

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:

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
6 motor vehicle subject to registration under section 321.109,
7 subsection 1, autocycle, motor truck, motor home, multipurpose
8 vehicle, 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
12 and letters shall be black. The left side of the plate shall
13 depict a black and white rattlesnake coiled on green grass.
14 The image depicting the coiled rattlesnake shall be at least
15 three inches tall and two inches wide. The phrase "Don't Tread
16 on Me" shall 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
23 than five numerals, letters, or combinations of numerals and
24 letters.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (3) Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated under
21 subparagraph (2) shall not revert to the general fund of the
22 state.

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

35 f. The department shall not condition the issuance of

1 Gadsden flag plates on the receipt of any number of orders for
2 Gadsden flag plates.

3 Sec. 2. Section 321.37, subsection 3, Code 2026, is amended
4 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

1

EXPLANATION

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

3

4 This bill relates to vehicle registration plates.

5 The bill authorizes the department of transportation (DOT)
6 to design and issue Gadsden flag special registration plates.
7 The bill requires the plate's background to be yellow at the
8 top and bottom, with the color fading into white in the center.
9 The plate's numbers and letters must be black. The left side
10 of the plate must contain the image of a rattlesnake in black
11 and white coiled on green grass. The phrase "Don't Tread on
12 Me" must appear at the bottom of the plate.

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

25 The fees collected by the DOT must be paid monthly to
26 the treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax
27 fund. The treasurer of state must transfer monthly from the
28 statutory allocations fund to the general fund of the state
29 an amount equal to the special fees collected in the previous
30 month for the Gadsden flag plates. One-half of such moneys
31 is appropriated to the natural resource commission (NRC) to
32 distribute in the form of shooting sports development grants
33 to applicants for the creation of new shooting ranges and
34 improvement of existing shooting ranges and facilities. The
35 NRC is prohibited from awarding a grant to an applicant unless

1 the applicant allows students enrolled at a public or private
2 school to participate in shooting sports at the applicant's
3 range or facility. The NRC must give first consideration to
4 any applicant who has agreed to allow a public or private
5 school sports shooting team to use the applicant's range or
6 facility. The other half of such moneys is appropriated to
7 the department of homeland security and emergency management
8 to distribute in the form of grants to school districts
9 for school infrastructure. For purposes of the bill,
10 "school infrastructure" includes school safety and security
11 infrastructure, including but not limited to safe rooms, remote
12 entry technology and equipment, security camera systems, card
13 access systems, and communication systems with access to fire
14 and police emergency frequencies, but does not include the cost
15 of personnel, development of safety and security plans, or
16 training related to the implementation of safety and security
17 plans. Additionally, "school infrastructure" includes software
18 or other innovative technology, and the cost of subscription
19 and monitoring fees associated with such software or other
20 innovative technology, that meets prescribed requirements under
21 Code section 423F.3(6)(a)(5).

22 The bill prohibits the DOT from conditioning the issuance
23 of Gadsden flag plates on the receipt of any number of orders
24 for Gadsden flag plates. Gadsden flag plates are exempt from
25 the general requirements to display the name of the county that
26 issues the plates and to be consistent with the design and
27 color of regular registration plates.

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

1 designs.

2 Under current law, an owner of a vehicle who places any frame
3 around or over a registration plate which does not permit full
4 view of all numerals and letters printed on the registration
5 plate, including the name of the county printed on the bottom
6 of the plate, commits a simple misdemeanor punishable by a
7 scheduled fine of \$30. Under the bill, a registration plate
8 frame is no longer required to permit full view of the name of
9 the county.