

**Senate File 2409 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2409  
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2343)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to Gadsden flag special registration plates,  
2 providing fees, and making appropriations.

3 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 black and the plate's numbers and letters  
11 shall be yellow. The left side of the plate shall depict a  
12 yellow rattlesnake coiled on grass. The image depicting the  
13 coiled rattlesnake shall be at least three inches tall and two  
14 inches wide. The phrase "Don't Tread on Me" shall appear at the  
15 bottom of the plate.

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

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

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

31 (a) Fifty percent is appropriated to the natural resource  
32 commission to distribute in the form of shooting sports  
33 development grants to applicants for the creation of new  
34 shooting ranges and improvement of existing shooting ranges  
35 and facilities. The natural resource commission shall not

1 award a grant to an applicant unless the applicant allows  
2 students enrolled at a public or private school to participate  
3 in shooting sports at the applicant's range or facility. The  
4 natural resource commission shall give first consideration to any  
5 applicant who has agreed to allow a public or private school  
6 sports shooting team to use the applicant's range or facility.  
7 The natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to  
8 chapter 17A to administer this subparagraph division.

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

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

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

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

34 Sec. 2. Section 321.166, subsections 2 and 9, Code 2026, are  
35 amended to read as follows:

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

12 9. Special registration plates issued pursuant to section  
 13 321.34, other than gold star, medal of honor, collegiate, fire  
 14 fighter, natural resources, blackout, and flying our colors, and  
 15 Gadsden flag registration plates, shall be consistent with the  
 16 design and color of regular registration plates but shall provide  
 17 a space on a portion of the plate for the purpose of allowing the  
 18 placement of a distinguishing processed emblem or an organization  
 19 decal. Special registration plates shall also comply with the  
 20 requirements for regular registration plates as provided in this  
 21 section to the extent the requirements are consistent with the  
 22 section authorizing a particular special vehicle registration  
 23 plate.

#### 24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill authorizes the department of transportation (DOT) to  
 28 design and issue Gadsden flag special registration plates. The  
 29 bill requires the plate's background to be black and the plate's  
 30 numbers and letters to be yellow. The left side of the plate  
 31 must contain the image of a yellow rattlesnake coiled on grass.  
 32 The phrase "Don't Tread on Me" must appear at the bottom of the  
 33 plate.

34 The bill provides that the special Gadsden flag fee for  
 35 letter-number designated Gadsden flag plates is \$50. An

1 applicant may obtain personalized Gadsden flag plates upon  
2 payment of the \$25 fee for personalized plates set forth under  
3 current law, which is in addition to the special Gadsden flag  
4 fee. Personalized Gadsden flag plates are limited to five  
5 numerals and letters. The annual special Gadsden flag fee for  
6 letter-number designated plates is \$50, which is in addition  
7 to the regular annual registration fee. The annual fee for  
8 personalized Gadsden flag plates is \$5, which is in addition  
9 to the annual special Gadsden flag fee and the regular annual  
10 registration fee.

11 The fees collected by the DOT must be paid monthly to the  
12 treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax fund.  
13 The treasurer of state must transfer monthly from the statutory  
14 allocations fund to the general fund of the state an amount  
15 equal to the special fees collected in the previous month for the  
16 Gadsden flag plates.

17 One-half of such moneys is appropriated to the natural  
18 resource commission (NRC) to distribute in the form of shooting  
19 sports development grants to applicants for the creation of new  
20 shooting ranges and improvement of existing shooting ranges and  
21 facilities. The NRC is prohibited from awarding a grant to  
22 an applicant unless the applicant allows students enrolled at  
23 a public or private school to participate in shooting sports  
24 at the applicant's range or facility. The NRC must give first  
25 consideration to any applicant who has agreed to allow a public  
26 or private school sports shooting team to use the applicant's  
27 range or facility.

28 The other half of such moneys is appropriated to the  
29 department of homeland security and emergency management  
30 to distribute in the form of grants to school districts  
31 for school infrastructure. For purposes of the bill,  
32 "school infrastructure" includes school safety and security  
33 infrastructure, including but not limited to safe rooms, remote  
34 entry technology and equipment, security camera systems, card  
35 access systems, and communication systems with access to fire

1 and police emergency frequencies, but does not include the  
2 cost of personnel, development of safety and security plans, or  
3 training related to the implementation of safety and security  
4 plans. Additionally, "school infrastructure" includes software  
5 or other innovative technology, and the cost of subscription and  
6 monitoring fees associated with such software or other innovative  
7 technology, that meets prescribed requirements under Code section  
8 423F.3(6)(a)(5).

9 The bill prohibits the DOT from conditioning the issuance  
10 of Gadsden flag plates on the receipt of any number of orders  
11 for Gadsden flag plates. Gadsden flag plates are exempt from  
12 the general requirements to display the name of the county that  
13 issues the plates and to be consistent with the design and color  
14 of regular registration plates.

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