

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB546

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 05, 2019
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Wishart
One Liner: Create Spay and Neuter Awareness license plates and a low-income spay and neuter grant program

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hilgers, Hughes

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Anna Wishart
Mary Douglas

Representing:

Introducer
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

This bill would allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to design and issue specialty license plates known as Spay and Neuter Awareness Plates. The design of the plate shall include the words "I support responsible pet owners" along the bottom of the plate.

Two types of plates would be issued by the department, one an alphanumeric plate, which would not be charged an additional fee, and a personalized message plate, with a maximum of five characters, which would cost \$40. From the message plate, all \$40 would be remitted to the Spay and Neuter Awareness Fund, which is created in Section 1 of the bill. The fund would be administered as a low-income grant program by the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with an organization dedicated to the care of cats and dogs. The grants would be provided to entities that spay or neuter cats or dogs.

Each design would be selected on the basis of limiting the manufacturing cost of each plate to an amount less than or equal to the amount charged for the issuance of license plates, which is currently a maximum of \$3.50 per plate.

Plates could be issued beginning January 1, 2020. The plates could be delivered by mail from the DMV or delivered by the DMV to the county treasurer in which the applicant resides, where they could be issued. Only vehicles part of a fleet would be ineligible to have such plates. Owners of farm trucks, trailers, semitrailers, and other vehicles could be issued the plates, but they would be required to have the appropriate tonnage decal, if applicable. The plates could be transferred to other vehicles for the normal charge of \$3. If the plates are lost, stolen, or mutilated, replacement plates

could be reissued for the normal fee of \$2.50 per plate.

Curt Friesen, Chairperson