration
20 plates."