

**House File 2579 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2579  
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2142)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to personalized fire fighter and emergency  
2 medical services special registration plates, and providing  
3 fees.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321.34, subsection 10, paragraphs a, b,  
2 and d, Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

3 a. ~~An owner referred to in subsection 12 who~~ Upon  
4 application and payment of the proper fees, the director may  
5 issue fire fighter plates to the owner of a motor vehicle  
6 subject to registration under section 321.109, subsection 1,  
7 autocycle, motor truck, motor home, multipurpose vehicle,  
8 motorcycle, trailer, or travel trailer if the owner is  
9 a current or retired member of a paid or volunteer fire  
10 department ~~may, upon written application to the department,~~  
11 ~~order.~~ The special registration plates, designed by the  
12 department in cooperation with representatives designated by  
13 the Iowa fire fighters' associations, ~~which~~ signify that the  
14 applicant is a current or retired member of a paid or volunteer  
15 fire department.

16 b. The application shall be approved by the department  
17 in consultation with representatives designated by the Iowa  
18 fire fighters' associations, and the special registration  
19 plates shall be issued to the applicant in exchange for the  
20 registration plates previously issued to the person. An  
21 applicant who is the owner of a business-trade truck or special  
22 truck shall not be issued special fire fighter registration  
23 plates for more than one vehicle. The fee for the special  
24 plates is twenty-five dollars which shall be paid in addition  
25 to the regular annual registration fee. An applicant may  
26 obtain personalized fire fighter plates upon payment of  
27 the additional fee for personalized plates as provided in  
28 subsection 5 in addition to the special fire fighter fee and  
29 the regular registration fee. Personalized plates authorized  
30 by this subsection shall be limited to no more than five  
31 initials, letters, or combinations of numerals and letters.  
32 The department shall validate the special plates in the same  
33 manner as regular registration plates are validated under this  
34 section at the regular annual registration fee.

35 d. For purposes of this subsection, a person is considered

1 to be retired if the person is recognized by the chief of the  
2 fire department where the individual served, and on record,  
3 as officially retired from the fire department. Special fire  
4 fighter registration plates with a fire fighter emblem shall  
5 be surrendered, ~~as provided in subsection 12,~~ in exchange for  
6 regular registration plates upon termination of the motor  
7 vehicle owner's membership in the paid or volunteer fire  
8 department, unless the person is a retired member in good  
9 standing.

10 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, subsection 10A, Code 2024, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 10A. *Emergency medical services plates.*

13 a. The owner of a motor vehicle referred to in subsection  
14 12 who is a current member of a paid or volunteer emergency  
15 medical services agency may, upon written application to  
16 the department, order special registration plates with an  
17 emergency medical services distinguishing processed emblem,  
18 designed by the department in cooperation with representatives  
19 designated by the Iowa emergency medical services association,  
20 which ~~plates signify~~ emblem signifies that the applicant is  
21 a current member of a paid or volunteer emergency medical  
22 services agency. The application shall be approved by the  
23 department, in consultation with representatives designated  
24 by the Iowa emergency medical services association, ~~and the~~  
25 ~~special registration plates shall be issued to the applicant in~~  
26 ~~exchange for the registration plates previously issued to the~~  
27 ~~person. The fee for the special plates is twenty-five dollars~~  
28 ~~which is in addition to the regular annual registration fee.~~  
29 ~~The department shall validate the special plates in the same~~  
30 ~~manner as regular registration plates are validated under this~~  
31 ~~section at the regular annual registration fee.~~

32 b. The special plate fees collected by the director under  
33 ~~this subsection~~ subsection 12, paragraph "a", from the annual  
34 validation of letter-number designated emergency medical  
35 services plates, and subsection 12, paragraph "c", from the

1 issuance and annual validation of personalized emergency  
2 medical services plates shall be paid monthly to the treasurer  
3 of state and deposited in the road use tax fund. The treasurer  
4 of state shall transfer monthly from the statutory allocations  
5 fund created under [section 321.145, subsection 2](#), to the  
6 emergency medical services fund created in [section 135.25](#) the  
7 amount of the special fees collected in the previous month for  
8 issuance of emergency medical services plates.

9 EXPLANATION

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

12 Under current law, an owner of a motor vehicle who is  
13 a current or retired member of a paid or volunteer fire  
14 department may order fire fighter special registration plates  
15 signifying the owner is an active or retired fire fighter. The  
16 plates are designed by the department of transportation (DOT)  
17 in cooperation with representatives designated by the Iowa fire  
18 fighters' associations. The design is such that the plates  
19 do not match the color and design of regular registration  
20 plates (alternate design plates), as authorized by Code section  
21 321.166 (vehicle plate specifications).

22 Likewise, under current law, an owner of a motor vehicle  
23 who is a current member of a paid or volunteer emergency  
24 medical services (EMS) agency may order special registration  
25 plates, designed by the DOT in cooperation with representatives  
26 designated by the Iowa EMS association, signifying that the  
27 person is a current member of a paid or volunteer EMS agency.  
28 The design is such that the plates match the color and design  
29 of regular registration plates but contain a distinguishing  
30 processed emblem (emblem plates).

31 This bill authorizes the DOT to issue personalized fire  
32 fighter and EMS registration plates, in accordance with Code  
33 sections 321.34(5) and 321.34(12), as applicable. The fee for  
34 personalized plates is \$25, which is in addition to all other  
35 registration fees. The annual fee for personalized plates is

1 \$5, and is also in addition to all other fees. Due to the  
2 plates' respective designs, the bill limits the number of  
3 characters on a personalized fire fighter or EMS plate to five  
4 numerals and letters.

5 The bill makes further changes to align the plate provisions  
6 with the respective language used for other, similar plates  
7 (alternate design plate language for fire fighter plates, and  
8 emblem plate language for EMS plates). For purposes of emblem  
9 plates, Code section 321.34(12) contains provisions relating  
10 to the default \$25 fee, personalized emblem plates, and the  
11 exchange or surrender of such plates. Therefore, the EMS plate  
12 provision is updated to include relevant references and exclude  
13 duplicative provisions.