



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 437**

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**Chairperson:** Deb Fischer  
**Committee:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Date of Hearing:** February 13, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 437 proposes the creation of government related specialty license plates and provides that funds raised by sale of such plates be deposited in funds used to support the work of the state agency related to the plates. The four types of plates created are:

- (1) Military plates, which will provide for six plates representing the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and a Support Our Troops Plate. Sales of these will provide funds for the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Operation Fund for Veteran's Affairs.
- (2) Firefighter Support plates which will provide funds for the Training Division Cash Fund for the State Fire Marshall's Office.
- (3) Child Abuse Prevention plates which will provide funds for the Child Abuse Prevention Fund for the Health and Human Service System.
- (4) Wildlife Conservation plates which will provide funds for the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund for the Game and Parks Commission.

Each of the above plate types will be available with DMV designated numerals and letters for \$15 dollars, or as message plates with five characters for \$40. Ten dollars of each plate sale will go to the appropriate designated fund.

Further, this bill is offered by the Department of Motor Vehicles to create model language for specialty plate legislation. This bill proposes that the new plate types have uniform fees, issuance processes, vehicle types, and minimum plate design requirements and applicant qualifications. This eliminates repetitious passages in the statutes, and provides a consistent plate issuance process for the Department which helps to contain costs for administration.

The bill also amends existing specialty plate language so that the list of motor vehicles and trailers that are eligible for specialty plate use are consistent. Under LB 437 any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or cabin trailer, except those vehicles that are registered as apportioned vehicles for travel in interstate commerce may be registered with a specialty plate.

LB 437 also provides that any person who wishes to register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or cabin trailer in Nebraska may apply for any of the specialty plate types available. This will allow non-Nebraskans who may have vehicles required to be registered in this state to order specialty plates.

Finally, LB 437 provides that for the new specialty plates, when DMV designates the characters on non-message plates, it will be a series of letters and numerals. On Jan. 1, 2011, when the next six-year license plate cycle begins, currently existing specialty plates will be issued with letters and numerals rather than just numerals. Nebraska currently issues up to 18 different license plate types bearing the same numerical series. Out of state automated ticketing devices have difficulty distinguishing Nebraska's plate types. This has led to many innocent Nebraskans receiving tickets from out of state for toll and parking violations. Adding letters to the plate characters will help to eliminate the problem by decreasing the numbers of plates with the same numerical series.

**Principal Introducer:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senator Abbie Cornett**