

SENATE FILE 2159  
BY WARD

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to identification of publicly owned motor  
2 vehicles used by persons who provide off-site or in-home  
3 medical or mental health services.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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TRANSPORTATION

SF 2159

1 Section 1. Section 321.19, subsection 1, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 2, Code Supplement 2005, is amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 The department shall furnish, on application, free of  
5 charge, distinguishing plates for vehicles thus exempted,  
6 which plates except plates on state patrol vehicles shall bear  
7 the word "official" and the department shall keep a separate  
8 record. Registration plates issued for state patrol vehicles,  
9 except unmarked patrol vehicles, shall bear two red stars on a  
10 yellow background, one before and one following the  
11 registration number on the plate, which registration number  
12 shall be the officer's badge number. Registration plates  
13 issued for county sheriff's patrol vehicles shall display one  
14 seven-pointed gold star followed by the letter "S" and the  
15 call number of the vehicle. However, the director of the  
16 department of administrative services or the director of  
17 transportation may order the issuance of regular registration  
18 plates for any exempted vehicle used by peace officers in the  
19 enforcement of the law, persons enforcing chapter 124 and  
20 other laws relating to controlled substances, persons in the  
21 department of justice, the alcoholic beverages division of the  
22 department of commerce, disease investigators of the Iowa  
23 department of public health, the department of inspections and  
24 appeals, and the department of revenue, who are regularly  
25 assigned to conduct investigations which cannot reasonably be  
26 conducted with a vehicle displaying "official" state  
27 registration plates, persons in the Iowa lottery authority  
28 whose regularly assigned duties relating to security or the  
29 carrying of lottery tickets cannot reasonably be conducted  
30 with a vehicle displaying "official" registration plates, and  
31 persons in the department of economic development who are  
32 regularly assigned duties relating to existing industry  
33 expansion or business attraction, and mental health  
34 professionals or health care professionals who provide off-  
35 site or in-home medical or mental health services to clients

1 of publicly funded programs. For purposes of sale of exempted  
2 vehicles, the exempted governmental body, upon the sale of the  
3 exempted vehicle, may issue for in-transit purposes a  
4 pasteboard card bearing the words "Vehicle in Transit", the  
5 name of the official body from which the vehicle was  
6 purchased, together with the date of the purchase plainly  
7 marked in at least one-inch letters, and other information  
8 required by the department. The in-transit card is valid for  
9 use only within forty-eight hours after the purchase date as  
10 indicated on the bill of sale which shall be carried by the  
11 driver.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill allows the issuance of regular registration  
14 plates, rather than plates bearing the word "official", for  
15 certain publicly owned motor vehicles used by health care and  
16 mental health professionals who provide off-site or in-home  
17 medical or mental health services. In addition, such vehicles  
18 would no longer be required to be labeled as publicly owned  
19 vehicles.

20 Current law exempts vehicles owned or leased by a  
21 governmental agency from vehicle registration fees, but  
22 requires issuance of distinguishing plates identifying such  
23 vehicles as official vehicles. The state department of  
24 transportation or the director of the department of  
25 administrative services may order the issuance of regular  
26 registration plates for vehicles operated by certain  
27 individuals whose business cannot reasonably be conducted in a  
28 vehicle marked "official". Those government vehicles bearing  
29 regular registration plates are also exempt from the labeling  
30 requirements of Code section 721.8 applicable to publicly  
31 owned vehicles.

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