



SF 419 – Front License Plates (LSB2084SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

Senate File 419 prohibits a peace officer from stopping or detaining a person if the person's motor vehicle is required to display a license plate on both its front and rear, but the motor vehicle displays a license plate only on its rear. The Bill also amends [321.37\(2\)](#) to say that a vehicle registered as an antique under Iowa Code section [321.115](#), or a motor vehicle that would require modifications to mount a front license plate are exempt from displaying a front license plate.

Background

The display of front license plates is currently not required on certain vehicles such as autocycles and motorcycles, and motor vehicles with a model year of 1948 or older. In addition, truck tractors are required to display a front license plate under Iowa Code section [321.37\(1\)](#). In FY 2018 there were 2,005 scheduled violations for failing to display license plates under Iowa Code section [321.37](#). In FY 2019, there were 1,937 violations, and in FY 2020, there were 1,586 violations.

Under Iowa Code section [602.8106\(4\)\(b\)](#), scheduled fine revenue for a State law violation is distributed as follows: 91.0% to the State and 9.0% to the general fund of the county in which the violation occurred. For the State share of citations, 1.3% is distributed to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fund and 98.7% is distributed to the State General Fund.

In addition to the scheduled fine, a Crime Services Surcharge, equal to 15.0% of the fine, and a \$55 fee for court costs are also imposed. The Crime Services Surcharge is remitted to the State Court Administrator and is distributed as follows: 46.0% to the Juvenile Detention Home Fund; 32.0% to the Victim Compensation Fund; 20.0% to the Criminalistics Laboratory Fund; and 2.0% to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Fund. The fee assessed for court costs is deposited into the State General Fund.

Assumptions

- Fewer vehicles will be stopped for incorrectly displaying their license plates, resulting in fewer violations of section [321.37](#).
- There will be 1,800 convictions of current law in FY 2021, based on an average of the last three years.
- The collection rate is 58.0%.
- The scheduled fine for a violation of improper display of registration plates is \$30.

Correctional Impact

Since the penalty for violation of Senate File 419 does not include imprisonment, a correctional impact is unknown. Refer to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Cost Estimates Used for Correctional Impact Statements](#), dated January 22, 2021, for information related to the correctional system.

Minority Impact

Convictions under current Iowa Code section [321.37](#) are displayed in **Table 1**. While convictions are likely to decrease due to this Bill, the impact is unknown. Refer to the LSA memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Minority Impact Statement](#), dated January 27, 2021, for information related to minorities in the criminal justice system.

Table 1

Iowa Code Section 321.276 Convictions by Ethnicity			
	<u>Caucasian</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Other</u>
FY 2019	1631	176	130
FY 2020	1335	144	106

Fiscal Impact

Table 2 — Estimated Range of Annual Fiscal Impact Under SF 419				
	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Potential Decrease in Convictions</u>		
	<u>Est. FY 2021</u>	<u>500 Convictions</u>	<u>1,000 Convictions</u>	<u>1,500 Convictions</u>
General Fund				
Penalty Revenue	\$ 28,000	\$ -8,000	\$ -16,000	\$ -23,000
Court Fee	57,000	-16,000	-32,000	-48,000
Subtotal	\$ 85,000	\$ -24,000	\$ -48,000	\$ -71,000
Surcharge Revenue				
Juvenile Detention	\$ 2,200	\$ -600	\$ -1,200	\$ -1,800
Victim Comp.	1,500	-400	-800	-1,200
Crime Lab	900	-200	-500	-700
DARE	90	-20	-50	-70
Subtotal	\$ 4,690	\$ -1,220	\$ -2,550	\$ -3,770
Other				
County General Funds	\$ 2,800	\$ -800	\$ -1,500	\$ -2,300
EMS Fund	400	-100	-200	-300
Grand Total	\$ 92,890	\$ -26,120	\$ -52,250	\$ -77,370

*Figures may not add up due to rounding

While the number of convictions of [321.37](#) under this Bill is unknown, **Table 2** provides a range of possible decreases in convictions of 500, 1,000, and 1,500, and the resulting loss of revenue.

Sources

Legislative Services Agency
Criminal Juvenile and Justice Planning Division

/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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