321.166 Vehicle plate specifications.

Vehicle registration plates shall conform to the following specifications:

1. a. Registration plates shall be of metal and of a size not to exceed six inches by
   twelve inches, except that the size of plates issued for use on autocycles, motorized
   bicycles, motorcycles, motorcycle trailers, and trailers with an empty weight of two
   thousand pounds or less shall be established by the department.

   b. Trailers with empty weights of two thousand pounds or less may, upon request, be
   licensed with regular-sized license plates.

2. Every registration plate or pair of plates shall display a registration plate number
   which shall consist of alphabetical or numerical characters or a combination thereof
   and the name of this state, which may be abbreviated. Every registration plate issued by the county
   treasurer shall display the name of the county, including any plate issued pursuant to section
   321.34, except Pearl Harbor and purple heart registration plates issued prior to January 1,
   1997; registration plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 13, paragraph “d”;
   and collegiate, fire fighter, and medal of honor registration plates. Special truck registration
   plates shall display the word “special”. The department may adopt rules to implement this
   subsection.

3. The registration plate number shall be displayed in characters which shall not exceed
   a height of four inches nor a stroke width exceeding five-eighths of an inch. Special plates
   issued to dealers shall display the alphabetical character “D”, which shall be of the same
   size as the characters in the registration plate. The registration plate number issued for
   autocycles, motorized bicycles, motorcycles, trailers with an empty weight of two thousand
   pounds or less, and motorcycle trailers shall be a size prescribed by the department.

4. The registration plate number, except on autocycles, motorized bicycles, motorcycles,
   motorcycle trailers, and trailers with an empty weight of two thousand pounds or less, shall
   be of sufficient size to be readable from a distance of one hundred feet during daylight.

5. There shall be a marked contrast between the color of the registration plates and
   the data which is required to be displayed on the registration plates. When a new series
   of registration plates is issued to replace a current series, the new registration plates shall
   be of a distinctively different color from the series which is replaced, except for collegiate
   registration plates issued under section 321.34, subsection 7 or 7A.

6. Registration plates issued to a disabled veteran under the provisions of section 321.105
   shall display the alphabetical characters “DV” which shall precede the registration plate
   number. The plates may also display a persons with disabilities parking sticker if issued to
   the disabled veteran by the department under section 321L.2.

7. The year and month of expiration of registration, which may be abbreviated, shall be
   displayed on vehicle registration plates issued by the county treasurer. A distinctive emblem
   or validation sticker may be prescribed by the department to designate the year and month of
   expiration. The year and month of expiration shall not be required to be displayed on plates
   issued under section 321.19.

8. The owner of a trailer with an empty weight of two thousand pounds or less shall receive
   registration plates for the trailer smaller than plates regularly issued for automobiles pursuant
   to rules adopted by the department in accordance with this section unless the owner requests
   regular-sized plates.

9. Special registration plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, other than gold star, medal
   of honor, collegiate, fire fighter, and natural resources registration plates, shall be consistent
   with the design and color of regular registration plates but shall provide a space on a portion
   of the plate for the purpose of allowing the placement of a distinguishing processed emblem
   or an organization decal. Special registration plates shall also comply with the requirements
   for regular registration plates as provided in this section to the extent the requirements are
   consistent with the section authorizing a particular special vehicle registration plate.

10. If the department reissues a new registration plate design for a special registration
plate under section 321.34, all persons who have purchased or obtained the special registration plates shall not be required to pay the issuance fee.

[S13, §1571-m12, -m13; C24, 27, 31, 35, §4978; C39, §5001.19, 5001.20, 5012.04; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §321.35, 321.36, 321.166; C79, 81, §321.166]


Referred to in §321L.1