

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB329

Hearing Date: Monday February 02, 2009
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Cornett
One Liner: Provide for firefighter license plates and training for emergency response personnel

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Campbell, Fischer, Gay, Hadley, Janssen, Lautenbaugh, Louden, Stuthman

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Brenda Larson
Joel Cerny
Jerry Stilmock
Lynn Rex

Representing:

Introducing for Sen. Abbie Cornett
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighter Association
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighter Association
League of Nebraska Municipalities

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 329 creates a firefighter specialty license plate and creates a Firefighter Response Fund to use for training purposes.

The DMV shall design a firefighter license plate in consultation with the State Fire Marshal. One type of plate will be a combination of letters and numerals, but shall not use the county numbering system. The other type of plate shall be personalized message plates.

A resident of the state who is serving as a volunteer or full-time firefighter shall be the only qualified applicant for firefighter plates. The application for the plates shall include a statement signed by the fire chief of the Nebraska fire department in which the firefighter is serving verifying the applicant's status.

Two types of plates will be allowed for firefighter plates: consecutively numbered and personalized message plates. Consecutively numbered plates will cost \$15. Personalized message plates will cost \$40. The fee for each plate will be divided with forty-three percent going to the DMV Cash Fund and fifty-seven percent going to the Firefighter Response Cash Fund.

The bill amends Sec.60-3,118 dealing with the characters used in personalized message plates by prohibiting the message from: 1. denoting a governmental agency, or 2. denoting a sexual connotation, a term of vulgarity, contempt, prejudice, hostility, insult, or racial or ethnic degradation, a swear word, a term considered to be offensive, or a foreign

word falling into any of these categories.

LB 329 also creates the Firefighter Response Cash Fund, which shall include money received from firefighter specialty plates and gifts, grants or other funds received by the State Fire Marshal. The fund's purpose is to provide training for fire department personnel and other emergency response personnel for updating, upgrading, and establishing response capabilities for emergencies handled by local emergency response organizations. Training shall include classes and seminars, specialized and technical assistance, equipment and supplies for instructors, and aid for training and reporting by local organizations.

The bill has an operative date of January 1, 2010.

Deb Fischer, Chairperson