

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB356**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 05, 2019  
**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Introducer:** Scheer  
**One Liner:** Change fee distribution for certain specialty license plates

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hughes, Hilgers  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Jim Scheer  
Marilyn Mecham  
Deana Thuer  
Anthony Papousek  
Case Maranville

**Representing:**

Introducer  
self  
self  
Family of Khloe Papousek  
self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

This bill changes revenue distribution provisions for a certain type of specialty license plate. Specialty license plates are authorized under Sections 60-3,104.01 and 60-3,104.02. Those provisions allow nonprofit organizations, if they meet certain requirements, to request the issuance of specialty license plates if the nonprofit can provide 250 prepaid applications to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The fee for the specialty plate issuance or renewal is \$70. Fees are divided 15% to the DMV Cash Fund and 85% to the Highway Trust Fund.

LB 356 relates to a specialty plate called Sammy's Superheroes plates for childhood cancer awareness. For fees for the initial issuance and renewal of the Sammy's Superheroes specialty plates, 15% of the fee will continue to be credited to the DMV Cash Fund, while the remaining 85% will be credited to the University of Nebraska Medical Center for pediatric cancer research.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee considered and adopted an amendment which accomplishes the following:

The amendment substitutes for the bill and revises the language of LB 356, as introduced, and in addition adds portions of the provisions of LB 128, LB 215, and LB 691. The amendment also amends provisions of current license

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plate statutes in order to provide uniformity and consistency, and provides a process for DMV to eliminate certain specialty plates if not enough applications for the plates are received.

With respect to LB 356 as originally introduced, the amendment converts Sammy Superhero plates from an organizational type of plate to a specialty type of plate. It would change the price of the application fee from \$70 to \$40 for a message plate and \$5 for an alphanumeric plate. Cancer research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) would receive the entire \$5 from the alphanumeric plate and \$30 of the \$40 from the message plate, with \$10 going to the DMV cash fund. This provides consistency with other specialty plates.

LB 128 as originally introduced would have created three new wildlife plate designs, including a bighorn sheep design, a sandhill crane design, and a cutthroat trout design. The amendment replaces the cutthroat trout design with an ornate box turtle design, as was introduced in LB 691. Proceeds from the \$5 alphanumeric plate and \$30 of the \$40 from the message plate would be distributed to the Wildlife Conservation Fund instead of the Game and Parks Education Fund, while \$10 of the message plate fee would go to the DMV cash fund.

LB 215 as introduced provided for a Prostate Cancer specialty plate. The price of the application fee would have been \$40 for the message plate, but no fee for the alphanumeric plate. The amendment provides a \$5 fee for the alphanumeric plate, and earmarks \$5 from that plate and \$30 of the \$40 from the message plate to the Nebraska Prostate Cancer Research Program at UNMC. The remaining \$10 would go to the DMV cash fund.

LB 691 as introduced provided for an Ornate Box Turtle specialty plate. That plate is incorporated as a substitute for the proposed cutthroat trout design in LB 128, with proceeds of the \$5 alphanumeric plate application fee and \$30 of the \$40 from the message plate fee distributed to the Wildlife Conservation Fund. The remaining \$10 would go to the DMV cash fund.

All new plate applications and distribution of plates would be effective on January 1, 2021.

Regarding existing license plate law, the amendment makes the following changes:

(a) Adopts a standard 70 percent versus 30 percent split between the Highway Trust Fund and DMV cash fund for standard message plates (\$40), Husker Spirit plates (\$70), and Organizational plates (\$70). Current percentage distributions to the Highway Trust Fund and the DMV cash fund are 75/25 (standard message plates), 57/43 (Husker Spirit plates), and 85/15 (Organizational plates). No distributions are made to any organizations from sales of these types of plates.

(b) Provides consistency in application fees for specialty plates by charging \$40 for message plates and \$5 for alphanumeric plates. Because there is currently no application fee for Breast Cancer alphanumeric plates, the amendment adds a \$5 fee and designates the UNMC breast cancer navigator program as the beneficiary of the \$5 alphanumeric fee and \$30 of the message plate fee, with \$10 from the message plate fee distributed to the DMV cash fund.

(c) Provides consistency for one-license plate programs by charging \$50 for applications for special interest motor vehicles (currently \$50) and the application for the one-plate plus sticker program (currently \$100).

(d) Provides that DMV shall discontinue issuance of specialty plates if there are not more than 250 license plates issued of that type for two consecutive years, beginning no earlier than the year after the initial issuance of the plates. Gold Star, Purple Heart, Ex-POW, Pearl Harbor Survivor, and Disabled American Veteran plates are exempt from this provision.

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Curt Friesen, Chairperson