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HOUSE BILL 561

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Cathrynn N. Brown

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; REQUIRING REGISTRATION PLATES TO
INCLUDE LAW ENFORCEMENT-READABLE EMBEDDED CHARACTERISTICS;
CREATING A HERITAGE SERIES OF REGISTRATION PLATES; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] HERITAGE REGISTRATION PLATES--PROCEDURES--
FEES.--

A. The department shall issue a series of heritage
registration plates with logos designed in accordance with this
section. The series of heritage registration plates symbolizes
some of the major factors, events, persons and natural
resources that have ushered the state into its second century

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1 of statehood. The series of heritage registration plates shall
2 include:

3 (1) New Mexico agriculture, represented by an
4 image of one or more chile peppers, the fruit from *Capsicum*
5 *annuum*;

6 (2) the space age, represented by an image of
7 the green alien figure represented on the seal of the city of
8 Roswell;

9 (3) the atomic age, represented by an image of
10 a circular representation of orbiting atomic molecules;

11 (4) aviation, represented by an image of the
12 Double Eagle II hot air balloon;

13 (5) cattlemen, represented by an image of two
14 cowboy boots and a cowboy hat, a depiction of Theodore
15 Roosevelt in uniform as a rough rider, the first United States
16 volunteer cavalry or an image celebrating the rough riders;

17 (6) the duke of Albuquerque, represented by a
18 depiction of Don Francisco Fernández de la Cueva, the eighth
19 duke of Albuquerque;

20 (7) the horned lizard, represented by a
21 depiction of horned lizards of the *Phrynosoma* genus;

22 (8) Las Cruces, represented by a depiction of
23 three crosses on a hillside marking the graves of bandits;

24 (9) lawmen, represented by a depiction of
25 Sheriff Pat Garrett with his solid gold sheriff's badge;

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1 (10) Merriam's wild turkey, represented by a
2 depiction of Meleagris gallopavo merriami;

3 (11) oilmen, represented by a depiction of an
4 oil wildcatter;

5 (12) railroaders, represented by a depiction
6 of a railroad worker;

7 (13) the roadrunner, represented by a
8 depiction of the state bird;

9 (14) a butterfly, represented by a depiction
10 of a butterfly that can be found in the state;

11 (15) route 66, using the logo depicted on the
12 route 66 commemorative registration plate issued pursuant to
13 Section 66-3-424.8 NMSA 1978;

14 (16) the yucca, represented by a depiction of
15 the state flower;

16 (17) the zia symbol, represented by a
17 depiction of the zia sun symbol;

18 (18) a Navajo code talker, represented by a
19 depiction of a Navajo code talker; and

20 (19) others as the secretary may determine.

21 B. The design of registration plates in the
22 heritage registration plate series shall be at the discretion
23 of the secretary, provided that all plates in the series
24 display:

25 (1) the colors of the state flag, red

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1 lettering and a border stripe on a yellow background; provided
2 that the particular heritage registration plate logo may
3 contain colors other than yellow and red;

4 (2) the words "Land of Enchantment" between
5 the top mounting holes, provided that, as determined by the
6 secretary, the registration plate with the route 66 logo may
7 display the words "The Mother Road" in lieu of "Land of
8 Enchantment" between the top mounting holes;

9 (3) the words "New Mexico" between the bottom
10 mounting holes;

11 (4) "15" on the lower left;

12 (5) five letters, numbers, characters or
13 spaces; and

14 (6) law enforcement machine-readable
15 embedded characteristics.

16 C. The secretary shall make at least five new
17 heritage registration plates available each calendar year
18 beginning in 2015 until the list of heritage registration
19 plates described in Subsection A of this section is exhausted.
20 Once the current supply of route 66 commemorative registration
21 plates issued pursuant to Section 66-3-424.8 NMSA 1978 is
22 exhausted, the secretary shall no longer issue route 66
23 commemorative registration plates pursuant to Section
24 66-3-424.8 NMSA 1978 but shall issue route 66 registration
25 plates issued pursuant to this section.

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1 D. For a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), which is
2 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee, the
3 owner of a vehicle may apply for issuance of a heritage
4 registration plate in a theme designed by the secretary and for
5 which the secretary has issued a plate.

6 E. For a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00), in addition
7 to the fee charged pursuant to Subsection D of this section,
8 the owner of a vehicle may apply for the issuance of a heritage
9 registration plate with personalized letters, numbers,
10 characters or spaces, subject to the approval of the secretary.

11 F. The secretary may provide for the issuance of
12 souvenir heritage registration plates for the same fees charged
13 for standard heritage registration plates, except no additional
14 fee shall be charged for personalization.

15 G. Except as provided in Subsection H of this
16 section, revenue from the additional fees for a heritage
17 registration plate is appropriated to the department.

18 H. Revenue received from a heritage registration
19 plate with the route 66 theme is appropriated to the department
20 of transportation for the purpose of funding the revitalization
21 and preservation of historic route 66 in New Mexico pursuant to
22 the national scenic byways program.

23 I. The secretary may conform a previously
24 authorized special registration plate to be consistent with the
25 manner in which plates are issued pursuant to this section, if

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1 the secretary finds that conforming that plate will result in
2 increased efficiency, cost savings or branding benefits.

3 J. The secretary shall consult with other states to
4 determine the most efficient, inexpensive and cost-effective
5 method to implement this section, with the goal of making the
6 plates affordable to all residents and with proceeds to benefit
7 the department and not private organizations.

8 K. The department may promulgate rules for
9 implementation of the provisions of this section."

10 SECTION 2. Section 66-3-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,
11 Chapter 35, Section 34, as amended) is amended to read:

12 "66-3-14. REGISTRATION PLATES OR VALIDATING STICKERS TO
13 BE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT--REFLECTIVE MATERIAL.--

14 A. The department upon registering a vehicle shall
15 issue a registration plate or a validating sticker to the owner
16 of the vehicle. The validating sticker may be designed and
17 required to be placed on the registration plate or elsewhere on
18 the vehicle as prescribed by the department.

19 B. Each registration plate shall have a background
20 of reflective material such that the registration number
21 assigned to the vehicle is plainly legible from a distance of
22 one hundred feet at night. The colors shall include those of
23 the state flag, except prestige and special plates.

24 C. Each registration plate shall have displayed
25 upon it:

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1 (1) the registration number assigned to the
2 person to whom it was issued; and

3 (2) the name of this state.

4 D. The department shall issue no registration
5 plates for privately owned vehicles that contain the words
6 "staff officer" or any other title except as otherwise provided
7 by law.

8 E. Except as provided by law, all registration
9 plates for private vehicles shall be alike in form except for
10 the owner's registration number. The department shall adopt
11 registration number systems for registration plates.

12 F. All registration plates for private vehicles
13 shall display law enforcement-readable embedded
14 characteristics. Data or metadata collected based on law
15 enforcement-readable embedded characteristics on registration
16 plates shall be retained for no more than five days unless as
17 required for investigative purposes by a law enforcement
18 agency, in which case it shall be retained for no more than
19 thirty days or as provided by judicial warrant or court order.
20 Data or metadata collected based on law enforcement-readable
21 embedded characteristics on registration plates shall not be
22 provided to out-of-state or federal agencies unless as required
23 for specific investigative purposes or pursuant to judicial
24 warrant or court order.

25 [~~F.~~] G. In lieu of or in addition to a registration

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1 plate or sticker for commercial motor vehicles, the department
2 may issue an electronic identifying device."

3 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
4 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.

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