

SENATOR L. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the purpose of LB 891 is to remove the restrictions currently in the statutes that limit the number of numerals that are placed or allowed to appear on the prestige license plates. Back in August of last year a constituent of mine complained that his application to obtain a prestige license plate was denied. What this constituent wanted to do was to purchase a license plate with his local V.F.W. number, however, he was informed by the Department of Motor Vehicles that the V.F.W. number had four numerals and, thus, was in conflict with state law which provides that no more than three numerals can appear on prestige plates. He asked me why there was such a restriction and, quite frankly, I could not answer him. I investigated the matter with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the state patrol and neither agency knew of a reason why such a limitation was put in the statutes, nor could they offer any practical or technical reason for the restriction. Both agreed that the removal of the restrictions would cause them no problems. In fact, the Department of Motor Vehicles indicated at the committee hearing that additional requests for prestige plates may be generated along with the increased revenue if the numeral restriction was deleted. LB 891 then simply amends current statute by deleting nine words pertaining to the numeral limitation. The effect of this bill would be that in the future a citizen applying for a prestige plate could choose any numeral or letter combination as long as it did not exceed the current maximum seven character limitation. Should be emphasized that the bill does nothing to change existing statutory language which prohibits obscene or objectionable material from appearing on such prestige plates, nor does it alter the restriction prohibiting duplication of phrases already in existence. To remedy a very simple problem, I suggest you advance LB 891 to Select.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further discussion? If not, the question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote if you care to. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 891.

PRESIDENT: LB 891 is advanced. May I please introduce some more guests in the south balcony. Senator Conway has 25 guests who are counselling majors from Wayne State College and their