

BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT REPORT
Taxation and Revenue Department

February 21, 2025

Bill: HB-580

Sponsor: Representatives Stefani Lord, Art De La Cruz, Randall T. Pettigrew, Jonathan A. Henry, and Joseph L. Sanchez

Short Title: Elk License Plate

Description: This bill amends Section 66-3-424.6 NMSA 1978 to add that, beginning January 1, 2026, a wildlife plate depicting an elk will be issued. The initial fee is \$25 in addition to the regular vehicle registration fees and a renewal fee of \$10 each year to retain and renew the plate. Revenue from the additional fees collected shall be distributed as follows: \$10 of the initial fee retained by the Motor Vehicle Division for manufacture and issuance of the plate; \$15 of the initial fee and the entire renewal fee appropriated to the share with wildlife program of the game protection fund. The bill also adds language to that section to provide that MVD can stop issuing the plates provided in that section if it determines certain reductions in issuance and renewal of these plates.

Effective Date: - January 1, 2026

Taxation and Revenue Department Analyst: Htet Gonzales and Sean Bulian – Motor Vehicle Division

Estimated Revenue Impact*					R or NR**	Fund(s) Affected
FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029		
	Unknown				R	MVD Suspense Fund

* In thousands of dollars. Parentheses () indicate a revenue loss. ** Recurring (R) or Non-Recurring (NR).

Methodology for Estimated Revenue Impact: It is unknown how many of these plates will be requested. MVD’s total cost of manufacturing and distributing each license plate is approximately \$10, which includes materials and shipping. The \$10 fee retained by MVD may not be adequate to cover the costs for the manufacture and issuance of the initial plate to the applicant. It is recommended that the fee be raised from \$10 to \$12. Creation of the new specialty plate must be in accordance with existing state statute under Section 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 (Standardized Special Registration Plates with Logos), in particular, the public purpose interest group “shall provide a prepayment to the division in an amount sufficient to cover the plate and logo costs of the initial order.” Typically, the initial fee to purchase plates is \$800; \$250 for design/artwork costs while \$5.50 is charged for each plate in the initial batch of 100.

Policy Issues: None

Technical Issues: This bill does not specifically say that the Special Wildlife Elk Registration Plate can be issued to motorcycles as well as passenger vehicles. If it is the intent is to allow the issuance of the Special Wildlife Elk Registration Plate to motorcycles, a new statute specifically addressing this addition should be enacted to be constant with other specialty plates offered to both vehicles and motorcycles. An example would be the Children Trust Fund plate, under Section 66-3-420 and 66-3-420.1 NMSA 1978.

Other Issues: None

Administrative & Compliance Impact: Implementation of this bill will have a moderate impact on Tax & Revenue’s Information Technology Division (ITD). The estimated time to develop, test and implement the changes is approximately 480 hours or 3 months for an estimated \$31,987 of staff workload cost.

This bill requires application and configuration changes to the Tapestry system to create a Special Wildlife Elk license plate process, registration fee calculation and distribution for MVD and the share with wildlife program of the game protection fund.

This legislation is anticipated to have a low impact on ASD/FDB. The Tapestry System’s general ledger and reporting will need to be updated for the new distribution. Defining business requirements and testing changes to Tapestry and associated reports will take 20 hours for 2.0 existing FTE and will be split between pay band 80 and 70. Fiscal year end reporting will also require updating to accommodate the new distribution.

Estimated Additional Operating Budget Impact*				R or NR**	Fund(s) or Agency Affected
FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	3 Year Total Cost		
	\$32			NR	MVD Suspense Fund – Staff Workload Cost
	\$1.3			NR	Operating

* In thousands of dollars. Parentheses () indicate a cost saving. ** Recurring (R) or Non-Recurring (NR).

Related Bills: