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**SF 227** – Motor Vehicles, Front License Plates, Older Model Years (LSB1726SV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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### **Description**

**SF 227** modifies violations regarding the display of registration plates as follows:

- The Bill makes a violation of Iowa Code section [321.37\(1\)](#), relating to failure to display registration plates, a secondary violation. A peace officer may not stop a driver solely for failing to display a front registration plate.
- The Bill strikes the current definition of Iowa Code section [321.37\(2\)](#), referring to vehicles built in or built to resemble a vehicle from 1948 or older. The Bill changes this provision to refer instead to vehicles registered as antique vehicles, and allows antique vehicles, as well as motor vehicles that would need modifications to secure a front plate, to carry the front registration plate inside. Iowa Code section [321.115](#) classifies an antique vehicle as a vehicle that is 25 years old or older.

### **Background**

In FY 2018, there were 2,003 convictions for failure to display registration plates. Currently, failure to display plates is a primary violation. Under Iowa Code section [321.37\(2\)](#), vehicles built in 1948 or older or built to resemble a vehicle from 1948 or older may carry the registration plates inside the vehicle. The scheduled fine for failure to display plates is \$20.

There is an estimated court cost of \$60 per violation. A Criminal Penalty Surcharge is applied to the scheduled fine. Ninety-five percent of the Surcharge goes to the State. Of the State's share, 83.0% goes to the General Fund and 17.0% to the Victim Compensation Fund. The remaining 5.0% of the Surcharge goes to the local city or county where the infraction occurred.

### **Assumptions**

- All violations for failure to display a registration plate are for a missing front plate.
- **SF 227** will reduce citations for failure to display a registration plate by making the violation a secondary violation and exempting some vehicles from displaying a front registration plate.
- The estimated collection rate for violations is 63.8%.

### **Fiscal Impact**

While the number of convictions for failure to display a registration plate under SF 227 cannot be predicted, **Table 1** provides a range of revenue possibilities depending on the reduction in convictions. An annual reduction of convictions ranging from 500 (24.9%) to 1,500 (74.8%) would result in an estimated annual revenue reduction to the General Fund, Victim Compensation Fund, and local jurisdictions ranging from \$27,753 to \$83,259.

**Table 1**

<b>Range of Estimated Fiscal Impact Under Senate File 227 Per Year</b>				
	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Potential Reduction in Convictions</u>		
	<u>Est. FY 2019</u>	<u>-500 Convictions</u>	<u>-1,000 Convictions</u>	<u>-1,500 Convictions</u>
<b>General Fund</b>				
Penalty Revenue	\$ 25,558	\$ -6,380	\$ -12,760	\$ -19,140
Surcharge Revenue	7,053	-1,761	-3,521	-5,282
Court Costs	76,675	-19,140	-38,280	-57,420
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>\$ 109,286</u>	<u>\$ -27,281</u>	<u>\$ -54,561</u>	<u>\$ -81,842</u>
<b>Other</b>				
Victim Comp. Fund	\$ 1,445	\$ -361	\$ -721	\$ -1,082
Local Jurisdiction	447	-112	-223	-335
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>\$ 1,892</u>	<u>\$ -473</u>	<u>\$ -944</u>	<u>\$ -1,417</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 111,178</u>	<u>\$ -27,754</u>	<u>\$ -55,505</u>	<u>\$ -83,259</u>

**Sources**

Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division  
 Department of Transportation  
 LSA calculations

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 /s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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