

**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**  
**Taxation and Revenue Department**

**January 24, 2025**

**Bill:** SB-128

**Sponsor:** Senator Katy M. Duhigg

**Short Title:** Certain Characters on License Plates

**Description:** This bill provides that no special registration plate shall be issued by the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) that displays characters that the MVD determines to be derogatory, offensive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit or profane, or that promotes drugs and alcohol or other intoxicating substances or promotes violence or gang affiliation.

**Effective Date:** Not specified; 90 days following adjournment (June 20, 2025).

**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		

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

**Methodology for Estimated Revenue Impact:** None

**Policy Issues:** This bill establishes clear and specific guidelines for MVD when evaluating special prestige registration plate requests, enhancing the transparency of the process and reducing ambiguity. By adding clear criteria, the bill ensures that MVD staff can make consistent decisions when reviewing questionable plate requests. If a request is denied, the customer will be provided with a letter of explanation, including reference to the specific language outlined in the bill.

Currently, MVD has in place an internal procedure establishing criteria for denial of certain prestige plate requests. However, this procedure does not carry the weight of statute. MVD occasionally must deny plate requests for the reasons that this bill will codify in law.

Additionally, the bill gives MVD the authority to deny requests for plates that are difficult to distinguish from other existing plates such as LASS0 versus LASSO or B00K versus BOOK. This provision will help law enforcement by making it easier for them to identify vehicles based on the license plate, without having to interpret whether a character is an alpha or numeric value during a plate lookup.

**Technical Issues:** None

**Administrative & Compliance Impact:** Updates will be made to the MVD online vehicles manual to add the new language for determining reasons for a special prestige registration plate denial.

Implementation of this bill will have a low impact on the Tax & Revenue Information Technology Division (ITD). The estimated time to develop, test and implement the changes is approximately 240 hours or 6 weeks for an estimated \$15,994 of staff workload cost.

This bill requires application and configuration changes in Tapestry to amend the prestige plate request denial letter with the addition of the denial reasons.

<b>Estimated Additional Operating Budget Impact*</b>				<b>R or NR**</b>	<b>Fund(s) or Agency Affected</b>
<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>		
	\$15.9			NR	ITD – staff workload

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

**Related Bills:**