

**Senate File 9 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 9  
BY SCHOENJAHN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act concerning registration plates issued for business-trade  
2 trucks and special trucks, and including applicability date  
3 provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321.120, subsection 3, Code 2011, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Upon approval of the application and payment of  
4 the proper fees, the county treasurer shall issue regular  
5 registration plates for the ~~vehicle which distinguish the~~  
6 ~~vehicle as a~~ business-trade truck. The department may adopt  
7 rules requiring the use of a sticker or other means to identify  
8 motor vehicles registered under this section.

9 Sec. 2. Section 321.121, Code 2011, is amended by adding the  
10 following new subsection:

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. Upon approval of the application  
12 and payment of the proper fees, the county treasurer shall  
13 issue regular registration plates for the special truck. The  
14 department may adopt rules requiring the use of a sticker or  
15 other means to identify motor vehicles registered under this  
16 section.

17 Sec. 3. PHASED-IN ELIMINATION OF BUSINESS-TRADE TRUCK AND  
18 SPECIAL TRUCK PLATES.

19 1. It is the intent of the general assembly that the owners  
20 of business-trade trucks and special trucks have access to  
21 any of the specialty registration plates issued under section  
22 321.34 under the same terms and conditions that apply to owners  
23 of other motor vehicles under that section.

24 2. By January 1, 2012, the department of transportation  
25 shall discontinue the practice of issuing business-trade truck  
26 registration plates and special truck registration plates,  
27 and shall instead provide regular registration plates for new  
28 business-trade truck and special truck registrations. Current  
29 requirements and fees for business-trade truck and special  
30 truck registrations continue to apply. In conjunction with the  
31 transition to the issuance of regular registration plates for  
32 business-trade and special trucks, the following registration  
33 practices shall apply:

34 a. Except as provided in paragraph "b", current owners of  
35 vehicles with business-trade or special truck plates shall

1 continue to use those plates until ownership of the vehicle is  
2 transferred or until a new series of Iowa registration plates  
3 is issued by the department of transportation.

4 b. The owner of a motor vehicle with current business-trade  
5 truck plates or special truck plates may elect to be issued  
6 specialty plates in lieu of the current registration plates for  
7 the vehicle, subject to the terms and conditions applicable  
8 under section 321.34.

9 c. The owner of a motor vehicle being registered for the  
10 first time as a business-trade truck or special truck may elect  
11 to be issued specialty plates in lieu of regular registration  
12 plates, subject to the terms and conditions applicable under  
13 section 321.34.

14 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies for registration  
15 plates issued during registration periods beginning on or after  
16 January 1, 2012.

17 EXPLANATION

18 Under current law, a motor truck that qualifies for  
19 business-trade truck registration fees or special truck  
20 registration fees is issued registration plates which  
21 are specially designed to distinguish the vehicle as a  
22 business-trade truck or a special truck. As a consequence  
23 of this requirement, the owner of a business-trade truck  
24 or special truck for farm use is not eligible for any of  
25 the special registration plates for which the owner might  
26 otherwise qualify. This bill provides the option of applying  
27 for specialty plates for trucks with business-trade or special  
28 truck registrations.

29 The bill requires the department of transportation to  
30 discontinue the issuance of business-trade and special truck  
31 registration plates with a distinguishing design on or before  
32 January 1, 2012. The department may provide by rule for  
33 another means of identifying business-trade trucks and special  
34 trucks for enforcement purposes.

35 Under the bill, most current owners of trucks which have

1 already been issued business-trade or special truck plates  
2 shall continue to use those plates until ownership transfers or  
3 the department of transportation issues a new series of Iowa  
4 registration plates. However, an owner may elect to trade  
5 current business-trade or special truck plates for any of the  
6 specialty plates for which the owner qualifies, subject to the  
7 additional fees applicable for the specialty plates. An owner  
8 who applies for a new registration of a business-trade truck or  
9 special truck will have the option to choose specialty plates  
10 or be issued regular registration plates.

11 Current requirements and fees for business-trade and special  
12 truck registrations are not affected by the bill. The bill  
13 is applicable for plates issued during registration periods  
14 beginning on or after January 1, 2012.