

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1336**

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Christy, Heinert, Holle, Mock, S. Olson, Timmons, Wagner,  
Warrey

Senators Estenson, Weston

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to special license plates for emergency responders, firefighters, and search and rescue  
3 personnel.

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

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

7 **39-04-10.16. Special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders and,**  
8 **volunteer firefighters, and volunteer search and rescue personnel.**

9 1. As used in this section:

10 a. "Fire department" means a certified city fire department, certified rural fire  
11 department, or certified fire protection district that has filed a certificate of  
12 existence under section 18-04-02.

13 b. "Volunteer emergency responder" means an emergency medical services  
14 provider certified by the department of health and human services and the  
15 individual's squad leader for a continuous period exceeding two years and who  
16 receives an annual compensation of less than ten thousand dollars.

17 c. "Volunteer firefighter" means an active member in good standing with a North  
18 Dakota fire department who has had a continuous membership for a period  
19 exceeding two years and receives an annual compensation of less than ten  
20 thousand dollars from the fire department.

21 d. "Volunteer search and rescue personnel" includes water and dive rescue  
22 personnel and means an active member:

- 1           (1) Of an organization that at the request of a state entity, political subdivision,  
2           or volunteer fire department deploys, coordinates, and uses available  
3           resources and personnel in locating, relieving the distress of, preserving the  
4           life of, or extracting an individual who is missing, trapped, or lost in remote  
5           areas or waters of the state;
- 6           (2) In good standing and with continuous membership for a period exceeding  
7           two years with an organization under paragraph 1; and
- 8           (3) Who receives an annual compensation of less than ten thousand dollars  
9           from an organization under paragraph 1.
- 10        2. Upon application, the director shall issue red personalized plates to volunteer  
11        emergency responders ~~and~~, volunteer firefighters, and volunteer search and rescue  
12        personnel at no initial or annual cost to the volunteers. Qualified applicants are eligible  
13        to receive one set of plates. Plates may not be displayed on a vehicle with a registered  
14        gross weight exceeding twenty thousand pounds [9071.85 kilograms]. The first three  
15        digits of the plate are the last three digits of the zip code where the volunteer's  
16        department or organization is located. The remaining space may contain up to three  
17        characters of the volunteer's choosing. This plate serves as an entrance pass to all  
18        North Dakota state parks. In cooperation with the volunteer organizations, the director  
19        shall designate qualifications and verification procedures for the plates issued under  
20        this section.
- 21        3. On termination of the registrant's eligibility, the registrant shall return the plates to the  
22        director, who shall reissue for a fee of not more than five dollars, and upon payment of  
23        applicable registration fees, another number plate to which that registrant is entitled  
24        under this chapter.
- 25        4. If a registrant fails to return the plates to the director, the director, upon notification of  
26        the registrant's ineligibility, may revoke the plates and reissue for a fee of not more  
27        than five dollars, and upon payment of applicable registration fees, another number  
28        plate for which the registrant is entitled under this chapter.