

**Senate File 2343 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2343  
BY WEBSTER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to vehicle registration plates, including  
2 registration plate frames and Gadsden flag special  
3 registration plates, providing fees, and making  
4 appropriations.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 321.34, Code 2026, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 11E. *Gadsden flag plates.*

4 a. Upon application and payment of the proper fees, the  
5 director may issue Gadsden flag plates to the owner of a motor  
6 vehicle subject to registration under section 321.109, subsection  
7 1, autocycle, motor truck, motor home, multipurpose vehicle,  
8 motorcycle, trailer, or travel trailer.

9 b. Gadsden flag plates shall be designed by the department.  
10 The background shall be yellow at the top and bottom, with the  
11 color fading into white in the center. The plate's numbers and  
12 letters shall be black. The left side of the plate shall depict  
13 a black and white rattlesnake coiled on green grass. The image  
14 depicting the coiled rattlesnake shall be at least three inches  
15 tall and two inches wide. The phrase "Don't Tread on Me" shall  
16 appear at the bottom of the plate.

17 c. The special Gadsden flag fee for letter-number designated  
18 Gadsden flag plates is fifty dollars. An applicant may obtain  
19 personalized Gadsden flag plates upon payment of the fee for  
20 personalized plates as provided in subsection 5, which is in  
21 addition to the special Gadsden flag fee. Personalized plates  
22 authorized by this subsection shall be limited to no more than  
23 five numerals, letters, or combinations of numerals and letters.

24 d. (1) The fees collected by the director under this  
25 subsection shall be paid monthly to the treasurer of state and  
26 deposited in the road use tax fund.

27 (2) The treasurer of state shall transfer monthly from  
28 the statutory allocations fund created under section 321.145,  
29 subsection 2, to the general fund of the state the amount of the  
30 special fees collected in the previous month for Gadsden flag  
31 plates. Such moneys are appropriated as follows:

32 (a) Fifty percent is appropriated to the natural resource  
33 commission to distribute in the form of shooting sports  
34 development grants to applicants for the creation of new  
35 shooting ranges and improvement of existing shooting ranges

1 and facilities. The natural resource commission shall not  
2 award a grant to an applicant unless the applicant allows  
3 students enrolled at a public or private school to participate  
4 in shooting sports at the applicant's range or facility. The  
5 natural resource commission shall give first consideration to any  
6 applicant who has agreed to allow a public or private school  
7 sports shooting team to use the applicant's range or facility.  
8 The natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to  
9 chapter 17A to administer this subparagraph division.

10 (b) Fifty percent is appropriated to the department of  
11 homeland security and emergency management to distribute in  
12 the form of grants to school districts to be used for  
13 school infrastructure described in section 423F.3, subsection  
14 6, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4) or (5). The department of  
15 homeland security and emergency management shall adopt rules  
16 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this subparagraph division.

17 (3) Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated under  
18 subparagraph (2) shall not revert to the general fund of the  
19 state.

20 e. Upon receipt of the special registration plates, the  
21 applicant shall surrender the current registration plates to  
22 the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall validate  
23 the special registration plates in the same manner as regular  
24 registration plates are validated under this section. The annual  
25 special Gadsden flag fee for letter-number designated plates is  
26 fifty dollars which shall be paid in addition to the regular  
27 annual registration fee. The annual fee for personalized Gadsden  
28 flag plates is five dollars which shall be paid in addition  
29 to the annual special Gadsden flag fee and the regular annual  
30 registration fee. The annual special Gadsden flag fee shall be  
31 credited as provided under paragraph "d".

32 f. The department shall not condition the issuance of Gadsden  
33 flag plates on the receipt of any number of orders for Gadsden  
34 flag plates.

35 Sec. 2. Section 321.37, subsection 3, Code 2026, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 3. ~~It is unlawful for the~~ The owner of a vehicle ~~to~~ shall not  
3 place ~~any~~ a frame around or over ~~the~~ a registration plate which  
4 does not permit full view of all numerals and letters printed on  
5 the registration plate, other than the name of the county.

6 Sec. 3. Section 321.166, subsections 2 and 9, Code 2026, are  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 2. Every registration plate or pair of plates shall display  
9 a registration plate number which shall consist of alphabetical  
10 or numerical characters or a combination thereof and the name of  
11 this state, which may be abbreviated. Every registration plate  
12 issued by the county treasurer shall display the name of the  
13 county, including any plate issued pursuant to section 321.34,  
14 except Pearl Harbor and purple heart registration plates issued  
15 prior to January 1, 1997; and collegiate, fire fighter, and  
16 medal of honor, and Gadsden flag registration plates. Special  
17 truck registration plates shall display the word "special". The  
18 department may adopt rules to implement this subsection.

19 9. Special registration plates issued pursuant to section  
20 321.34, other than gold star, medal of honor, collegiate, fire  
21 fighter, natural resources, blackout, and flying our colors, and  
22 Gadsden flag registration plates, shall be consistent with the  
23 design and color of regular registration plates but shall provide  
24 a space on a portion of the plate for the purpose of allowing the  
25 placement of a distinguishing processed emblem or an organization  
26 decal. Special registration plates shall also comply with the  
27 requirements for regular registration plates as provided in this  
28 section to the extent the requirements are consistent with the  
29 section authorizing a particular special vehicle registration  
30 plate.

31 EXPLANATION

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

34 This bill relates to vehicle registration plates.

35 The bill authorizes the department of transportation (DOT) to

1 design and issue Gadsden flag special registration plates. The  
2 bill requires the plate's background to be yellow at the top and  
3 bottom, with the color fading into white in the center. The  
4 plate's numbers and letters must be black. The left side of  
5 the plate must contain the image of a rattlesnake in black and  
6 white coiled on green grass. The phrase "Don't Tread on Me" must  
7 appear at the bottom of the plate.

8 The bill provides that the special Gadsden flag fee for  
9 letter-number designated Gadsden flag plates is \$50. An  
10 applicant may obtain personalized Gadsden flag plates upon  
11 payment of the \$25 fee for personalized plates set forth under  
12 current law, which is in addition to the special Gadsden flag  
13 fee. Personalized Gadsden flag plates are limited to five  
14 numerals and letters. The annual special Gadsden flag fee for  
15 letter-number designated plates is \$50, which is in addition  
16 to the regular annual registration fee. The annual fee for  
17 personalized Gadsden flag plates is \$5, which is in addition  
18 to the annual special Gadsden flag fee and the regular annual  
19 registration fee.

20 The fees collected by the DOT must be paid monthly to the  
21 treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax fund.  
22 The treasurer of state must transfer monthly from the statutory  
23 allocations fund to the general fund of the state an amount  
24 equal to the special fees collected in the previous month for  
25 the Gadsden flag plates. One-half of such moneys is appropriated  
26 to the natural resource commission (NRC) to distribute in the  
27 form of shooting sports development grants to applicants for  
28 the creation of new shooting ranges and improvement of existing  
29 shooting ranges and facilities. The NRC is prohibited from  
30 awarding a grant to an applicant unless the applicant allows  
31 students enrolled at a public or private school to participate  
32 in shooting sports at the applicant's range or facility. The  
33 NRC must give first consideration to any applicant who has agreed  
34 to allow a public or private school sports shooting team to  
35 use the applicant's range or facility. The other half of such

1 moneys is appropriated to the department of homeland security  
2 and emergency management to distribute in the form of grants  
3 to school districts for school infrastructure. For purposes  
4 of the bill, "school infrastructure" includes school safety and  
5 security infrastructure, including but not limited to safe rooms,  
6 remote entry technology and equipment, security camera systems,  
7 card access systems, and communication systems with access to  
8 fire and police emergency frequencies, but does not include the  
9 cost of personnel, development of safety and security plans, or  
10 training related to the implementation of safety and security  
11 plans. Additionally, "school infrastructure" includes software  
12 or other innovative technology, and the cost of subscription and  
13 monitoring fees associated with such software or other innovative  
14 technology, that meets prescribed requirements under Code section  
15 423F.3(6)(a)(5).

16 The bill prohibits the DOT from conditioning the issuance  
17 of Gadsden flag plates on the receipt of any number of orders  
18 for Gadsden flag plates. Gadsden flag plates are exempt from  
19 the general requirements to display the name of the county that  
20 issues the plates and to be consistent with the design and color  
21 of regular registration plates.

22 Under current law, nonprofit organizations are authorized  
23 to apply to the DOT for approval to issue a decal of the  
24 organization's own design to be displayed on special registration  
25 plates with space reserved for an organizational decal. The  
26 nonprofit organization may charge a fee and retain any payment  
27 received for the organizational decal. Code section 321.34(13)  
28 sets forth the application process and certain limitations for  
29 nonprofit organizations and decal designs.

30 Under current law, an owner of a vehicle who places any frame  
31 around or over a registration plate which does not permit full  
32 view of all numerals and letters printed on the registration  
33 plate, including the name of the county printed on the bottom of  
34 the plate, commits a simple misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled  
35 fine of \$30. Under the bill, a registration plate frame is no

1 longer required to permit full view of the name of the county.

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