

gold star followed by the letter "S" and the call number of the vehicle. However, the director of general services or the director of transportation may order the issuance of regular registration plates for any exempted vehicle used by peace officers in the enforcement of the law, persons enforcing chapter 124 and other laws relating to controlled substances, persons in the department of justice, the alcoholic beverages division of the department of commerce, the department of inspections and appeals, and the department of revenue and finance, who are regularly assigned to conduct investigations which cannot reasonably be conducted with a vehicle displaying "official" state registration plates, ~~and~~ persons in the lottery division of the department of revenue and finance whose regularly assigned duties relating to security or the carrying of lottery tickets cannot reasonably be conducted with a vehicle displaying "official" registration plates, and persons in the department of economic development who are regularly assigned duties relating to existing industry expansion or business attraction. For purposes of sale of exempted vehicles, the exempted governmental body, upon the sale of the exempted vehicle, may issue for in-transit purposes a pasteboard card bearing the words "Vehicle in Transit", the name of the official body from which the vehicle was purchased, together with the date of the purchase plainly marked in at least one-inch letters, and other information required by the department. The in-transit card is valid for use only within forty-eight hours after the purchase date as indicated on the bill of sale which shall be carried by the driver.

Approved March 31, 1998

CHAPTER 1029

INCOMPETENCY OF MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS — OPTOMETRISTS' REPORTS

H.F. 2412

AN ACT relating to optometrists' reports to the department of transportation concerning a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 321.186, unnumbered paragraph 4, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

A physician licensed under chapter 148, 150, or 150A, or an optometrist licensed under chapter 154, may report to the department the identity of a person who has been diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition which would render the person physically or mentally incompetent to operate a motor vehicle in a safe manner. The physician or optometrist shall make reasonable efforts to notify the person who is the subject of the report, in writing. The written notification shall state the nature of the disclosure and the reason for the disclosure. A physician or optometrist making a report under this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report. A physician or optometrist has no duty to make a report or to warn third parties with regard to any knowledge concerning a person's mental or physical competency to operate a motor vehicle in a safe manner. Any report received by the department from a physician or optometrist under this section shall be kept confidential. Information regulated by chapter 141 shall be subject to the provisions of sections 141.23 and 141.24.

Approved March 31, 1998