

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

SENATE BILL NO. 2321
(Senators Klein, Burckhard, Heckaman)
(Representatives Boe, Fegley, Vigesaa)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders and firefighters; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-04-10.16. Special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders and volunteer firefighters.

1. As used in this section:
 - a. "Fire department" means a certified city fire department, certified rural fire department, or certified fire protection district that has filed a certificate of existence under section 18-04-02.
 - b. "Volunteer emergency responder" means an emergency medical services provider certified by the state department of health and the individual's squad leader for a continuous period exceeding two years and who receives an annual compensation of less than ten thousand dollars.
 - c. "Volunteer firefighter" means an active member in good standing with a North Dakota fire department who has had a continuous membership for a period exceeding two years and receives an annual compensation of less than ten thousand dollars from the fire department.
2. Upon application, the director shall issue red personalized plates to volunteer emergency responders and volunteer firefighters at no initial or annual cost to the volunteers. ~~Volunteers shall include fire fighters and emergency medical responders.~~ Qualified applicants are eligible to receive one set of plates. Plates may not be displayed on a vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding twenty thousand pounds [9071.85 kilograms]. The first three digits of the plate are the last three digits of the zip code where the volunteer's department is located. The remaining space may contain up to three characters of the volunteer's choosing. This plate serves as an entrance pass to all North Dakota state parks. In cooperation with the volunteer organizations, the director shall designate qualifications and verification procedures for the plates issued under this section.
3. On termination of the registrant's eligibility, the registrant shall return the plates to the director, who shall reissue for a fee of not more than five dollars, and upon payment of applicable registration fees, another number plate to which that registrant is entitled under this chapter.
4. If a registrant fails to return the plates to the director, the director, upon notification of the registrant's ineligibility, may revoke the plates and reissue for a fee of not more than five dollars, and upon payment of applicable registration fees, another number plate for which the registrant is entitled under this chapter.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2321 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 72 Nays 19 Absent 3

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State