

**House File 2020 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2020

BY OLSON, JONES, and MITCHELL

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to radio operators blackout special

2 registration plates for motor vehicles.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321.34, subsection 3, Code 2020, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. *Radio operators plates.* The owner of an automobile,  
4 motorcycle, trailer, or motor truck who holds an amateur radio  
5 license issued by the federal communications commission may,  
6 upon written application to the county treasurer accompanied  
7 by a fee of five dollars, order ~~special registration~~ radio  
8 operators plates bearing the call letters authorized the radio  
9 station covered by the person's amateur radio license. When  
10 received by the county treasurer, such ~~special registration~~  
11 radio operators plates shall be issued to the applicant in  
12 exchange for the registration plates previously issued to  
13 the person. Not more than one set of ~~special registration~~  
14 radio operators plates may be issued to an applicant. Said  
15 fee shall be in addition to and not in lieu of the fee for  
16 regular registration plates. ~~Special registration~~ Radio  
17 operators plates ~~must~~, including any special radio operators  
18 plates authorized by this section, shall be surrendered upon  
19 expiration of the owner's amateur radio license and the owner  
20 shall thereupon be entitled to the owner's regular registration  
21 plates. The county treasurer shall validate ~~special~~ radio  
22 operators plates in the same manner as regular registration  
23 plates, upon payment of five dollars in addition to the regular  
24 annual registration fee.

25 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, subsection 11C, paragraphs c and d,  
26 Code 2020, are amended to read as follows:

27 c. The special blackout fee for letter-number designated  
28 blackout plates is thirty-five dollars. An applicant eligible  
29 for radio operators plates under subsection 3 may obtain  
30 radio operators blackout plates upon payment of the fee for  
31 radio operators plates as provided in subsection 3, which is  
32 in addition to the special blackout fee. An applicant may  
33 obtain personalized blackout plates upon payment of the fee for  
34 personalized plates as provided in [subsection 5](#), which is in  
35 addition to the special blackout fee. The fees collected by

1 the director under **this subsection** shall be paid monthly to the  
2 treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax fund.  
3 *d.* Upon receipt of the special registration plates, the  
4 applicant shall surrender the current registration plates to  
5 the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall validate  
6 the special registration plates in the same manner as regular  
7 registration plates are validated under **this section**. The  
8 annual special blackout fee for letter-number designated plates  
9 is ten dollars which shall be paid in addition to the regular  
10 annual registration fee. The annual fee for personalized  
11 blackout plates and radio operators blackout plates is five  
12 dollars which shall be paid in addition to the annual special  
13 blackout fee and the regular annual registration fee. The  
14 annual special blackout fee shall be credited as provided under  
15 paragraph "c".

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 Under current law, an owner of a motor vehicle who holds  
20 an amateur radio license issued by the federal communications  
21 commission may order radio operators special registration  
22 plates bearing the call letters authorized for the radio  
23 station covered by the person's amateur radio license. Current  
24 law also authorizes the department of transportation (DOT) to  
25 issue blackout plates to an owner of a motor vehicle, which are  
26 plates with a black background and white numbers and letters.  
27 This bill authorizes the DOT to issue radio operators  
28 blackout special registration plates. An applicant otherwise  
29 eligible for radio operators plates may obtain radio operators  
30 blackout plates upon the payment of the \$5 fee for radio  
31 operators plates set forth under current law, which is in  
32 addition to the special blackout fee. The annual fee for radio  
33 operators blackout plates is \$5, which is in addition to the  
34 annual special blackout fee and the regular annual registration  
35 fee.

H.F. 2020

1     The bill also makes conforming changes to Code section  
2 321.34(3) to require special radio operators plates, such  
3 as radio operators blackout plates, to be surrendered upon  
4 expiration of the owner's amateur radio license.