

Introduced by

Senators Klein, Burckhard, Heckaman

Representatives Boe, Fegley, Vigesaa

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a registration fee to defray the cost of plates for volunteer emergency
3 responders and firefighters; to amend and reenact section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code, relating to special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders
5 and firefighters; and to declare an emergency.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

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

9 **39-04-10.16. Special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders.**

10 1. As used in this section:

- 11 a. "Fire department" means a certified city fire department, certified rural fire
12 department, or certified fire protection district that has filed a certificate of
13 existence under section 18-04-02.
- 14 b. "Volunteer emergency responder" means an emergency medical services
15 provider certified by the state department of health and the individual's squad
16 leader for a continuous period exceeding two years and who receives an annual
17 compensation of less than ten thousand dollars.
- 18 c. "Volunteer firefighter" means an active member in good standing with a North
19 Dakota fire department who has had a continuous membership for a period
20 exceeding two years and receives an annual compensation of less than ten
21 thousand dollars from the fire department.

22 2. Upon application, the director shall issue red personalized plates to volunteer
23 emergency responders and volunteer firefighters at no initial or annual cost to the
24 volunteers. ~~Volunteers shall include fire fighters and emergency medical responders.~~

1 Qualified applicants are eligible to receive one set of plates. Plates may not be
2 displayed on a vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding twenty thousand
3 pounds [9071.85 kilograms]. The first three digits of the plate are the last three digits
4 of the zip code where the volunteer's department is located. The remaining space may
5 contain up to three characters of the volunteer's choosing. This plate serves as an
6 entrance pass to all North Dakota state parks. In cooperation with the volunteer
7 organizations, the director shall designate qualifications and verification procedures for
8 the plates issued under this section.

9 4. On termination of the registrant's eligibility, the registrant shall return the plates to the
10 director, who shall reissue for a fee of not more than five dollars another number plate
11 to which that registrant is entitled under this chapter.

12 5. If a registrant fails to return the plates to the director, the director, upon notification of
13 the registrant's ineligibility, may revoke the plates and reissue for a fee of not more
14 than five dollars another number plate for which the registrant is entitled under this
15 chapter.

16 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
17 and enacted as follows:

18 **Registration fee to defray cost of plates for volunteer emergency responders.**

19 1. To defray the costs of the expenses incurred under section 39-04-10.16, in addition to
20 all other fees required under this chapter for registration of a motor vehicle, the
21 department shall collect at the beginning of each annual registration period a fee of
22 one dollar from any motor vehicle registered.

23 2. The department shall deposit any moneys collected under this section into the
24 highway tax distribution fund.

25 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.