

**Senate File 2040 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2040

BY COURNOYER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to animal welfare special registration plates.

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

1 Section 1. Section 162.2C, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 2. The fund shall include moneys collected by the department  
4 in fees as provided in section 162.2B, moneys transferred  
5 pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 28, and moneys  
6 appropriated by the general assembly. The fund may include  
7 other moneys available to and obtained or accepted by the  
8 department, including moneys from public or private sources.

9 3. a. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the department  
10 and shall be used exclusively to carry out the provisions of  
11 this chapter as determined and directed by the department, and  
12 shall not require further special authorization by the general  
13 assembly.

14 b. The department shall use moneys in the fund transferred  
15 pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 28, to increase the  
16 frequency of inspections authorized under section 162.10B.

17 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 28. *Animal welfare plates.*

20 a. An owner referred to in subsection 12 may, upon written  
21 application to the department, order special registration  
22 plates with an animal welfare distinguishing processed emblem.

23 b. The animal welfare emblem shall depict a black cat nested  
24 within a white dog, nested within a black paw print.

25 c. The special animal welfare fee for letter-number  
26 designated animal welfare plates is thirty-five dollars. An  
27 applicant may obtain personalized animal welfare plates as  
28 described in subsection 12, paragraph "c".

29 d. The fees collected by the director under this subsection,  
30 and the fees collected by the director under subsection 12,  
31 paragraph "a", from the annual validation of letter-number  
32 designated animal welfare plates, and subsection 12, paragraph  
33 "c", from the issuance and annual validation of personalized  
34 animal welfare plates, shall be paid monthly to the treasurer  
35 of state and deposited in the road use tax fund. The treasurer

1 of state shall transfer monthly from the statutory allocations  
2 fund created under section 321.145, subsection 2, to the  
3 commercial establishment fund created in section 162.2C the  
4 amount of the special fees collected in the previous month for  
5 animal welfare plates.

6 e. The department shall not condition the issuance of animal  
7 welfare plates on the receipt of any number of orders for  
8 animal welfare 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, the owner of a vehicle subject to  
13 registration may apply to the department of transportation  
14 (DOT) to order special registration plates with a  
15 distinguishing processed emblem authorized by Code section  
16 321.34 or approved by the DOT. Personalized processed emblem  
17 special registration plates are limited to five or fewer  
18 numerals and letters. This bill authorizes the DOT to design  
19 and issue special registration plates with an animal welfare  
20 distinguishing processed emblem. The bill requires the DOT to  
21 design the animal welfare emblem, which must depict a black cat  
22 nested within a white dog, nested within a black paw print.

23 Under current law, the default special fee for a special  
24 registration plate with a distinguishing processed emblem  
25 is \$25. However, the bill provides that the special animal  
26 welfare fee for letter-number designated animal welfare plates  
27 is \$35. Pursuant to current law, an applicant may obtain  
28 personalized animal welfare plates upon payment of the \$25 fee  
29 for personalized plates, which is in addition to the special  
30 animal welfare fee. Pursuant to current law, the annual  
31 special animal welfare fee for letter-number designated plates  
32 is \$5, which is in addition to the regular annual registration  
33 fee, and the annual fee for personalized animal welfare plates  
34 is \$5, which is in addition to the annual special animal  
35 welfare fee and the regular annual registration fee.

1 The fees collected by the DOT must be paid monthly to the  
2 treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax fund. The  
3 treasurer of state must transfer monthly from the statutory  
4 allocations fund to the commercial establishment fund the  
5 amount of the special fees collected in the previous month for  
6 animal welfare plates.

7 Under the current law, the department of agriculture and  
8 land stewardship (DALs) is responsible for regulating the  
9 care of animals in commercial establishments pursuant to Code  
10 chapter 162. "Commercial establishment" is defined in Code  
11 chapter 162 as an animal shelter, boarding kennel, commercial  
12 breeder, commercial kennel, dealer, pet shop, pound, public  
13 auction, or research facility. The bill requires DALs to use  
14 the moneys deposited in the commercial establishment fund  
15 from animal welfare plate fees to increase the frequency of  
16 inspections authorized under Code section 162.10B. Pursuant  
17 to Code section 162.10B, DALs may inspect the commercial  
18 establishment of a registrant or state licensee by entering  
19 onto its business premises at any time during normal working  
20 hours. In addition, DALs may inspect records required to be  
21 maintained by the state licensee or registrant.

22 The bill prohibits the DOT from conditioning the issuance of  
23 animal welfare plates on the receipt of any number of orders  
24 for animal welfare plates.