

SCS HS HCS HB 1434 -- SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

(Vetoed by the Governor)

This bill establishes an Advisory Committee for the Department of Revenue for the purpose of developing guidelines for the issuance of motor vehicle specialized license plates. The Advisory Committee will consist of the directors of the departments of Revenue, Public Safety, and Corrections; one person appointed by the Governor; one State Senator; and one State Representative.

The committee will meet prior to November 1, 1998, and select a chair. The committee will hold public hearings around the state, develop guidelines, and direct the Director of Revenue to implement the guidelines for all specialized license plates not later than July 1, 1999. The committee must also revise the design of Missouri's license plate and implement this final design by April 1, 2000. Language is contained in the bill for dissolving the committee.

The bill makes it clear that all military and special plates may be obtained for noncommercial motor vehicles and for local or nonlocal commercial motor vehicles licensed for a gross weight not in excess of 12,000 pounds.

All military plates, except the Prisoner of War and the Congressional Medal of Honor plates, will cost \$15 in addition to the regular registration fee charged. There will no longer be a limit on the number of plates a person may obtain as long as each set is issued for vehicles owned solely or jointly by the person.

Several new plates are authorized in the bill, including the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Bronze Star, Gulf War, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Missouri Federation of Square and Round Dance Clubs, Fraternal Order of Police, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, Professional Sports Team, St. Louis Italian-American Bocce Club, Ducks Unlimited, Missouri D.A.R.E. Officers' Association, and Emergency Medical Services.

Any Missouri vehicle license plate over 25 years old may be issued to the same year historic vehicle as the vehicle's registered license if the configuration of letters, numbers or combination of letters and numbers of such plate is not identical to the configuration of letters, numbers, or combination of letters and numbers of any plates already issued. Currently such a license must have been issued prior to 1979.

Temporary permits issued to Missouri residents for motor vehicles or trailers will be valid for a 30-day period instead of the present 20-day period. Dealers will also be allowed to collect fees for, and distribute, 30 day temporary permits issued by the Director of Revenue for operation of a motor vehicle by a

nonresident purchaser. Currently, this is a 15 day permit.

The Department of Revenue will provide for the retention of license plates for school buses and issue tabs to be affixed to the existing license plates.

Amateur radio license plates will bear the words "AMATEUR RADIO" in place of the words "SHOW-ME STATE."

Owners of small trailers will be allowed to register them during the same month they register their motor vehicles. The director may issue a tab to the owner to be placed upon the existing plate as proof of registration. The bill defines "small trailer" and contains language dealing with the fee, retention, and prorating of such plate.

The bill also clarifies that when registering a vehicle a person must present proof that his or her tangible personal property taxes are paid for the preceding year or for the current year when the motor vehicle is being registered in December for an upcoming January registration.

The bill contains an emergency clause.