

1 SENATE BILL 246

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 David M. Gallegos

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10 AN ACT

11 REQUIRING THE NATIONAL MOTTO, "IN GOD WE TRUST", TO BE
12 DISPLAYED ON ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN NEW MEXICO AND ON ALL
13 VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES.

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

16 SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 13, Article 8 NMSA
17 1978 is enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] NATIONAL MOTTO TO BE DISPLAYED ON ALL
19 PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN NEW MEXICO.--

20 A. Contingent on receipt of donations as provided
21 in Subsection C of this section, the national motto, "In God We
22 Trust", shall be prominently displayed in a conspicuous place
23 on all public buildings owned or leased by the state or a
24 political subdivision of the state; all public school and
25 public post-secondary education classrooms and other buildings

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1 belonging to school districts, charter schools and public post-
2 secondary educational institutions; and all public or publicly
3 supported libraries in the state. The display shall be easily
4 readable and on a plaque of metal or other material or as a
5 durable poster or framed paper of at least eleven inches by
6 fourteen inches and shall include a true and correct
7 representation of the American flag centered under the national
8 motto.

9 B. Responsibility for implementing the requirement
10 of Subsection A of this section belongs to:

- 11 (1) the secretary of general services for
12 buildings under the secretary's control;
- 13 (2) the appropriate administrative head of
14 state agencies whose property is not under the control of the
15 general services department;
- 16 (3) the president or other appropriate
17 official of a public post-secondary educational institution;
- 18 (4) the governing bodies of political
19 subdivisions of the state, except public schools;
- 20 (5) the superintendent of a school district or
21 head administrator of a charter school; and
- 22 (6) the person in charge of a publicly
23 supported library that is not controlled by a state agency or
24 local public body.

25 C. Money required to purchase national motto

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1 plaques, posters or framed paper shall be provided through
2 donations."

3 SECTION 2. Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,
4 Chapter 35, Section 34, as amended) is amended to read:

5 "66-3-14. REGISTRATION PLATES OR VALIDATING STICKERS TO
6 BE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT--REFLECTIVE MATERIAL.--

7 A. The department upon registering a vehicle shall
8 issue a registration plate or a validating sticker to the owner
9 of the vehicle. The validating sticker may be designed and
10 required to be placed on the registration plate or elsewhere on
11 the vehicle as prescribed by the department.

12 B. Each registration plate shall have a background
13 of reflective material such that the registration number
14 assigned to the vehicle is plainly legible from a distance of
15 one hundred feet at night. The colors shall include those of
16 the state flag, except prestige and special plates.

17 C. Each registration plate shall have displayed
18 upon it:

19 (1) the registration number assigned to the
20 person to whom it was issued; [~~and~~]

21 (2) the name of this state; and

22 (3) the national motto, "In God We Trust".

23 D. The department shall issue no registration
24 plates for privately owned vehicles that contain the words
25 "staff officer" or any other title except as otherwise provided

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1 by law.

2 E. All registration plates for private vehicles
3 shall be alike in form except for the owner's registration
4 number. The department shall adopt registration number systems
5 for registration plates.

6 F. In lieu of or in addition to a registration
7 plate or sticker for commercial motor vehicles, the department
8 may issue an electronic identifying device.

9 G. The division may increase the cost of
10 registration plates to cover the cost of adding the national
11 motto on each plate if the cost of producing the plate is
12 increased by adding the motto. The division may issue
13 registration plates that it has on hand on July 1, 2021, but
14 all new orders for registration plates shall require the
15 inclusion of the motto required in Paragraph (3) of Subsection
16 C of this section."

17 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
18 provisions of this act is July 1, 2021.

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