

House File 2351 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2351

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 624)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the design of special registration plates
2 with a distinguishing processed emblem associated with
3 military service, and including applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.34, subsection 12, Code 2026, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Ob.* An applicant for special registration
4 plates with a distinguishing processed emblem issued pursuant
5 to subsection 8A, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 20A, 20B, 20C, 24,
6 or 27 may request the plates be navy along the top and red
7 along the bottom, containing a white space in the middle of
8 the plate displaying the plate's letters and numbers in black,
9 with a gray image of a bald eagle behind the plate's letters
10 and numbers, at no additional cost. A person may exchange
11 previously issued special registration plates consistent
12 with the design and color of regular registration plates and
13 containing such a distinguishing processed emblem for the
14 applicable special registration plates for which the person is
15 eligible with a plate design described in this paragraph at no
16 additional cost.

17 Sec. 2. Section 321.166, subsection 9, Code 2026, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 9. Special registration plates issued pursuant to section
20 321.34, ~~other than gold star~~ must be consistent with the
21 design and color of regular registration plates and comply
22 with the requirements for regular registration plates to the
23 extent the requirements are consistent with the subsection
24 authorizing a particular special vehicle registration plate,
25 and may provide a space on a portion of the plate for the
26 purpose of allowing a distinguishing processed emblem or the
27 placement of an organization decal. However, medal of honor,
28 collegiate, fire fighter, natural resources, blackout, and
29 flying our colors registration plates, shall be consistent with
30 the design and color of regular registration plates but shall
31 provide a space on a portion of the plate for the purpose of
32 allowing the placement of a distinguishing processed emblem or
33 an organization decal and special registration plates issued
34 in accordance with section 321.34, subsection 12, paragraph
35 "Ob", must be consistent with the design described for the

1 plates, as applicable. ~~Special registration plates shall also~~
2 ~~comply with the requirements for regular registration plates~~
3 ~~as provided in this section to the extent the requirements are~~
4 ~~consistent with the section authorizing a particular special~~
5 ~~vehicle registration plate.~~

6 Sec. 3. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies on and after
7 December 1, 2028, or the date the department of transportation
8 submits to the Iowa administrative code editor for publication
9 in the Iowa administrative bulletin a statement by the director
10 of transportation that the applicable phase of the department
11 of transportation's new records system is implemented,
12 whichever is earlier. The department shall also forward a copy
13 of the statement to the Iowa Code editor.

14 EXPLANATION

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

17 Under current law, a person registering a motor vehicle
18 may order special registration plates, including a variety of
19 special registration plates with a distinguishing processed
20 emblem. The special registration plates must be consistent
21 with the design and color of regular registration plates but
22 with a space reserved for a processed emblem on the left side
23 of the plates. Certain special registration plates, including
24 gold star, medal of honor, collegiate, fire fighter, natural
25 resources, blackout, and flying our colors plates are not
26 required to match the design of regular plates.

27 This bill authorizes a person applying for certain processed
28 emblem special registration plates, including ex-prisoner of
29 war plates; legion of merit plates; national guard plates;
30 Pearl Harbor plates; purple heart plates; United States
31 armed forces retired plates; silver or bronze star plates;
32 distinguished service, navy, or air force cross plates;
33 soldier's, navy and marine corps, or airman's medal plates;
34 combat infantryman badge, combat action badge, combat action
35 ribbon, air force combat action medal, and combat medical badge

1 plates; gold star plates; or United States veteran plates to
2 request, at no additional cost, that the issued plates be navy
3 along the top and red along the bottom, containing a white
4 space in the middle of the plate displaying the plate's letters
5 and numbers in black, with a gray image of a bald eagle behind
6 the plate's letters and numbers. This plate design matches the
7 current design for special flying our colors plates. A person
8 may exchange previously issued special registration plates for
9 the applicable special registration plates for which the person
10 is eligible with a plate design described in the bill at no
11 additional cost.

12 The bill also makes conforming changes.

13 The bill applies on and after December 1, 2028, or the
14 date the department of transportation (DOT) submits to
15 the Iowa administrative code editor for publication in the
16 Iowa administrative bulletin a statement by the director of
17 transportation that the applicable phase of the DOT's new
18 records system is implemented, whichever is earlier. The DOT
19 is also required to forward a copy of the statement to the Iowa
20 Code editor.