

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB1088

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**Hearing Date:** Monday February 10, 2020  
**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Introducer:** Friesen  
**One Liner:** Provide for personalized message specialty license plates

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	7	Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hilgers
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>	1	Senator Hughes

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**Oral Testimony:**

<b>Proponents:</b> Senator Curt Friesen Steve Ebke	<b>Representing:</b> Introducer NE Corn Growers Assoc
<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
<b>Neutral:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 1088 amend Section 60-3,104.02 relating to specialty license plates, which are commonly referred to as organization plates. This bill would allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue personalized message organizational plates.

Current law requires organizations to submit 250 prepaid applications to DMV before the organization plates can be issued. This requirement would not change relative to the original issuance of organization plates. This bill would allow message plates to be issued after the original requirements had been met. The message would be limited to five characters. Each initial application and renewal of the plates would require a \$20 fee, in addition to the \$70 fee required for an alphanumeric organization plate. The additional fee would be credited to the DMV cash fund.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

Explanation of Committee Amendment AM 2448 to LB 1088

The committee considered and adopted an amendment which accomplishes the following:

AM 2488 substitutes for the bill. It contains the amended provisions of LB 1088 and amended provisions of LB 843, LB 903, LB 921, LB 942, and LB 1139. The amendment also amends provisions of current license plate statutes in order to provide uniformity and consistency.

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With respect to LB 1088 as introduced, the amendment strikes the additional \$20 fee for holders of organizational specialty plates to get personalized message plates. The fee for alphanumeric and message plates would be \$70. The provisions of LB1088 are contained in Section 7.

With respect to current license plate laws, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has the authority not to reissue certain plates if 250 applications (new and renewal) are not received in any consecutive two-year period. The amendment increases this number to 500 before DMV would have authority to not reissue the plates. This provision applies to the following plates and the sections in the amendment that the change is made: Breast Cancer (Section 12), Choose Life (Section 13), Husker Spirit (Section 9), Military Honor (Section 8), Mountain Lion (Section 11), Native American (Section 14), Prostate Cancer (Section 16), Sammy Superheroes (Section 17), Wildlife Conservation (Section 15), Support Our Troops (Section 18), and plates being created in this amendment, including Donate Life, Down Syndrome Awareness, The Good Life is Outside, Support the Arts, and Pets for Vets. Gold Star, Purple Heart, Ex-POW, Pearl Harbor Survivor, and Disabled American Veteran plates are exempt from the non-reissuance provision. The DMV authority would apply to the next license plate reissuance six-year period that begins January 1, 2023.

The operative date for all new license plates created in this bill is January 1, 2021.

Consistency is provided in all new license plates relative to provisions relating to temporary tags, credit to the DMV cash fund in the case that plate manufacturing exceeds the plate fee of \$3 per plate, and provisions relating to plates for trucks and other vehicles that require license plates.

LB 942 - With respect to LB 942, (Support the Arts plates), a provision was adopted which allows the Nebraska Arts Council to provide funds for competitive grants for creative districts. The plates would be designed and selected in consultation with the Nebraska Arts Council. Fees from the \$5 alphanumeric plate and \$30 of the \$40 from the message plate would be remitted to the Support the Arts Cash Fund, and would be administered by the Nebraska Arts Council. The remainder would be remitted to the DMV cash fund. The provisions of LB 942 are contained in Sections 25 and 26.

#### LB 942 Testimony

##### Support

Senator Hunt, Introducer

Suzanne Wise, Director NE Arts Council

Doug Zbylut, Nebraskans for the Arts

##### Oppose

None

##### Neutral

None

LB 903 - With respect to LB 903 (Down Syndrome Awareness plates), the design would include the words "Down Syndrome Awareness" inside a heart-shaped yellow and blue ribbon. A provision was adopted to original LB 903 which provides that \$5 from the fee for alphanumeric plates and \$30 of the \$40 from the fee for message plates would be remitted to of the proceeds of to support the Down Syndrome Clinic at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The remaining \$10 would be remitted to the DMV cash fund. The operative date was also changed to January 1, 2021. The provisions of LB 903 are contained in Sections 21 and 22.

#### LB 903 Testimony

##### Support

Senator Kolowski, Introducer

Mark Kuecker, Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome (DADS)

Gary Shada, Northeast NE Down Syndrome Association  
Leah Janke, Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands  
Angela Willey, Down Syndrome Advocates in Action  
Elissa Fuelberth, Down Syndrome Association for Families

Oppose  
None

Neutral  
None

LB 843 - With respect to LB 843 (Donate Life plates), the \$5 fee from the alphanumeric plates and \$30 of the \$40 fee from the fee for message plates would be remitted to the DHHS for the Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness and Education Fund. The remaining \$10 would be remitted to the DMV cash fund. The provisions of LB 843 are contained in Sections 19 and 20.

LB 843 Testimony

Support  
Senator Cavanaugh, Introducer  
Kyler Herber, Live on Nebraska

Oppose  
None

Neutral  
None

LB 921 - With respect to LB 921 (The Good Life is Outdoors plates), the design of the plates would reflect the importance of safe walking and biking and the value of recreational trails. The \$5 fee from the alphanumeric plates and \$30 of the \$40 fee for message plates would be remitted to the Game and Parks State Park Improvement and Maintenance fund for the improvement and maintenance of state trails. The remaining \$10 would be remitted to the DMV cash fund. The operative date was also changed to January 1, 2021. The provisions of LB 921 and included in Sections 1, 27, and 28.

LB 921 Testimony

Support  
Sen Hilkemann, Introducer  
Julie Harris, Bike Walk Nebraska  
Alex Duryea, NE Game and Parks Commission

Oppose  
None

Neutral  
None

LB 1139 - With respect to LB 1139 (Pets for Vets plates), the plates would be designed to support veterans and companion pets or therapy pet animals. The \$5 fee from the alphanumeric plates and \$30 of the \$40 fee for message plates would be remitted to the Pets for Vets cash fund, which would be administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The remaining \$10 would be remitted to the DMV cash fund. The Department of Veterans' Affairs would create a program to provide financial support for veterans for the costs associated with adopting a pet animal, and could

contract with an organization dedicated to the care of dogs and cats to administer the program. The provisions of LB 1139 are contained in Sections 23 and 24.

LB 1139 Testimony

Support

Senator Wishart, Introducer

Oppose

None

Neutral

None

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Curt Friesen, Chairperson